



VILLE DE / TOWN OF

**BARKMERE**

## Echoes from Barkmere – March 2019

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2019:

- The mayor informs us that Mr. Peter Ward Henry, 76, of Oshawa, formerly from Beaconsfield, Quebec, passed away peacefully on February 8<sup>th</sup>, after a brief illness with cancer. He was the son of the late Dr. Donald and Phyllis (McVie) Henry. Peter loved his family cottage at Sunny Point at Bark Lake, Quebec and spent his summers there for most of his life, until selling the cottage in 2007.
- Mayor Trépanier informs us that there was a serious snowmobile accident on the lake. Mr. Kevin O'Shaughnessy was wounded. We wish him to get well soon and advise drivers to be careful: the snowmobiles' motors nowadays are now much more powerful that they used to be.
- Mayor Trépanier informs us that we have finally received a letter from the Town's attorney following his review of the Barkmere urban planning file for the demolition of the Priests' chapel. He concluded that, based on the contents of the file, the demolition permit appears to have been validly issued. Because not all the documents are in the file, the attorney simply assumed that all required supporting documents for the demolition permit request were in fact actually submitted to the Inspector. Looking forward, the Town is planning to pass a more detailed Demolition By-law. Other municipalities have Demolition By-laws which contain more protections for structures which are important to the community and which provide for more delays and reviews before the permit can be issued. The Town has also now altered one important practice as a result of the Priests' chapel affair. While currently each month the list of permits issued by the Inspector is made public at the Council meeting, going forward the list of **permit applications** will also be made public. The Town will also take immediate steps to reinforce our code of ethics for the elected members of the Council

and the municipal employees so that there is more transparency and openness, when a Councillor, mayor or town employee is directly implicated in a municipal transaction.

- Mrs. Lyne Valois, President of the Leisure Committee, informs us that they will organise a family fishing tournament on Saturday, July 6. Put this event on your calendar. She also informs us that the yoga courses will resume Sunday April 28, at 10:30 AM, as the teacher is back from her trip. We encourage people to pass the word to get more participants. \$120 for 10 sessions valid one year, or \$15 drop-in.
  
- The lease of the 5-doors boathouse of Mr. Gordon Miller will be extended for ten years.
  
- The town adopted an anti-harassment policy, be it psychological or sexual or a complaints' procedure in conformity with the Law of Labour Standards. There will be training for all employees, including the summer students. It is important as it is often their first job and they will learn how to identify harassment and where to address their complaints and what procedures to take. We had a case last year where employees had problems with citizens and it is important to remind everybody that harassment is not tolerated!
  
- We now have a new Chemin des Jésuites Advisory committee: the mayor, Mr. Marc-Olivier Duchesne, municipal councillor, Mr. Paul Bissonnette, Mrs. Susan De Schulthess and Mrs. Geneviève Harvey.
  
- There was a day of reflection concerning climate changes attended by all the mayors from the Laurentian MRC. In Laurentian, the effects will be important and have already started. The mayors want to know how to fight these changes, or slow them down and what measures to adopt in the future. For Barkmere, we predict that the lake will not freeze in certain parts, and there will be expansion of some diseases, as Lyme's disease. The mayors did not want to only adopt a declaration, they want to vote clear actions to undertake to counteract this phenomena.

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.

***No, it is not spring yet in Barkmere:***

