



VILLE DE / TOWN OF BARKMERE

A Word from the Mayor

Dear Residents of Barkmere,

We are facing new challenges, at least challenges that no one living can remember. Our world is being rocked, and the repercussions are affecting us all, even in our peaceful Town of Barkmere.

On March 23rd, the Quebec Government has announced that all non-essential establishments must remain closed for a period of 3 weeks. Until further notice, the Town Hall and the Community Centre will therefore be closed to visitors. Wireless internet will be accessible from the outside only. Our Town employees will continue working from their home. Communications by e-mail and telephone are maintained, if you have requests, situations to report, etc.

The collection of garbage and recycling will continue according to the normal schedule. Essential services like the 9-1-1 call centre, police, fire protection, ambulances are all remaining in operation. Regular updates will be published by the MRC at the following site: <https://mrclaurentides.qc.ca/covid-19/> (French only).

As Quebec Premier François Legault and the Director of Public Health, Dr. Horatio Arruda, are repeating tirelessly everyday during their 1:00 PM press conference, I also implore you to remain in isolation. Barkmere has a great number of elders, and they are particularly at risk of contracting the disease and develop complications. If you are part of this group, please do not leave your home. You probably have family, neighbours, friends, who will be happy to help and get you groceries, medications, etc. If not, please contact the Town, by phone at 819-681-3374, or by e-mail at dg@barkmere.ca, or mayor@barkmere.ca.

For those of you helping, please do it at a distance, leaving the goods at the door and remain at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from the people. This distance must be respected while meeting people during walks, at the grocery, the bank or the pharmacy.

Barkmere also has a good number of citizens who spend the winter in warmer climates. As you are returning to Canada, you must remain in quarantine for 14 days. And if you are part of our senior group of citizens, you must also remain in isolation.

Cottagers who live in Montreal and Ottawa are part of larger communities where the virus will spread more rapidly. If you are coming to your secondary home in Barkmere, avoid contacts with our local population. Enjoy the beautiful end of winter scenery, the first signs of Spring, outdoor activities, but keep your distances from neighbours.

Barkmere always was first and foremost a very strong community. We need to now adapt this sense of close community by remaining isolated from one another, while the epidemic will reach its peak. This is how we will remain a strong community. Stay safe, wash your hands, wear gloves, cough or sneeze in your elbow and remain positive. Together (but 6 feet apart!), we will get through this ordeal.

Luc.