



Ville de / Town of

BARKMERE

Spring/Summer Bulletin

June 1st, 2022

Vol 50, No. 1



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The past two years were very long, with a bitter cold winter leading into an early and unusually warm spring. These two years we were also witness to a great number of properties in Barkmere changing hands, and we are now welcoming a large number of new Barklakers. I want to take the time to address them directly. The more seasoned ones know my tale by heart, and most of them will be ready to tell it to you as well.

Barkmere is a project, born almost one hundred years ago, with the goal of protecting and conserving a majestic lake and the beautiful laurentian nature around it. In 1926, it was unusual to have this goal, while today we have become a model to other municipalities. This project aims to keep the human footprint in Barkmere as minimal and respectful as possible. At Bark Lake, the goal is not to dominate nature, but to cohabitate peacefully within it, with others members of the forest such as moose, deers, etc. It is crucial to recognize that these inhabitants were here well before us, and they have succeeded in leaving this place as pristine and healthy for their young, generation after generation.

This is what we are trying to accomplish in Barkmere: to transfer to the future generations what those of the past have entrusted to us, while leaving it in an even better state than when we found it.

With this in mind, the Municipal Council launched last year a project to protect wetland areas and the three main tributaries of the Lake, in collaboration with the neighbouring municipality of Montcalm. We aim to protect this sensitive natural filtration plant from motorized vehicles, and other harmful activities, while allowing light and harmless activities like walking and kayaking, for example. We hope to put together a network of support for this project.

The Council has also voted a resolution this past Spring to request from the Ministry of Forest, Fauna and Parks to close the forest road built two years ago in the Silver Bay area. This road allowed a lot of unwanted visitors who were disrespectful to our residents. We have already obtained the support of the forestry company, Scierie Carrière, as well as that of the Regional County Municipality.

Of course, with summer coming, we also have the right to have fun, just like the ducks and the trout, and enjoy the Lake and water activities. But let us be respectful of the shores of the Lake and other residents, whether they are human or "loony". Let us avoid creating big wakes behind our boats and causing big waves with nefarious activities like wakeboarding. Let us ski and tube in the middle of the bays without going around in circles in the same bay. Let us be watchful of those who swim, canoe, kayak, paddleboard or are sailing.

I hope that all of you, new Barklakers, will join with the existing residents, and continue this beautiful project, appreciating this hidden treasure that the people before us have left to protect and cherish. I am counting on you.

Luc Trépanier
Mayor

By-law Updating Process

By: Stephen Lloyd



Our process of reviewing and updating our 2009 urban planning by-laws continues on at full steam. Many, many thanks to the CCU (urban planning committee) which has been working extremely hard to review the current by-laws and to think about what our community needs for the next 25 years. Your citizen volunteers in particular deserve lots of credit for investing so much of their time in this painstaking task.

You will recall the “top 10” community planning issues which came out of last summer’s initial public consultation:

1. regulation and control of Lake navigation;
2. protection of wilderness character;
3. Landing infrastructure;
4. municipal services;
5. taxation levels;
6. second tier development vs. promotion of Lake access;
7. integration of new residents and promotion of community spirit;
8. protection of Lake water quality;
9. harmonization of built infrastructure with the environment;
10. solar power vs Hydro-Québec infrastructure.

These issues are not in any particular order of priority; there are of course other things that concern Barkmere citizens as well! The idea is to begin the discussion. Stay tuned. There will be ample time and opportunity for public discussion. Start thinking about the long-term vision that you would like for your community!

