



Ville de / Town of

**B A R K M E R E**

Vol 47, No. 1

## *Spring Bulletin*

*June 10<sup>th</sup> 2019*

### **MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**

#### **For the long term...**



The winter and spring that we just experienced (or endured), have me reflecting on the decisions that we take daily. Seeing docks and boathouses raised and damaged, the torrential flood of the brook crossing the village, and the environmental damages caused by erosion, it is clear that our decisions and our actions must be taken within a context where the past is no longer a guarantee for the future.

It is easy to take decisions for the short term. Our “modern” society is luring us into the “advantages” of the immediate fulfilment of our individual needs: I want, I want, I want, right now, and without thinking about the consequences and “disadvantages” for the future and the others.

This spring, I took a (very!) long walk with a friend in the forest around Bark Lake. We have admired the benefits of the “long term”, with hemlocks more than a hundred years old, brooks with pure and clear water, and a healthy flora and fauna. But we also could see the devastating effects of the “short term”, with an illegal plantation of cannabis, whose perpetrators littered the ground with plastic and other waste, badly constructed and located roads that fill the watercourses with sediments, paths where some recreational vehicles left motor oil on the ground, while destroying the natural cover with mud-filled ruts where nothing is growing.

This summer, we will probably see people having fun for an afternoon with wakeboards, creating enormous waves that damage the shore of the Lake for the next decades. There will be people who will perform “roadwork” for their personal benefit, freeing sediments that will eutrophy the Lake and the brooks upstream and downstream. Some people will wash themselves in the lake with soap that will poison the fauna for years before it “biodegrades”. Other people will turn on many bright lights to illuminate their properties and buildings, preventing their neighbours from appreciating natural darkness and the starry sky. There will be people who will cut down trees to improve their “view”, destroying what took more than 100 years to grow, and will take as much time to grow back, if we leave nature to itself, of course.

For close to a hundred years, the Town of Barkmere has tried to take decisions for the long term: preventing clear forest cuts that destroyed the flora and fauna, protecting the shores and the Lake from unrestricted residential development and from deficient septic systems, enacting rules for the construction and location of roads, to limit their destructive impact. All these actions often stymie the short term satisfaction of our personal wishes.

In a context where climate change makes for uncertain future, where new generations demand a future for themselves and while several animal and plant species are disappearing, what decisions will you take this summer? Those about having fun today without thinking about tomorrow? Or those more difficult ones to protect what we have for the future generations?

*Luc Trépanier  
Mayor*



### First Aid Course in French

Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>

09:00 AM to 05:00 PM

- For registration, call Sonia Larrivée at 819-429-0138 (tell her that it's for the Barkmere Group)
- Limited number: 12 participants (first come, first served based, so reserve your place asap)
- Price per person: \$55

\* Please take note that the Town has given \$500 for this training (\$250 for the French course and \$250 for the English course). We are presently searching for an English instructor and a date for the English course.

## Bark Lake and Climate Change: where do we fit in?

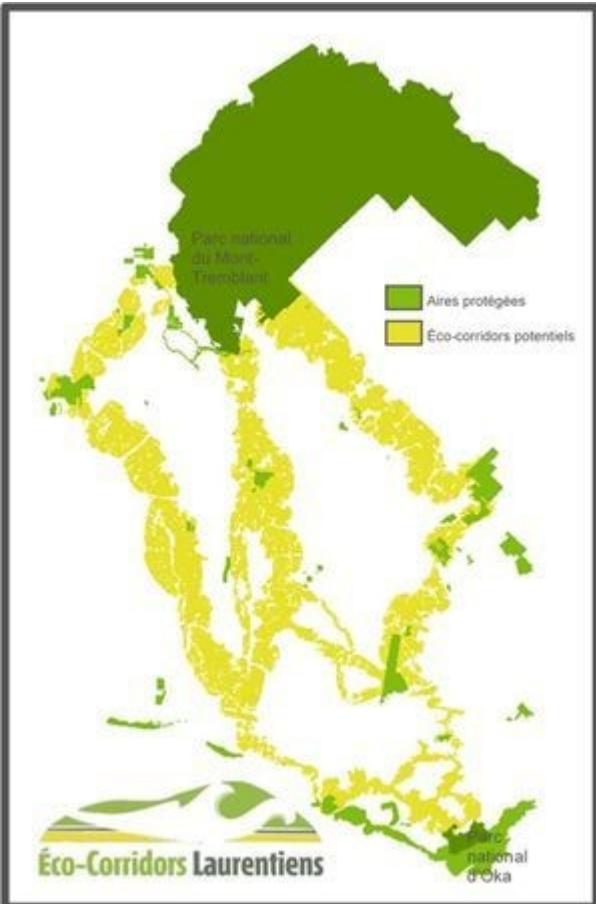
By Stephen Lloyd



We are only starting to scratch the surface of our understanding of the effects of climate change. The extreme weather effects and abnormal flooding will lead to adjustments in urban design and agricultural practices. We as humans will need to adapt - fast.

