

# Echoes from Barkmere – December 2018

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 2018.

- Mr. Trépanier thanks the Leisure and Recreation Committee for the holiday decorations in the community hall, and states that it has never been so nice since he's been mayor.
- The extraordinary meeting follows in order to adopt the Annual Budget for 2019. You can see a summary of Budget 2019 on the enclosed 'acrobat' document. As stated in the last Bulletin, the expenses of the Town will increase in general by 3% over the budget of 2018 because the costs of some municipal services, like fire protection, continue to grow at an accelerated rate. The new evaluation roll of the Town has also increased by 1%. We have made a recommendation to give back a credit to the taxpayers, since the Town thankfully did not require the entire amounts budgeted for the campaign against Eurasian Milfoil in 2018. Also, by using part of the accumulated surplus, the general taxes for 2019 is lower by 0,4 % as compared to 2018. But this credit will not be recurrent, and we will have to expect an increase in 2020.
- Mayor Trépanier informs us of the passing away of Mr. Gil Bennett, husband of Mrs. Audrey Bennett and brother-in-law of Gordon and Barbara Pope. Mr. Bennett died Thursday, November 29 of a pneumonia. He was a former municipal councillor and Mr. Trépanier mentions that he had received some much needed assistance from Mr. Bennett when he started his mandate. Mr. Bennett sat on many company boards, particularly as Chairman of the board of directors of Canadian Tire. In spite of his great achievements, he remained humble, wise and he was someone you could talk to anytime. It is a big loss for our community.
- Mayor Trépanier informs us that Mrs. Suzanne Pépin had a health issue. She is presently in rehabilitation. We wish Mrs. Pépin a speedy recovery and her constant presence at council meetings is being missed.
- Mayor Trépanier informs us that Hydro-Quebec made a few environmental infractions when building the high tension line at the end of the lake. HQ came to meet the mayors of the Laurentian at the Mayors' council because it had had many complaints from different municipalities. For Barkmere, it has influenced two tributaries that feed the lake with erosion of sediments. The good news is that the new Minister for Environment, Mrs. Marie Chantal Chassé, has issued an order to oblige Hydro-Quebec to repair the damage.

- Mr. Bob Palo, past President of the BLPA, informs us that they were very satisfied by season 2018, particularly the impressive participation to the island clean up. Mrs. Lea Hardcastle is now President of the BLPA. Mayor Trépanier thanks Bob Palo for his excellent work. Congratulations to Mrs. Hardcastle for her new position.
  
- Mrs. Lyne Valois, from the Leisure and Recreation committee, informs the citizens that the yoga courses are on hold from January 15 to April 15 because the teacher is traveling. She also mentions that the Committee will coordinate with the BLPA next year its activities to ensure that there are no schedule conflicts between the two organisations.
  
- The schedule of Council meetings has been adopted for 2019. The council will take place on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM except for March, which will take place on the third Saturday of the month because of the school March break.
  
- By-law 251 on the size of docks and repairs of cribs has been approved by the MRC and is now effective.
  
- By-law 252 to create a financial reserve for Jésuites road has only had one signature on the petition. It is therefore considered effective.
  
- Please note that anyone interested in sitting on the Jésuites road committee can contact Mr. Marc-Olivier Duchesne at this present e-mail address.
  
- Please note that City Hall will close on Friday, December 21 at 04:00 PM and will re-open on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The whole council team wishes you a very Happy Holiday Season!

Once again, for more details, consult the minutes of the council meeting that will be posted on the town's website once they are ratified, generally at the next council meeting.

**Picture taken during Holiday Luncheon, last Saturday:**



**A winter scenery:**



Ville de / Town of

**BARKMERE**

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