*Stephen Lloyd,
Councillor*

Environmental Matters

By: Jake Chadwick

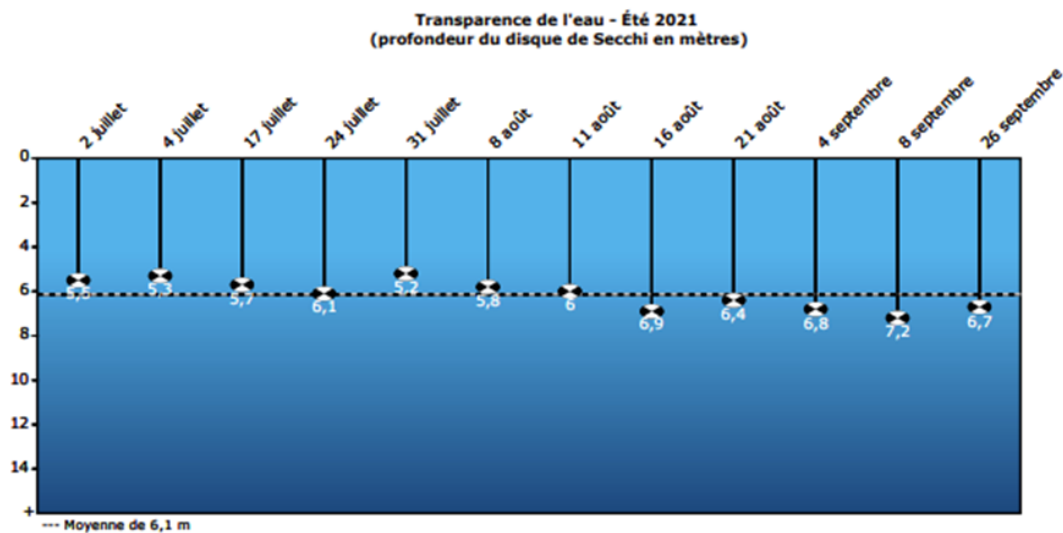


Summer 2021 Water Quality results

There were two main initiatives during the summer of 2021 to measure Bark Lake's water quality. Through the BLPA we participated in the annual RSVL (Réseau Surveillance Volontaire des Lacs) program of the Ministère d'environnement et Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC). The second initiative was the L'Action project with our water basin organization (see below).

The following table highlights the usual results from the RSVL program. We have superimposed with a red x the results from 2020 for comparative purposes.

Réseau de surveillance volontaire des lacs
Lac des Écorces (0596A) - Suivi de la qualité de l'eau 2021

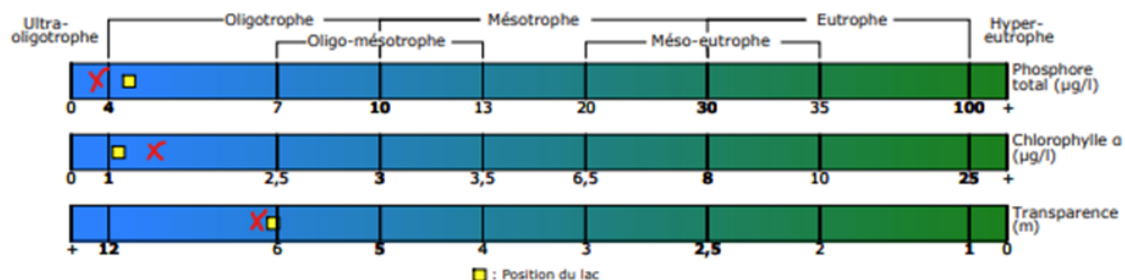


Données physicochimiques - Été 2021

Date	Phosphore total (µg/l)	Chlorophylle a (µg/l)	Carbone organique dissous (mg/l)
2021-06-27	4,6	ND	4
2021-07-25	4,7	1,4	4,3
2021-08-22	3,8	0,79	3,9
Moyenne estivale	4,4	1,1	4,1

ND : Donnée non disponible

Classement du niveau trophique - Été 2021



As shown in the top part of the diagram above, the average transparency reading in 2021 was 6.1 meters. This continues to be a very good result indicating healthy, clear water and is in line with 2020's average reading of 6.2 meters.

In terms of total phosphorus, the result of 4.4 µg/l is higher than the 2020 result of 3.1 µg/l but in line with 2019 (4.2 µg/l). The average concentration of chlorophyll of 1.1 µg/l is very low, confirming an environment with a low biomass of suspended microscopic algae. One might ask: How does our phosphorus levels compare to neighbouring lakes? The table below highlights some recent figures (source: RSVL).

Lake	Total Phosphorus (µg/l)
Bark Lake	4.4
Lac Tremblant	4.1
Lac Manitou	4.4
Beaven Lake	5.7
Lac Superior	8.1
Lac Maskinongé	16.0

As you can see in the table above, our results are very much in line with Tremblant and Manitou and significantly below the “older”, more eutrophic lakes, like Superior and Maskinongé. You can see the result of higher nutrient levels (like phosphorus) in Lake Maskinongé by the overwhelming quantity of aquatic plants along the shoreline making it more difficult to enjoy the water. The answer to avoiding this eutrophic state as long as possible is to lower the amount of nutrients reaching the water by minimizing our developmental footprint and protecting the shoreline which is the natural filtering system.