Meanwhile, the other species with which we share the globe are adapting as well. Animals are geared to particular habitats and local ecosystems. These habitats and ecosystems are in turn formed in large part by the prevailing climate in that area: average annual temperatures, precipitation, moisture levels, etc.

The biologists at Nature Conservancy of Canada estimate that climate change at its current pace is having the effect of **moving these habitats gradually northwards at the rate of 45 kilometres per decade**. To survive, the animals that rely on these habitats need to migrate north as well, in order to "remain in their element".



That's why Nature Conservancy and other groups working on protecting biodiversity are thinking beyond simply protecting habitats. The focus now is on the creation of wild "biological corridors", which will allow animals, plants and insects to migrate north and follow their much needed habitat.

The following maps show the locations of some of these corridors, both on the scale of north-eastern North America and more locally in the Laurentians. Note in particular there is a specific group named "Eco-corridors Laurentiens".

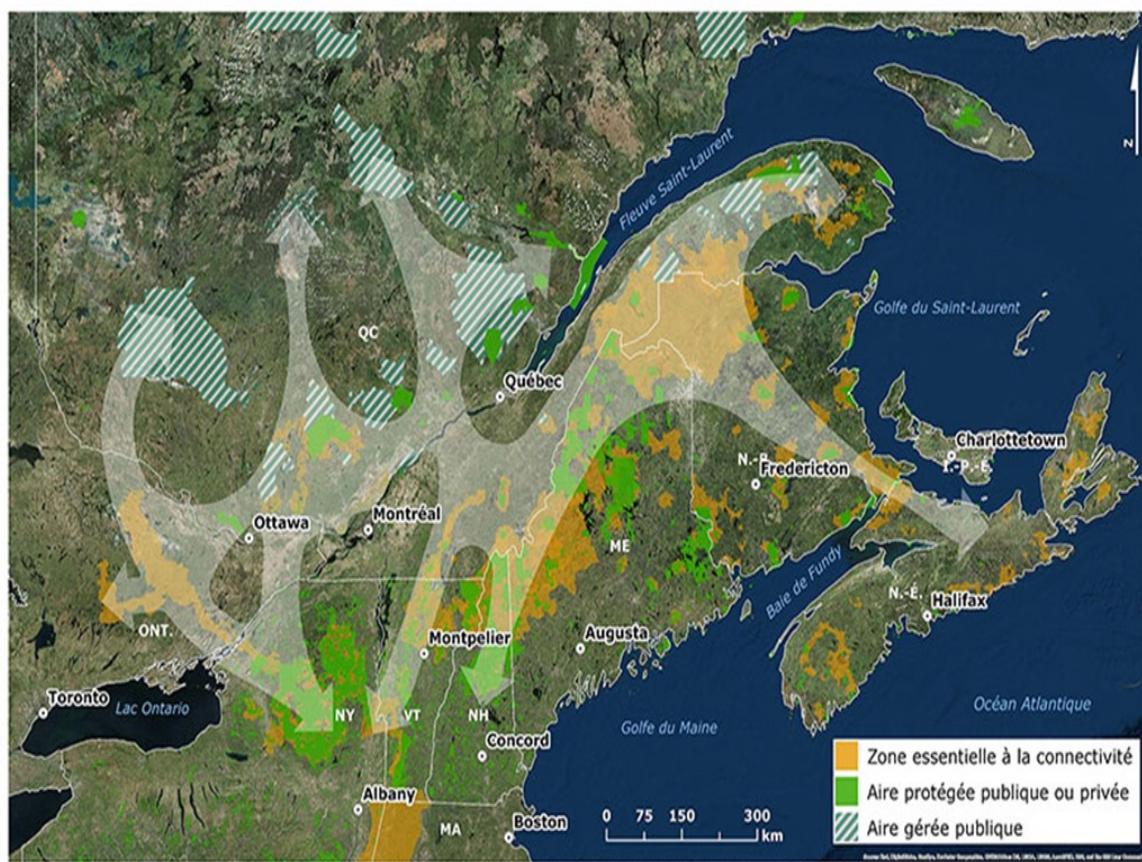
We all know that a big part of Barkmere's charm is that it is so awkward to get to - we are far from the 117 highway and the major arteries that allow you to drive

fast to where you are going. Areas like Barkmere make ideal biological corridors: less traffic, asphalt, people and development to bother the animals.

