



## Echoes from Barkmere – October 2020

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 2020:

- With the resurgence of cases of Covid-19 in the greater population centres, the Mayor asks citizens to respect the restrictions imposed by the Government for Covid. In particular, he reminds that the residents of a red zone must continue to respect the restrictions imposed by Public Health, even when they visit another region, as it is the case here in the Upper Laurentians. Cottagers who come from these zones should refrain from visiting local businesses until further notice.
- The Mayor invites the members of the Council and the assembly to hold a minute of silence in memory of two members of our community who have left us recently:  
Mr. Peter De Schulthess, son of Robin (Susan) De Schulthess, and brother of Heidi, died from the consequences of his heart transplant.  
Ms. Ginette Légaré, wife of Mr. Tony Reis, also passed away at the age of 74.  
The Mayor offers his sympathies, in the name of the Council, to all the family.
- Forest Road in Silver Bay North West

Scierie Carrière informed the Town that they finished the construction of the new forest road in the northwestern section of Silver Bay. But there was still a steam shovel on site at the end of the road last weekend. The Town and

the BLPA had succeeded this summer to convince the contractor to move the road away from Bark Lake, as it was planned to pass directly behind the properties on the shore. The Town also refused the construction of an extension of the road reaching Green Bay and Silver Bay, as well as a new road that was planned to reach Whittall Bay (only repairs to the existing old road was finally planned, located far from the bay). Sadly, we could not oppose totally the new road that was built, given the forestry operation planned in this sector for 2021 and 2022. The Town and Scierie Carrière signed an agreement at the end of these negotiations. The Mayor has visited in person the work sites many times, as well as other members of the Council, to ensure that the contractor would respect his obligations towards the Town.

But the new road is an ecological disaster which will take decades to stabilize, not counting the increased volume of all-terrain vehicles that will have access to this part of the Barkmere territory. The road is of an incredible width for a forest road, with enormous ditches and excessive clearing. We had also questioned the contractor on that subject, and the answer was that the safety rules had changed for forest roads over the past 25 years. All members of the Council are disappointed, shocked and angry with this situation. Under the terms of the agreement, we will have some possibilities to demand repairs of these road and a closing of some skidder trails, which would cause direct damages to Bark Lake. *See picture below:*



- Regarding the changes to our bylaws, the members of the Council are finishing the revision, and a second draft of these bylaws will be presented to the November Council. These revised drafts will take into account the reservations and comments expressed during the public consultation at the end of August.
- There have been many sales in Barkmere and we will therefore have new residents. The Mayor asks you to greet them, meet with them and tell them what Barkmere means to you and your community, and the values that you cherish.
- The last meeting of the MRC Council was very short, with few resolutions at the agenda. Before the meeting itself, the issue with territories incompatible with mining activities was discussed (Barkmere is incompatible), as well as the probable takeover of the FILAU organisation by a private company. FILAU is at the limit of its capabilities as a non-profit organisation to maintain a complex and difficult network. They have reimbursed their loan from the Town for the installation of the tower near Bark Lake.
- The property evaluations increased drastically on the territory of the MRC for the municipalities which had their three-year roll presented this year. This favours Barkmere in the short term, as our proportion of the MRC quota-shares will be reduced, our roll being introduced last year. We still have two years to go on this roll.

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.

*A moose and his calf swimming from Priest Island:*



***Fall at the lake***



*\*Both pictures taken by Dick O'Shaughnessey*



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