



## Echoes from Barkmere – May 2020

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2020:

- Due to the pandemic of Covid-19 and by decree of the government of Quebec, our council meeting was closed to the public and held via video-conferencing. The government issued a new directive asking that the meeting be recorded and rendered public. It will be published this week with a link on our website at [www.barkmere.ca](http://www.barkmere.ca) .
- The Town Hall is now opened, but with restrictions (one person at a time, distances to respect). However, the Community Centre and the public washrooms will remain closed according to the directives of Public Health. The boat cleaning service is also available and compulsory, again with rules to respect. Also, we are asking the population to follow the rule of **one family per wharf during loading and unloading**.
- We learned about the passing last month of a former resident of Barkmere, Doctor John Whitehead, who had his cottage on Duncan Road, now property of Robert Ciricillo. Mr. Whitehead arrived in Barkmere in 1963. He passed away at the Herron residence of Dorval, his death caused directly or indirectly by the Covid-19 disease. The Mayor asks Council to hold a minute of silence for his memory.
- The Mayor informs us that the Supreme Court of Canada has rendered its decision in the case of Lac-Tremblant-Nord, regarding the “enclosure” of residences and lands located on the shore of a navigable lake, like Bark

Lake <https://canliiconnects.org/en/cases/2019qcca1718>. The Supreme Court has refused to hear the appeal, and therefore the decision of the Court of Appeal of Quebec is maintained and final. No one can now claim to be “enclosed” in the sense of the Civil Code of Quebec, when the property is located on the shore of a navigable lake and that the municipality considers that the lake constitutes the way to access these properties, as specified in the Urban Plan of the Town of Barkmere. This decision will certainly impact the pending lawsuit of the Town, since the defendants cannot demand a road access, given that they are not enclosed to begin with. The Mayor reminds us that the objective of the Town in this case is not directly linked to the “enclosure” issue, but with the enforcement of its bylaws on roads built on its territory.

- The Mayor received a question by e-mail, asking if it was possible to know if there will be a response from the Council regarding the survey circulated a few months ago. Also, if there were plans to install one or more highly efficient electrical charging stations (for electric vehicles), and if there is a possibility to get a shelter for motorcycles at the landing. Mr. Trépanier informs us that the survey is currently being compiled, and results should be known before the summer. The administration is working with suppliers to obtain quotes to install electrical charging stations, which will probably be installed close to the municipal garage. They will not be ultra-fast charging stations though, these ones being too expensive. Details on the usage fees and procedures are not yet determined. As for the project of a motorcycle shelter, it will be part of the considerations while preparing the plans to reconfigure the landing area and the marina. We know that this is a need that must be addressed in a better way than the shelter for people situated close to the docks. It will also be the case for other requests, like setting up a swimming place in this area for our residents that are not living on the shore of the Lake.
- The Town informs its citizens that for those who have paid their taxes by installments, cheques postdated June 1<sup>st</sup> will not be cashed before August 1<sup>st</sup> and cheques postdated August 1<sup>st</sup> will not be cashed before October 1<sup>st</sup> (2 months later as passed today per by-law 256-1). The interest on late payments will be incurred starting October 1<sup>st</sup> this year and the penalty fees will start only on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.
- For a few years, the council has been aiming at protecting the water of the lake and to this end, the Town wants to protect the region around the source

of the lake, upstream from Silver Bay, the Inlet, particularly the wet lands filtering the head of the lake and its adjacent land. Projecting in the future to **conserve** this fragile zone, the Town was advised by Nature Conservancy of Canada to first do a study of the land to quantify the animal and vegetal species and the ecology of this environmentally sensitive zone. The Town has therefore hired Mrs. Kim Marineau, biologist, to do a study of this zone during the course of this year.

- Mr. Jake Chadwick informs us that the laboratory of the Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale du Québec (CEAEQ) that analyses our water is closed for the moment. Also, our joint program with the BLPA that we do every year with the RSVL (Réseau de Surveillance Volontaire des Lacs) to take water samples during summer is also closed for the moment.
- The Mayor informs the citizens of the town that we are looking for a project manager to start the reconfiguration of the Marina and the Landing area. If you know anyone, please advise our Director General at [dg@barkmere.ca](mailto:dg@barkmere.ca).

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 of the lake taken April 28 with ice still showing*





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