If you place Barkmere on the maps, you will note that we are a key part of the biological corridors for the Laurentians. In particular, Barkmere's wild areas help to link up the important wildlife refugees in the south of Quebec, being Kenauk (65,000 wild acres near Montebello) as well as Oka park, with Mont Tremblant park in the north.

Let's keep it that way and make sure we protect our biological corridors. You don't know what you've got 'till it's gone...

## Corridors écologiques : Adaptation aux changements climatiques



*Partenaires financiers*



### Partenaires de mise en œuvre



Données modifiées et distribuées par :  
The Nature Conservancy,  
Deux pays une forêt,  
Éco-corridors laurentiens et  
Conservation de la nature Canada.  
Toutes les données représentées sur  
cette carte n'engagent que les organismes  
susmentionnés.

## What is the value of our pristine water?

By: Marc Frédette



On a nice summer day, the water clarity at Barklake is stunning especially relative to other lakes. Some say we can see in the water as far as 6 meters or more. While canoeing I reflected on the following:

How much value is attributed to our pristine water into our property value?

And, more importantly, what is the impact on property value if we lose part of that pristineness?

Fortunately, looks like I am not alone thinking about this topic. A group of researchers<sup>1</sup> from the State of Maine are the pioneers by zooming in on water clarity in meters as a single variable. Using a sophisticated mathematical model, they isolated all other variables affecting property values such as lot size, accessibility, location, and construction date. The study is now used in Muskoka, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Scientists have developed an objective approach to measure water clarity using Secchi disk readings. Secchi disks are used to measure the water depth at which the disk may be observed from the surface and measure how clear a lake is.

In the State of Maine, researchers have established that the property value ascribed to the water clarity to be at 34%. This is considerable, more than one third of the property value attributed to water clarity. This result is based on a clarity of 3.5 meters. At Barklake, we could argue over beers and wine about how far you can see in the water. Is it 3 meters, 4 meters, or even 7 meters like some would say after a long day under the sun.

Luckily we have an amazing database of information for Barklake performed by our wonderful CCE team in conjunction with the BLPA and led by our dedicated councillor Jake Chadwick. They have measured Barklake's clarity using the Secchi disk methodology about every two weeks in the summer since 2011. I recommend that you read these interesting reports from the town's website, on the Environment page.

Here is the good news. The data shows that our water clarity is on average 5.9 meters for the whole lake. This is superb clarity. No need to argue over drinks anymore. If you are looking for another topic to debate over drinks, I would recommend climate change as mentioned further.

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1. Boyle, Michael, Lawson, Bouchard 1998 and Michael, Boyle, Bouchard 1996

Using our 5.9 meters, the implicit water clarity value is a remarkable **42%**. That is an impressive figure and something to reflect on. **42 cents of every dollar of property value at Barkmere is directly linked to the pristineness of our water.**

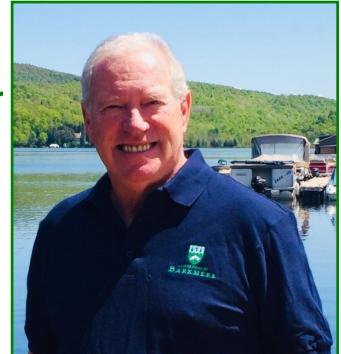
But here is the bad news. Given that our water clarity is so exceptional, if the water clarity is reduced by 3 meters to 2.9 meters, which is still respectable and better than some surrounding lakes, the value of our property would come down by 17%. A decrease of 4 meters would result in a property value reduction of an astonishing 27%.

Sadly, the pressure of losing our water clarity is intensifying. As suggested by Boyle's study in 2002, there is evidence that warmer temperature from climate change can have significant negative impacts on water clarity. The Spring 2019 floodwater events in the Laurentians including Barkmere are likely signs that the climate change is affecting our lake.

