



Echoes from Barkmere – July 2020

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, June 11th 2020:

- The Council session is finally held at the Community Center in accordance with covid-19 sanitary measures and the possibility of seating around 15 person. The council was nevertheless recorded so you may see it on our website. The Mayor is asking again the population to remain prudent, and to avoid interior gatherings in small spaces and to respect social distancing.
- The Town has withdrawn its recommendation of not drinking the water from the Lake, as the concentration of cyanobacteria did not lead to surface blooms. We have proceeded with some sampling around the Lake to verify that the water was drinkable. The results have shown that treated water, either by filtration, boiling or other means, can be consumed. We remind everyone that surface waters always contain micro-organisms and that it is recommended to apply a treatment before drinking them.
- Some people have raised concerns that the renovated dam caused the level of the Lake to be lower than its historical level. We have contacted the engineers that worked on the project. The readings indicate that the height of the dam is exactly the same as before the renovation, and the dam does not explain why the Lake is lower than normal. However, the engineer has also reviewed the data from the flow stations of the Nord and Diable rivers, and their own level is 50% lower than the historical mean. He added that since the Spring level was already low, any additional rain is rapidly

evacuated. Conclusion from the engineer: there is simply not enough water this year, a fact that any farmer will confirm.

- The Town sent a written response to express its disagreement with the building of new forest roads in proximity of Bark Lake, while there are already many existing roads in the zone where the forestry operation is projected for next winter. Other groups, including the Municipality of Montcalm and the BLPA, have also expressed their disagreement. We are awaiting a meeting of the harmonization committee that the Ministry should organize following these protests.
- Two of our councillors, Chantal Raymond and Kimberley Lamoureux, are working on a plan with the Town administration to prepare a reconfiguration plan of the buoys and to recommend the purchase of new and/or different buoys. We will also make sure to explain the navigation rules regarding these buoys and the importance of respecting them to protect the shoreline and the marina area.
- Mr. Jake Chadwick reports that the diving team of Anne Létourneau and Sylvain Miller has removed 108 milfoil plants in Silver Bay. If we compare to last year's total (187) we have almost 50% less plants so far which is very good news. We would like to express our thanks to Anne and Sylvain once again for their unwavering support. The CCE and the BLPA will form a Community Environmental Action Patrol (CEAP) to sensitize each proprietor to survey its own property by snorkelling, kayaking or canoeing from its left neighbour to its right neighbour so that the lake is patrolled in its entirety each year from July 1st to August 15th. Mr. Chadwick also suggested that a "no-wake" zone be established and marked with appropriate buoys at the far end of Silver Bay where the milfoil is prevalent. There is far too much high-speed boat activity in the area which can break up and propagate the milfoil, and disturbs sediments which releases phosphorus promoting even more plant growth. Citizens near this zone will be visited to raise awareness on the dangers of spreading milfoil with boating activity.
- Mr. Stephen Lloyd explains the notices of motion and tabling of bylaws 257 and 258 concerning boathouses and exterior lighting. The CCU has met and have given their advice on this proposed by-law. We now need a public consultation to get your opinion. The by-laws are there for consultation on

the town's website at www.barkmere.ca (257 under zoning by-laws and 258 under PIIA by-law) We will also hold a public consultation in the best possible manner permitted by the government to have your advice. We hope though to receive your comments and questions by e-mail at dg@barkmere.ca Concerning the boathouses, we have made amendments to the architecture, the colours permitted and its final approval by the CCU. For lighting, we are trying to minimise exterior lighting, specifically around the lake, in conformity with the dark sky rules.

- The Town is buying 2 charging stations of 240 volts for electrical cars. They will be attached to the municipal garage wall. They will be pay-charging stations, through a mobile application, and a percentage of the sales will return to the town.

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.

The Council session with zoom, and live:





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