



Echoes from Barkmere – October 2019

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, October 12th 2019:

- Mayor Trépanier asks for a minute of silence in memory of Mrs. Viola Miller, who passed away last month after a lengthy illness.
- Mayor Trépanier asks for a minute of silence in memory of Dr. Siegfried Eickelschulte who passed away last week, also after a lengthy illness.
- Mayor Trépanier speaks about the recent decision of the Court of Appeal of Québec in the case between a «Mr. Gaucher» and a long list of property owners in the municipality of Lac-Tremblant-Nord. Mr. Gaucher wanted to force all these people to grant him a servitude, or right-of-way, to build a road arguing the he was «enclosed», because he could not access his property by land 12 months a year. **The Court of Appeal stated that a navigable lake constitutes a public way and therefore, a property adjacent to such a lake cannot be considered enclosed.** As for the argument that a lake is not navigable 12 months a year, the Court answered that it was not sufficient to render a property enclosed. Furthermore, the Court reminded Mr. Gaucher, who was claiming that he «should have the same rights than everyone else in the Province», that he purchased his property with full knowledge that the municipality defined itself as a place of secondary and temporary residence, devoted to the protection of the environment and natural sites and that his argument was rejected. He could not claim the same services as a larger town or city more urbanized. It is therefore a great victory, and the Mayor did not hide his satisfaction that the particular character of the Town of Barkmere is now recognized by the highest court in the Province, and that the issue of enclosure for properties on a lake, is finally resolved. He hopes that this decision will reduce the pressure to build roads on the territory. We remind you that the court case regarding the construction of a road without a permit was put on hold until

this decision of the Court of Appeal was made in the case of Lac-Tremblant-Nord and it will have an influence on our trial.

- Our municipal inspector, Mr. Gabriel Bélanger, left us to accept a position closer to his home. Our Town Manager, Mr. Gélinas, did not lose his time and found us a new inspector: Mr. Marc-André Paquin, who starts work this Tuesday. The mayor welcomes Mr. Paquin to the Town of Barkmere.
- Mrs. Lyne Valois, President of the Local Social Activities Committee, reported that the painting course with Pepa Ferrandez was a big success. The Committee asked to join the Town of Barkmere in organising the Christmas Party. They will organise all sorts of activities and you will have all the details in the next November Bulletin. Mayor Trépanier accepted the offer with great pleasure. Mrs. Valois also thanked Mr. Kevin O'Shaughnessey who built a wooden message board at the landing to advertise their activities.
- Concerning the worry about the dam for next spring, the engineering firm that conceived the renovation of the dam came to inspect the structure after a request from the Town. We are still awaiting their official report, but according to the engineer, apart from having to replace some rocks in front of the spill which have rolled down with the force of last spring's waters, the structure is doing its work. We remind people that the water level of all the lakes in the Laurentians is lower than normal, and that this situation is not caused by the dam.
- Mr. Jake Michael Chadwick gave us the official count for the number of plants of milfoil removed: 187 plants, versus 500 last year, a reduction of 63% and these results are very encouraging. Mr. Chadwick thanked Mr. Sylvain Miller and Mrs. Anne Létourneau for their great work in this endeavor.
- The Town has reached an agreement with Mr. Gordon Miller concerning the 7-door boathouse. The Town will acquire it and will ask for the names of the renters in order to continue servicing them, but will ensure the solidity of the structure while waiting for a decision, soon to be taken, concerning its future.
- We remind you that we have sent you a **survey** recently in order to have your opinion on what you think about the landing. Please make time to fill it out and send it.

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 after council:



Picture taken by Mrs. Lyne Valois last week.



And another picture by Mrs. Valois taken with the ground frozen and 2 deers:



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