What can we do? Other than monitoring and controlling sediments especially by protecting our shoreline, the less we disturb it the better. Big waves and cutting grass or trees (even dead ones) in the shoreline have irreparable impacts on water clarity. The less we touch it the better. Let nature do the work for us and enjoy our beautiful lake. Time wasted at the lake is time well spent.

## The Inspector's Column

By: Gabriel Bélanger



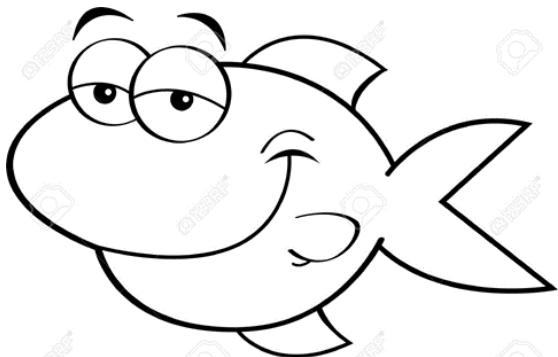
Hello to all the citizens of Barkmere,

As the new season is well under way, I want to remind you that you cannot leave a boat at the landing for more than 15 minutes. Also, I have noticed that several proprietors leave some scrap on the lake edge, therefore in the shoreline protection strip, which is totally forbidden. I therefore ask for your usual cooperation to properly dispose of all this unwanted waste.

Recently I discussed the fact that people park their motorbikes under the shelter. We will study the situation to find a solution to this problem because there is still a risk of contamination to the lake.

Good season to all the people of Barkmere!

## Family Fishing Tournament of the Local Leisure Committee



**Saturday July 6th 2019 starting at 8 AM**

Please email [lynevalois62@gmail.com](mailto:lynevalois62@gmail.com) starting June 24th  
for inscription  
(Payment is due the day of the tournament, between 8-10am)

### **Participation Fee (includes BBQ)**

Kids (age 0-11): 5\$, Adults (age 12+): 10\$ OR \$20 Family rate  
(Immediate family only)

## **Schedule**



8-10 AM:	Fee payment, late inscription, coupons for the BBQ and the drawing will be handed out (beside the Town Hall)
8-4 PM:	FISH! (until you want to!)
4:30 PM:	Last fish measured!
Starting at 5 PM:	BBQ
6 PM:	Prizes

## **Prizes**

### **Ages 0-11:**

- the largest sunfish
- the largest perch
- the largest bass

also participation prize to each!

### **Adults 12 + :**

- the largest bass
- the largest pike
- the largest trout

### **Also put on your agenda:**

#### **Saturday, June 29th**

From 07:00 PM to 09:30 PM: Game night: Come and celebrate Canada Day with us!

#### **Saturday, August 10th:**

11:00 AM—Bake sale (after the meeting of the Municipal Council) and from

07:00 PM to 09:30PM—Game board night

\* Don't forget the yoga courses every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM at the Community Center

## Infrastructure, Services

By: Marc-Olivier Duchesne

### The landing – Reminder of good practices



The Landing area and the access to the docks are essential for everybody, but they are very busy and have multiple functions. As we start the season, it is appropriate to remind ourselves of a few rules that will all help us to reach our boat, greet our friends and build our projects!

- ⇒ The areas near the main dock (15 minutes) and the dock sections C and D on Jésuites road are access area zones to the docks and for transshipment. They mainly serve to transfer people, goods, stock, material and waste from an automobile to a boat (or vice versa). They are not a parking or storage zone.
- ⇒ It is permitted to leave your automobile a few minutes (max 30 minutes) for all sorts of good practical reasons and that is o.k. However, you must remember that the buffer strip (15 meters) **must not be a permanent parking area and you cannot stay for the day or the weekend**.
- ⇒ These areas are also transition zones for incoming material and outgoing waste from contractors and deliverymen. Ideally, these should be moved to your cottages upon delivery but it is reasonable to have a delay of 48 hours between delivery and transport. However, **it is not a storage zone for material during all summer or a place where residents or contractors can store waste, trailers, equipment till the end of a project**. It is not an area to leave your old fridge 4 weeks before the mobile Eco centre or because someone promised to transport it for you. The waste should be brought to the Eco centre as fast as possible.
- ⇒ Imagine that someone leaves his car all day, a resident leaves an old fridge, another one leaves material for his project planned in 4 weeks and that a delivery truck wants to deliver a lot of material and a citizen wants to bring his older parents at the same time. This is not an ideal situation and it is detrimental to your neighbors, as well as not being esthetic and creating disturbances for you and your visitors.

