



Echoes from Barkmere – February 2021

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, February 13th 2021:

- The mayor, assisted by councillor Marc-Olivier Duchesne, had an information meeting for the proposal of the Town of Mont-Tremblant to offer its fire services to replace the inter municipal company, the RINOL, which is about to be dissolved. It was extremely disappointing, as Mont-Tremblant refuses to consider a fixed cost service with billing per calls, like we had negotiated with the RINOL. The sharing of the cost will be done according to the real estate values of the serviced municipalities. As Mont-Tremblant does not want to increase the costs for its own taxpayers, this means that the costs of the former RINOL will be shared amongst the municipalities which were members. Therefore, the costs for the service will increase significantly.

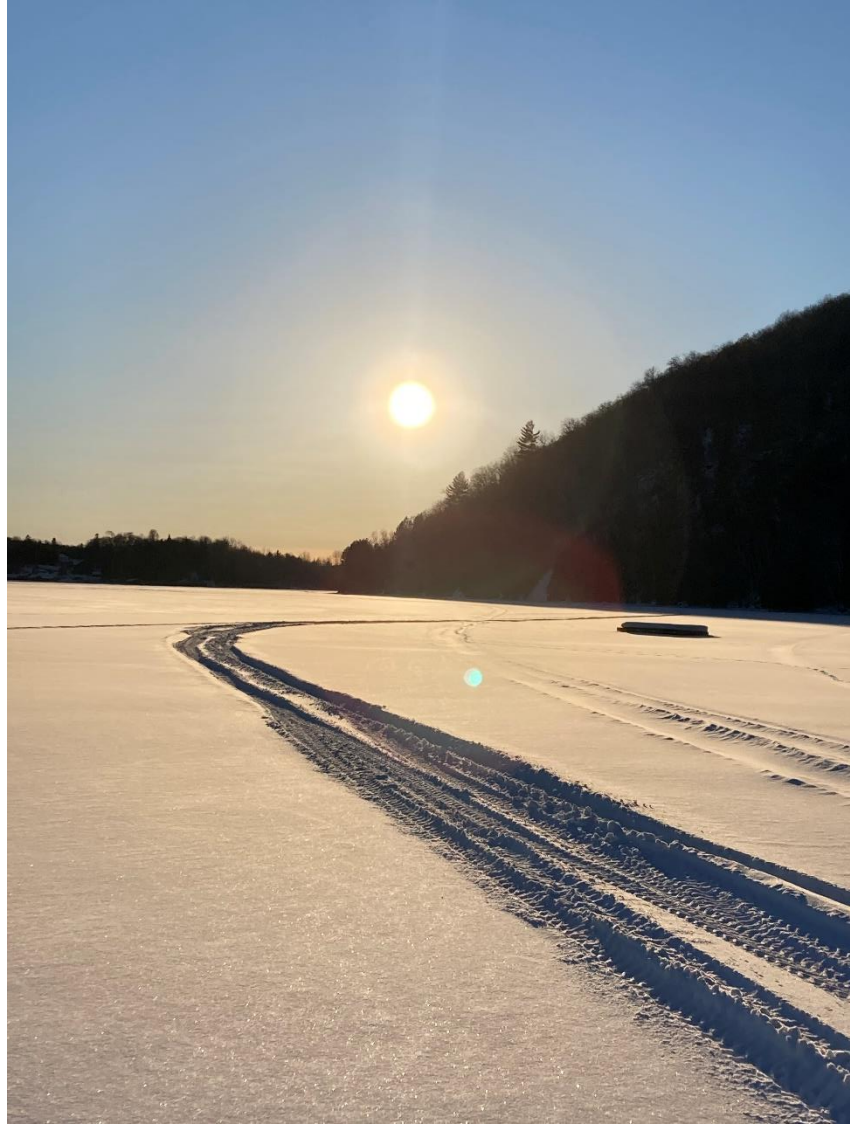
In the case of Barkmere, this means more than double the cost, and we will have to face a tax increase between 5% and 8% due to this new fire service. It is even more frustrating as the fire service of Mont-Tremblant concedes that they will not be able to cover 80% of our territory. They do own a fire boat, but they have no intention to move it out of Lake Tremblant, which would take too long any way during an intervention. The fire station of Montcalm will remain opened, but the one from Huberdeau will close. The proposal will be quite obviously accepted, les mayors of Montcalm and Huberdeau having already indicated that their respective municipal Councils were already in agreement.

