



## Echoes from Barkmere – December 2019

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 2019:

- The council starts with the Extraordinary Meeting in order to adopt the 2020 annual budget and the three-year Capital Expenditures program for 2020-2021-2022. As stated in the Fall/Winter Bulletin, the general tax is set to 0.5642\$ per \$100 of evaluation for 2020 and therefore has decreased by 2.7 % compared to 2019. We are enjoying this good news this year, as the general tax might certainly increase because the regional compulsory expenses, as garbage collection, fire protection, the Sûreté du Québec, etc. are all foreseeing major increases. When looking at the numbers closely, the town considers that the door-to-door garbage collection has significantly increased and would like to organise another Citizen's Forum in 2020 where we could discuss whether or not to maintain this service.
- The town has also reviewed the rental fees for its municipal docks and will decrease the cost to \$441, on account of having finished paying some investments for its upgrading. For people renting in the old boathouse of Gordon Miller that the town has reacquired, the rental will be set at 502\$ which will enable us to repair and maintain them secure while awaiting decisions for their future.
- Mayor Trépanier asks for a minute of silence in memory of Mr. Donald Miller, who passed away last week. He was very well known by everybody, always smiling, and ready to help put gas in your boat or to have a conversation, often talking about the weather. It is a great loss for the community and the mayor extends his sincere condolences to the whole family.

- Hydro Quebec has proceeded in 're closing' the pathways that were reopened in account of work done on the Grand Brulé line. The town wants to have barriers erected and also signage to raise awareness among the hikers to a fragile ecosystem situated at the confluence of three water courses feeding the lake. The mayor thanks Charles Huot, ex-mayor of Barkmere and Jake Chadwick, councillor, for following up closely on this matter.
- The BLPA announces that work on the new shelter/toilet on Goulden Island has started and thanks all the volunteers for making it happen.
- The town adopts a resolution to ratify a tender for installing a solar system on Goulden Island to feed a few equipment like: replacing the generator to see movies, a bit of light for the stairs, and to eventually feed an internet connection on the island, for the compost toilets needing a bit of electricity to work.
- Mr. Marc-Olivier Duchesne reminds everybody that it is not too late to fill out the survey sent this fall (paper or electronic copies available by communicating with the Director General at [dg@barkmere.ca](mailto:dg@barkmere.ca)).
- Mr. Stephen Lloyd, councillor, updates us on the case opposing a certain «Mr. Gaucher» to a long list of proprietors in the municipality of Lac-Tremblant Nord (similar to Town of Barkmere). Mr. Gaucher has asked the Supreme Court of Canada to review the decision of the Court of Appeal of Quebec. Because the result of this dispute will influence our own case concerning the construction of a road without a permit, our trial has been put on hold another time. We don't know if the Supreme Court will accept to review the request of Mr. Gaucher.
- At the last Mayor's Council, we learned that COGECO could start a project to bring Very High Speed Internet (by optic fibre) on all «accessible» territory of our MRC as soon as next year. The Government of Québec should give grants for this purpose before the month of February. In Barkmere, it would probably mean that the village zone, and maybe certain

accessible streets could get it. For the residents of the lake, FILAU and cellular links remain the only solution.

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.

***Santa Claus competition (Luc Trépanier, Marc-Olivier Duchesne and Pierre Beaudin :***



***Organiser Kevin O'Shaughnessey and snowman competition, Stephen Lloyd and the organiser Lyne Valois, and Thomas Frédette:***



**Potato race : Mary Miller and Marc Frédette, Clara Lloyd, Zoé and Daphné Trépanier :**







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