All the physicochemical variables measured above place Bark Lake in the oligotrophic state of its life cycle and it shows little signs of eutrophication. You can view the results along with prior years on the government's website (see <http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/rsvl/index.htm>).

Milfoil Update

As reported in the Fall 2021 bulletin, we had “hiccup” in our program searching and removing Eurasian milfoil last summer in that we found a large crop of plants in the inlet area. We will be reviewing this area with priority this spring with the hopes that the threat has been removed. The good news is that our team of Anne Létourneau and Sylvain Miller will be residents of Silver Bay this summer which will allow them to be more flexible in their surveillance and removal outings. If you are interested to volunteer in the program, please let our Town management know. You can also assist by participating in the “Community Environment Action Patrol” (CEAP) program. This initiative aims to motivate all cottage owners to help survey the lake in front of their properties for invasive species like milfoil. We all need to know and protect our lake! More communication on the CEAP program will be provided in the coming weeks.

L'ACtion Project

A team of biologists from our water basin organization (Organisation de Bassin Versants de la Rivière Rouge, Petit Nation et Salmon (OBVRPNS)) conducted an extensive analysis of the lake last summer. In addition to the usual water quality tests like those review above, the team provided analysis of water flow volumes from our main tributaries and analysis of upstream water systems. They also provided a view of the risks and threats to our lake's health including reviews of the main roads around the lake and their erosion risks. The full report is available on the Town website in the Environment section. We strongly encourage all residents to review the report. It's the most in-depth and comprehensive report on our lake and its environment in a decade.

As output from the study, action plans were developed for both the Town and the BLPA. The Town's actions will be championed by the CCE. A few of the key actions are:

1. Improve our communication plan, through various medias, to educate residents on important environmental issues.
2. Continue to closely monitor forestry operations and forestry roads on crown land.
3. Continue collaboration with other environmental organizations in our region (e.g. OBVRPNS, CRE Laurentides).
4. Move forward on establishing a protected area above the inlet.
5. Ensure revised municipal by-laws incorporate optimum environmental protections.
6. Continue to protect the lake's shoreline.
7. Continue to monitor water quality of the lake, tributaries, and upstream water ways.

The above represent some of the main priorities for your CCE for 2022/23.

Environmental Reminders

1. Do not enter the inlet with ANY watercraft, even kayaks and paddleboards. We need to ensure the removal of any trace of milfoil.
2. Do not put planted flowers on docks or anywhere near the lake. Rain will bring the concentrated nutrients in the potting soil into the lake.
3. Fireworks are prohibited in Barkmere. Heavy metals contained in most fireworks are very damaging to the lake.

*Jake Chadwick,
Councillor*

An Update from the Landing Committee

By: Kim Lamoureux



A few years ago, the town of Barkmere surveyed residents in regard to the landing and its related activities and services.

We want to let you know that all of your comments and suggestions were compiled, and a new committee has been formed to study and evaluate these suggestions and requests.

Here are some comments that stood out;

- You asked for charging stations for electric cars
- Many people mentioned that the boathouses to the left of the shelter are an eyesore and are falling apart, and that new boathouses would be appreciated.
- There is a need for readily accessible gasoline.
- An ice machine would be a welcome amenity
- Most people would like that the dock parking fees remain low
- There is a lack of parking during long weekends

The committee is also studying the location and reconfiguration of the docks, as well as the garbage area.

We estimate that by the end of 2022, a plan should be ready to act upon by the town administration who will then have the responsibility to accomplish these proposed ideas that the landing committee came up with.

If you have any comments to share, I suggest you reach out by email to: dg@barkmere.ca or call (819) 681-3374 ext 5101.

Kim Lamoureux,
Councillor

Unpaid Tax Bills could be Expensive

By: Marc Frédette



Over the years we have moved from paper-based tax bills sent via postal services to sending them electronically.

Sometimes progress does not come in a straight line, and in early 2022, we had to send the tax bills on paper-forms like the good old days due to some coding interface technological issues.

The administration assures us that it will be fixed in 2023. We do not have money to waste in paper, ink, stamps, and envelopes, not counting the time required to fold and mail out.