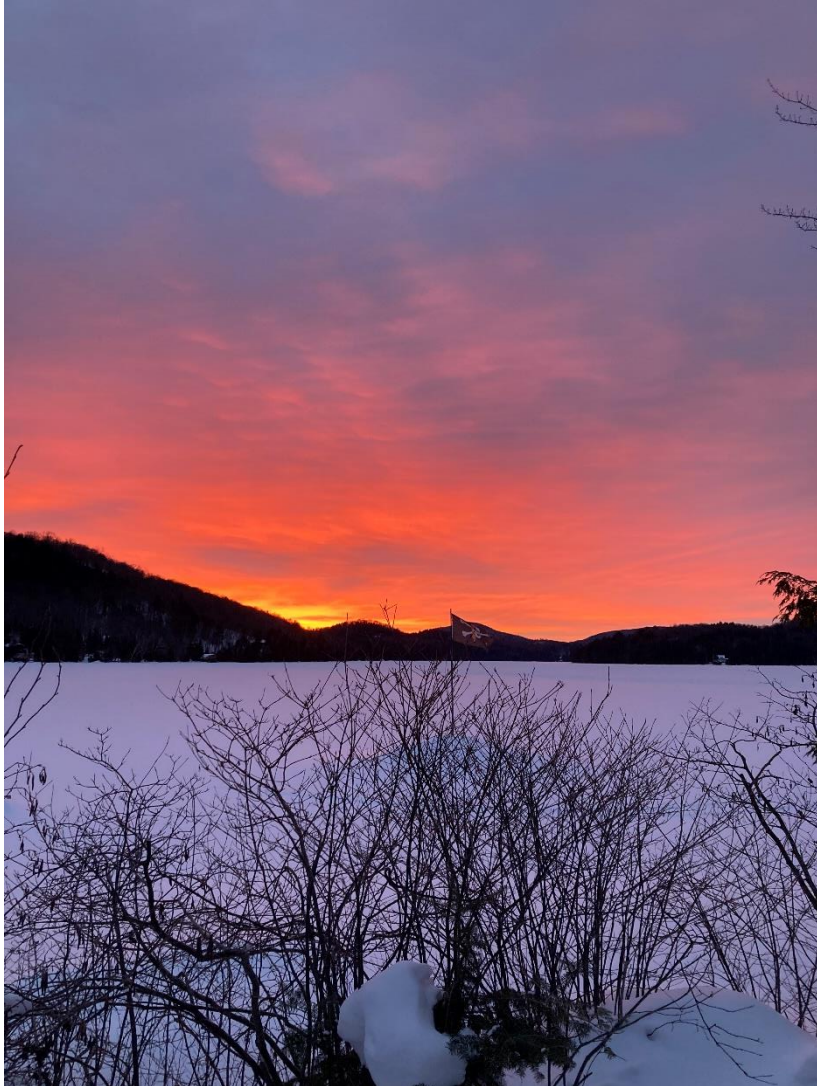
- The MRC has rejected our request to widen the territories designated as incompatible with mining activities to the area north of Bark Lake. According to them, the directives of the Ministry only allow to exclude zones around a municipal water intake or an aqueduct. They have also put aside the idea of changing the zoning of the sector upstream from Bark Lake to protect it further. They argued that these were public land under contract with forestry operators. We have not lost hope: we are presently seeking other avenues to protect this area.
- During the same meeting, the mayor has learned that they had decided to restrict further the construction of boathouses in Barkmere. The Council has voted a resolution to strongly oppose this change in the zoning plan. We think that the decision to modify regulations regarding boathouses in Barkmere belongs to the Barklakers.
- Councillor Jake Chadwick informed us that that the Organisme de Bassin Versant RPNS have obtained a grant from the Ministry of Environment (MDELCC) for in-depth environmental studies of several lakes in the Laurentians, including Bark Lake for which we will make a contribution of funds and manpower from our environment budget. They will do an exhaustive and personalised study of the lake and its watershed. It will also be an opportunity to review the CCE's water quality testing protocols and what other tests we should do in the future.
- Councillor Stephen Lloyd informs us that the new by-law 257 is considered adopted by the MRC. After multiple consultations, the by-law has found a consensus in terms of:
 - a) A new building is allowed one light per pedestrian entry, for a maximum of 4.
 - b) No lights permitted on boathouses.
 - c) 1 light for all accessory buildings permitted.
 - d) All exterior lights must be turned on and off manually by a person (no solar cells or timer).
 - e) A zone of 5 meters from shoreline must be light free. You may, though, for security purposes put lights on footpaths (but starting only at 5 meters from shoreline) and the lights must be activated by motion detector and not by timers.

The by-law will take effect on July 15th. For any question, please refer to the municipal inspector.

- The Mayor informs us that Mr. Serge Thibault has resigned from the CCU (Urbanism Committee). The mayor thanks him for his much appreciated help during more than 11 years. Mr. Thibault will be replaced by Ms. Geneviève Harvey, who has experience in real estate and who went through the process of CCU approval herself for their new cottage on Patry Bay.
- The Superior Court of Québec has set a date for the trial opposing the Town and the proprietors that built a road in Cope Bay. It will take place end of March or beginning of April 2022.
- At the last Mayor's Council of the MRC, the mayor informs us that the MRC has joined the "dark sky" movement to protect the night skies and will be inciting its municipalities to take actions for that goal, whether by implementing or enforcing regulations, or by modifying the public lighting, like streetlights.

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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