



Echoes from Barkmere – November 2020

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, November 14th 2020:

- Recently, the Covid epidemic seems to be growing and Mayor Trépanier recommends that all residents of Barkmere continue to follow the directives of Public Health. At this point, our annual gathering of December seems compromised, but Councillor Chantal Raymond is thinking about finding some way to organize the event without putting anyone at risk.
- The Mayor also recommends to be patient and prudent regarding the winter activities on the Lake, which, as he reminds everyone, are always performed at your own risks. The unusual mild weather that we observed in November leads to think that the ice will take over later than other years.
- Work will begin, subsidised by a grant, on Jésuites road and Barkmere road making the access harder on account of the partial closing of the road. The town will advise by e-mail all users of the road concerned.
- A notice of motion is deposited for draft by-law 257 concerning exterior lighting restrictions. The notice of motion has been prolonged so that the citizens have time to consult and comment on the draft which was revised following the August 29 public consultation. The revised version will be posted on our website at www.barkmere.ca for the purposes of additional comments by the citizens.

The main changes made vis-à-vis the initial version which was presented at the public consultation session on August 29 are the following:

- The reference to the Dark Sky movement has been eliminated;
 - Four outside lights will be permitted on main buildings (essentially the current rule) and main buildings will have grandfather rights in this regard;
 - Lighting of pedestrian pathways will be permitted, according to certain criteria;
 - Given that it was seen as discriminatory to permit outside lighting on boathouses and not on docks, the new version provides that lights will not be permitted on either;
 - The date when the new rules come into force has been pushed back until July 15, 2021.
-
- In the discussions surrounding the last MRC Council meeting, the administration presented their budget plan for 2021, showing very significant increases in about all departments, particularly in the affiliated organisations. During the meeting and since then, the mayors demanded that the administration revisit their work and present a more reasonable proposal, especially given the difficult economic context. Finally, the last budget meeting held November 10th was positive, and the increases for the MRC were brought down to about 2.6%.

 - The share of Barkmere will reduce slightly in 2021, given the introduction of new evaluation rolls in other municipalities, which have seen their values increase from 10% to 20%. And while the cost of the RIDR for waste management increase significantly by 17%, the share of Barkmere went the opposite way and will decrease. It seems that since we have our own collection service, separately from other municipalities, our tonnage reduced a lot in relation to the others, as it is now possible to account for it separately. This will help compensate for the huge increases we faced after we were forced to offer our own collection service.

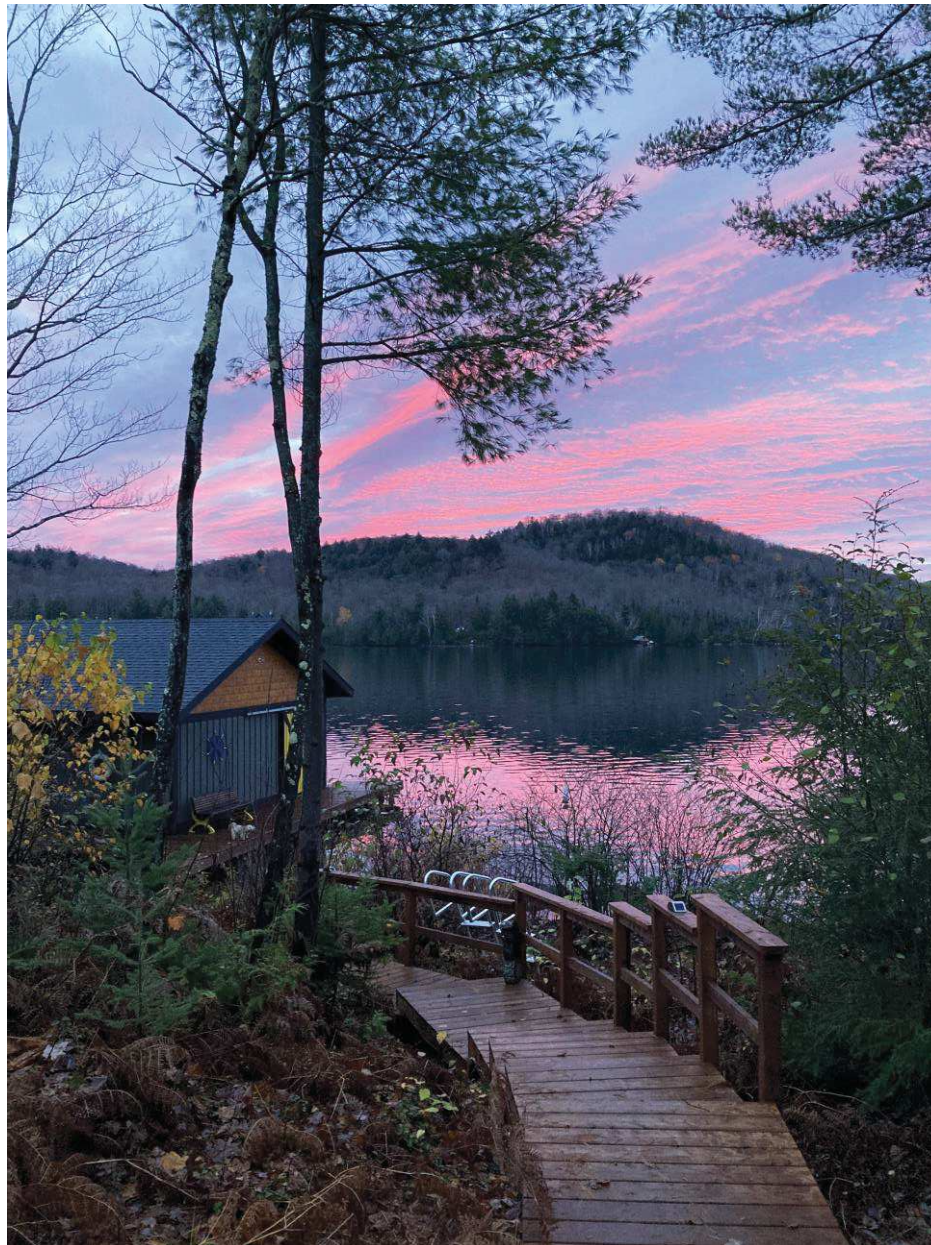
 - While not being an official subject at the last Council, the Mayor mentions that the “house is burning” at the Fire Services company (RINOL). Two municipalities that contribute much, Lac-Supérieur and St-Faustin-Lac-Carré, have indicated their intention to withdraw to join the other company, which comprises Ste-Agathe-des-Monts. It is clear that in these conditions, the RINOL could not survive. If the situation cannot be resolved, other scenarios are being reviewed, like giving the management of the fire

services of our sector to the City of Mont-Tremblant, or have an organization to the full scale of the MRC.

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.

Pictures provided by Dick O'Shaughnessy:





*199 ch. Barkmere road
Barkmere, QC J0T 1A0*

Tel: 819-681-3374

communications@barkmere.ca