We need to watch every expense, even the little ones, as Benjamin Franklin once said: *“Beware of little expenses. A small leak will sink a great ship”*.

Please note that for tax bills above \$300, the amount is divided in three payments. May 1st, August 1st, and October 1st. For amount of \$300 or less, the date is May 1st. This payment schedule is more spread-out over time than in the past, due to possible financial difficulties caused by Covid-19.

Over the years most of you have paid your tax bill on time, and it has been improving every year. But for some citizens, the payments are late for various reasons. That minor distraction could be costly in interest and penalty.

Let us talk about the interest first. An annual interest rate of 15% is calculated on the monthly balance for unpaid amount on the due date, or 1.25% per month according to the bylaw.

On top of the interest cost, there is a monthly penalty of 0.5% on unpaid taxes of up to 5% per year.

These financial costs have been in place for many years and are in accordance with our bylaw.

Before the third year of unpaid balance, the law is clear, and the Town must act and collect unpaid taxes including seizing the property. This outcome is something I really want to avoid in Barkmere. Preserving the community is extremely important.

I would recommend that you contact the administration if you think you have forgotten to pay or are unsure about your balance, to avoid these costs. Finally, please make sure you enter the exact role number (matricula) when you make your payment.

Perhaps these savings will help buy a few drinks at the lake.

Enjoy your Summer!

Marc Frédette,
Councillor

Fostering community through social media

By: Marie-Hélène Lemarbre

Another beautiful season begins on our beautiful lake. We reunite with our cottages after the long winter months, the children find toys they left, and we rediscover our calm and beautiful lake. My first season dates back to the summer of 2016. You might think that it hasn't been very long, but it's been just long enough for me to completely fall in love with this place. The journey of travelling by boat to my cottage, the exceptional tranquility of the lake that is not found in other lakes in the Laurentians, the wild aspect of the lake which gives me the impression of being in a natural park, exceptional water quality, Goulden Island where the community organizes activities, dinners with neighbours, hearing residents recount stories about the lake, and above all, feeling like part of the community and having a part in the preservation of this magical place.



Barklake is not just any community and especially not just any lake in the Laurentians. It is a way of life carried and defended by generations before us which allows us, today, to be able to benefit from it. Our community was founded in the early 20th century by visionary, forward-thinking people who understood the value of a place like ours and the importance of protecting it. By buying in Barkmere, you choose to belong to its extraordinary community, to adhere to its philosophy of protection and its way of life. Together, we can participate concretely in the protection of our territory and our community. It is a territory whose wild nature does us good. The Covid has prevented us from doing many things but has allowed many of us to rediscover the value of being in nature. Barklake offers us an exceptional one.

For all these reasons, I wanted to get involved in preserving this place, because I love this way of life. I believe in the strength of community, and I think that we must, as citizens, parents, grandparents, etc., ensure the sustainability of a place like Barklake for the future of our children and grandchildren. Here, we will build (or continue) the history of our families, we will live unforgettable moments, create lifelong friendships and will bequeath a place of almost intact nature.

With the help of my colleagues, I want to share with you the rich history of Barkmere, our love of the lake and the richness of our extraordinary lifestyle. Throughout the year, using various tools, I will share relevant information with you on various subjects concerning the lake, tips for our way of life and historical anecdotes. I want you to have everything you need to fully experience and enjoy life in Barklake. I invite you to follow us on Facebook Ville de Barkmere/ Town of Barkmere and/or on Instagram @villedebarkmere

I wish you all a great summer!

Marie-Hélène Lemarbre,
Councillor



Watch your Wake!

By: Ken Mann



This is an exciting time of the year for Bark Lakers as the majority of us have seasonal residences and one of life's pure pleasures is opening up the cottage for the first time in the spring. We cross our fingers as we start our boats for the first time and head down the lake. With a little luck our docks are more or less as we left them in the fall and even better if our cottages have avoided any major damage from the winter.

Whether we are full time residents or seasonal we all recognise that Bark Lake is a very unique and special place. However, the lake itself is busier than ever with both a changing and growing population, and larger and more numerous boats.