To sum it up, keep in mind the duration of 30 minutes to park your car at the landing and 48 hours to leave material and waste. Let's avoid abandoning waste at the landing because the accumulation of these (waste, material, equipment and cars) restricts or prevents the use of these zones for other citizens and contractors. If you have a particular situation, talk to the inspector. With this in mind, let's wish us another beautiful summer, many visits and projects completed in time!

## Environmental Matters

By Jake Chadwick



### Update on Milfoil Monitoring and Removal Programme

As mentioned in the Fall bulletin, we have budgeted funds in order to conduct the same level of Milfoil surveillance and removal as in 2018. We are hoping that the three-year trend of plant discovery and removal continues, and the number of plants removed goes down. We have a plan to train some key volunteers on Milfoil plant identification. Secondly, a general presentation and education clinic for all citizens to learn more about milfoil and other invasive species threatening Laurentian Lakes will take place on **Saturday, July 6th at 10 AM at the community center**.

In addition, we will be taking similar precautionary measures as in past summers by cordoning off parts of Silver Bay to avoid unwanted boat traffic. Please be vigilant to not create disturbances in these areas!

### Water Quality Results – Data Confusion!!

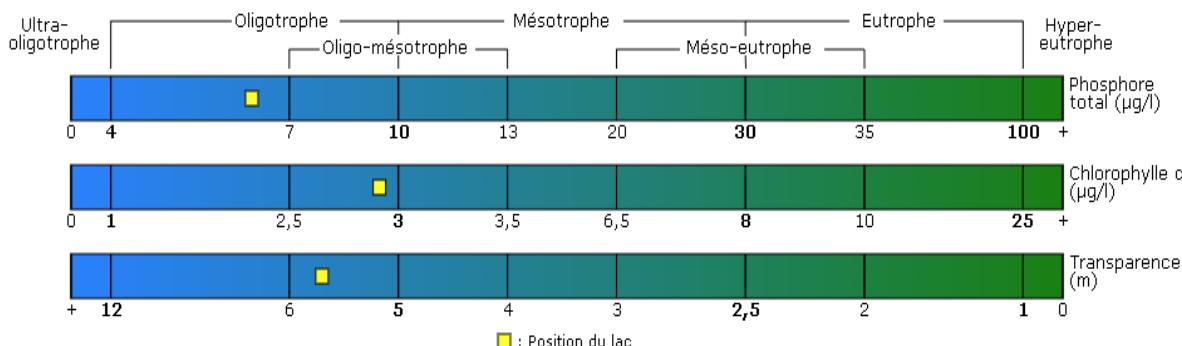
As usual, we are pleased to report on our water quality testing results for last season. Once again we tested for important biophysical parameters from May through October within the CCE and also participated with Lea Hardcastle and the BLPA in the provincial government's Réseau de Surveillance Volontaire des Lacs (RSVL) program. As mentioned in prior bulletins, the RSVL programme took a hiatus since 2015 due to concerns over the phosphorus testing protocol. Basically, there was concern that the historical readings were too low. After two years of analysis and deliberation, the ministry has indeed confirmed that historical phosphorus readings for RSVL participants were indeed too low and a new testing protocol has been established. The bad news from this conclusion is that all our historical measurements will need to be adjusted upwards. While one cannot argue against science and "getting things right", it is concerning when the changes imply that our lake is further along on its natural aging process than we had previously thought.

Nest page is the classic summary diagram from the RSVL program for 2018. The program shows where our lake is positioned on three important measurements of water quality: 1) total phosphorus; 2) chlorophyll "a"; and, 3) organic carbon.

