



Echoes from Barkmere – December 2020

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, December 12th 2020:

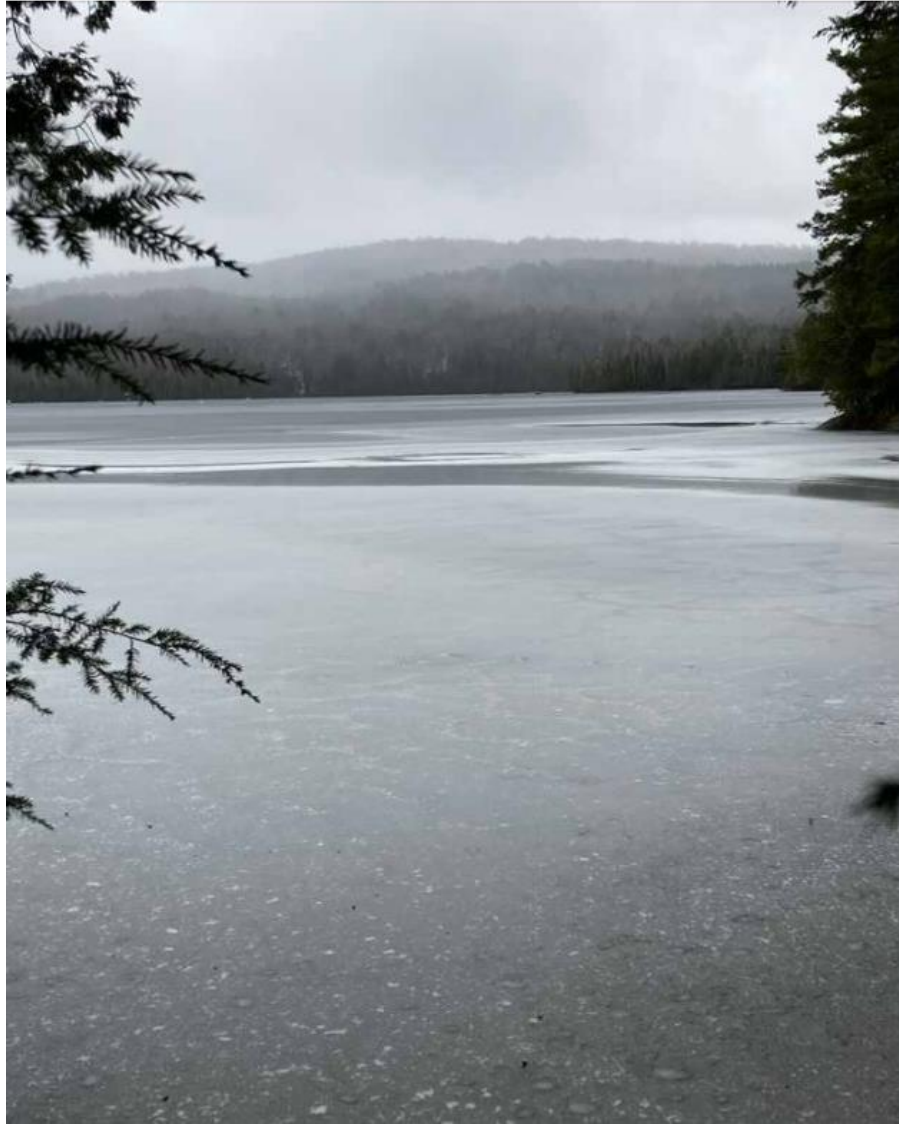
- The Mayor informs us that council has decided this week to hold the Council meeting virtually. It seemed irresponsible for us to come to Barkmere, at this time, while the pandemic is intensifying in the more populated centres. In the same vein, our little annual gathering after the December Council was also cancelled. Our MRC is now in the red zone. Restrictions related to this classification will begin to take effect Monday morning, with the closure of restaurants, and the reduction of allowed gatherings. The region is very fragile, with only one hospital in Ste. Agathe, and a population older than the province average. The mayor asks therefore that once again, cottagers avoid coming to Barkmere during this time, and if they do, not to visit the local commercial establishments. As for our permanent residents, more than ever we need to protect our population, and follow the directives of Public Health.
- We only learned this past month that Mrs. Lorna Dugan, born Kingan, has passed away last July, at the age of 90. Her family has been residing in the Narrows for a very long time, and the mayor present them with our most sincere condolences.
- Councillor Marc Frédette presented the 2021 Budget and the 3-year capital expenditures program which were approved during the extraordinary meeting held before the regular council meeting. In summary, the taxpayers of Barkmere will see a 2.4% drop in their tax bills on average. For more information, read his article in the Municipal Bulletin of December.

- We plan to adopt the second draft bylaw regarding exterior lighting and allowed materials for boathouses at the January meeting. The mayor invites the whole population to read the draft available on the website of the Town. Also, Councillor Stephen Lloyd has prepared an article in the December Municipal Bulletin, to explain the changes made to the first draft.
- The Town has adopted a notice of motion (by-law 261) to limit speed on Jésuites road to 15 km/h.
- The Town adopts the schedule of council meetings for 2021. Please note that, exceptionally, next council will be **held on January 16th**. Also, in conformity with the electoral law, there will be no council in October, municipal elections being held on November 6th. The meeting of November will therefore be postponed to November 20th.
- At last council of the MRC, the mayor informs us that the MRS will amend its zoning plan to designate some territories incompatible with mining activities. In particular, a “buffer” zone of 600 metres is proposed to protect residential areas, and also to include the protected areas like the exceptional forest ecosystem, to the east of Silver Bay. Unfortunately, all the northern portion of Barkmere will not be protected by this proposal. But we will continue our efforts to find ways to protect this sensitive zone which contains many tributaries of Bark Lake.
- Please note that Town Hall will be closed from Thursday December 24th and will reopen on Tuesday January 5th 2021. Administration services might be slower in account of the measures taken against covid. Like last spring, measures for covid will be taken and there will only be one person at a time at the reception of Town Hall.

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:





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