Of course boats displace water and what can't be avoided, create waves and wakes. We all want to protect our shore line as much as possible and large wakes are quite a culprit. There are times when a boater courteously slows down while close to the shore line or approaching another boat, but this in fact creates a huge wake as the boat is no longer planing while also not going slow enough for the bow to drop down. This is especially true with bigger and heavier boats that slow to medium speed with the bow up in the air, which is much worse than continuing on at a moderate speed in full plane. If we can all pay more attention to the wakes we create and do our best to reduce them, then the swimmers, kayakers, sailors, canoeists, other boaters and especially the loons and shore line will thank you.

Be sure to check out the informative poster on boat speeds/wakes that is displayed at the landing. Scan the QR code for more information on environmental impact!

*Ken Mann,
Councillor*



The Director General's column

By: Martin Paul Gélinas



For Safe Navigation!

Check local weather conditions before planning your outing. Weather conditions play an important role in ensuring everyone's safety on the water. Don't get caught off guard!

All motorboat operators must hold the Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC). This requirement applies to all types of motorboats, regardless of their size or the power of their motor (including small electric motor boats). The pleasure craft operator card is valid for life: www.tc.gc.ca

In addition to having your PCOC on board, you are required by law to have safety equipment. You will find safety equipment that each type of pleasure boat must have on board in order to comply with Transport Canada regulations for pleasure boating: www.tc.gc.ca/eng/safety. Check if you have all the compulsory equipment on your boat. Remember, it is a \$250 fine for each missing piece of equipment. Also, the operator of a pleasure craft must carry out periodic maintenance of all of their nautical equipment so that everything works properly, thereby reducing the probability of failure.

The most important boating safety gear is wearing the right size personal floatation device for each person on board. Wear it, it's a life saver.

Respect shoreline property owners and other boaters by reducing the noise and waves produced.

The practice of nautical activity generating large waves is not recommended, and this, in order to limit your impact on the environment and on other users. The use of wave amplification systems (ballast system) on "WAKE" boats is therefore strongly discouraged on Bark Lake. To read more about the consequences of large wakes, please refer to the article "Watch your Wake!" written by Ken Mann.

Priority belongs to bathers and non-motorized boats. Respect safety distances, keep at least 50 meters from swimmers, other non-motorized boats, standing boats or wild animals.

*Martin Paul Gélinas,
Director general*

The Administrative Assistant's column

By: Jessica Miller



Following a very cold and snowy winter, I can say with certainty that the sun and warm weather is a welcome sight in the Town of Barkmere. As the ice melted off the lake and the water started flowing freely, it brought with it all of your smiling faces. The relationships I've made with the citizens of Barkmere these past 3 (going on 4) years have been wonderful. Thank you for making my job that much more fulfilling and enjoyable.

I would like to take this opportunity to address some common questions I receive from citizens, starting with the [schedule for employees](#) at the Town Hall:

- The director general works Monday-Wednesday, and every second Saturday (starting May 14th).
- The municipal inspector works Wednesday-Friday, and every second Saturday (starting May 21st). The municipal inspector manages all permits, from tree cutting to building permits, and can assist with any questions concerning municipal by-laws.
- The accountant works Tuesdays. She can help you with any questions concerning your municipal taxes or dock rental fees.
- There will be a summer student at the Town Hall 7 days a week available to assist you, whether that be washing your boat, opening the gate, or with any general questions you have.

Can I pay my taxes online?

Yes, you can pay your taxes online. This service is available at the following financial institutions: National Bank, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Desjardins, Bank of Nova Scotia.

Search for Barkmere as a payee and use your 10-digit Role Number as the account number.

How do I pay for my dock rental?

You can pay for your dock rental in cash, by cheque, or by electronic fund transfer using the same method as the described above for your taxes.

I wish everyone a beautiful summer in the Town of Barkmere, it truly is a Canadian paradise.

*Jessica Miller,
Administrative Assistant*

INFORMATION ON CITY HALL**OPENING HOURS**Mid-May to Mid-October*Monday to Friday:*

8:00AM- 4:30PM

Saturday and Sunday:

8:30AM-4:30PM

Mayor:

819-681-3374, ext. 5100

maire@barkmere.ca

Director General and Treasurer:

819-681-3374, ext. 5101

dg@barkmere.ca

Finances (tax bill):

819-681-3374, ext. 5102

finance@barkmere.ca

Urbanism and infrastructures:

819-681-3374, ext. 5103

inspecteur@barkmere.ca

Communications:

819-681-3374, ext. 5100

communications@barkmere.ca