## Données physicochimiques - Été 2018

Date	Phosphore total (µg/l)	Chlorophylle a (µg/l)	Carbone organique dissous (mg/l)
2018-06-18	5,5	5,6	3,1
2018-07-17	7,9	2,1	3,8
2018-08-19	5,7	0,96	3
Moyenne estivale	6,4	2,9	3,3

## Classement du niveau trophique - Été 2018



As shown in the preceding table, the 2018 results under the new testing protocol for phosphorus shows an average of 6.4 µg/l. This compares to the 2015 result of 5.1 µg/l. Do we really have 25% more phosphorus in our lake? Going back to earlier years, our average reading was 3.1 µg/l. We were using the same testing methodologies and the same lab for the analysis. The results for Chlorophyll a are also higher: 2.9 µg/l in 2018 versus 2.0 µg/l in 2015 and a historical average since 2010 of 1.76 µg/l. All this begs the important question: Is our lake aging that fast in terms of phosphorus and transparency levels or were the historical figures artificially low? The short answer is no as the historical figures for phosphorus need to be adjusted upwards. We are digging into this with high priority with the RSVL people and the laboratory and will communicate any intelligence we gather. We will be looking at the experience at other lakes as well to see if there are similarities. Bottom line - there is no point in taking data and drawing conclusions unless the data itself is reliable and comparable!

Average transparency readings remain consistent at just under 6m (5.7m exactly for 2018). This is in line with the historical average of 5.9m. Our colleague Marc Fredette has written a very interesting article in this Bulletin on the financial implications of this attribute.

Despite the data confusion, the above results indicate that the lake continues to be in the oligotrophic phase of its life. If we are to rely on the 2018 figures however, we have moved significantly to left on the scale over the last couple of years which is of concern.

We also conducted the annual fecal coliform tests at various points on the lake as well as the outlet stream. The results in the lake were excellent once again so all is good on this important measure of water quality.

## Mini Echoes from Barkmere

By: Chantal Raymond



- In 2020, it will be forbidden in all municipalities in Quebec to bury organic matter. But it allows smaller rural municipalities to choose between the collection known as the “third way”, or domestic composting. After reviewing the inconclusive results of a pilot project of the RCM of voluntary transportation to containers, and considering the significant costs related to this type of collection, the Municipal Council has opted for the domestic composting solution, which seems better adapted to our reality. **Soon, the Town employees will distribute composters this summer to your door or dock.** Given its small population, Barkmere is exempted to recuperate meat and other “animal” waste, which can still be disposed of within the regular waste collection. In fact, it will be very important **NOT** to place this waste in the composting unit, as it will attract bears, raccoons, and other carnivorous animals. It was demonstrated that they are not attracted by vegetal waste. More precise instructions will be distributed with the units.
- We remind you that the identification labels for your boats are compulsory. We feel that we have been tolerant enough and the deadline has passed for a long time now. For help or information, please contact Town Hall. Our summer students will be pleased to help you obtain the missing papers proving your ownership, for example.
- Following the Citizen’s Forum of last year, the Town has adopted a resolution to ask the ministry of Transport to take measures to reduce the speed limit on Barkmere Road for the section situated on the Town’s territory from 50 km/h to 40 km/h. Please slow down!
- At the landing, you will notice four recycling containers for Styrofoam (as black punnet for vegetables), plastic #6 (as individual yogurt containers), etc. Instructions will be displayed on the containers. This pilot project was such a success last year that many municipalities in the Laurentians have started their own collection.
- As part of our agreement with the RINOL (Fire Department), we must do fire alarm inspections in your cottages. They will start this summer. **For those of you who come sporadically at the lake, would you be kind enough to communicate with City Hall upon or before your arrival, so that we can send someone to do the inspection as soon as possible.**



- The Town would like to thank all the 30 or so volunteers who came out on very short notice to fill sand bags to reinforce the lateral embankments of the dam during the State of emergency on the morning of April 27.

◀ (*The Director General Martin-Paul Gélinas and Mayor Luc Trépanier on April 27th.*)

↓ (Below, some of the volunteers on April 27th)



## INFORMATION ON CITY HALL

### OPENING HOURS

May to September

Tuesday to Saturday: 09:00 AM–04:00 PM

Mayor: 819-681-3374 [maire@barkmere.ca](mailto:maire@barkmere.ca)

General Director and Treasurer 819-681-3374 , ext. 5101 [dg@barkmere.ca](mailto:dg@barkmere.ca)

Urbanism and infrastructures: 819-681-3374 , ext. 5103 [inspecteur@barkmere.ca](mailto:inspecteur@barkmere.ca)

Communications: 819-681-3374 [communications@barkmere.ca](mailto:communications@barkmere.ca)

Finances (tax bill) 819-681-3374 [finance@barkmere.ca](mailto:finance@barkmere.ca)

