



Barkmere Echo – September 2023

The following is a summary of the last Town Council meeting held on Saturday September 9 2023:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As announced in last month's Echoes, we have finally received ministerial approval to close the logging road built 4 years ago near Silver Bay. The works are scheduled for the first week of October with contractor G. P. Miller et fils.

Closure will be achieved by removing a culvert located at the boundary of Barkmere and Montcalm. Once the large culvert has been removed, the bottom of the excavation will be resurfaced to allow natural water flow. The large boulders used to build the culvert will be used to block the road upstream and to prevent vehicles from bypassing on either side.

LAST COUNCIL OF THE MRC

Researchers from Université Laval of Quebec City visited the MRC as part of their project to characterize the forestry activity and the usage of public land on our territory. They were very surprised to see that the public land is very broken up and not very suitable to forestry activities and management. Their first impression was that the use of public land within the MRC is affecting greatly the municipalities in regard to urban planning, notably with the zoning plans.

According to them, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs should a lot more involved and the management and planning of the public land be better integrated with the municipal world, and not only the sole prerogative of the Ministry of Forests.

The researchers will also prepare a study of socio-economical impact of the various activities that can exist on public land. The forestry lobby, when presenting similar studies to the government, are including all the benefits, often very indirect, of the tree cutting activities to justify their pertinence. The researchers will also do the same thing for the other activities of maple farming, leisure and tourism, outfitters, cottaging, and also by factoring in the ecological value of the forest environments and hydrological (lakes and rivers). This should demonstrate that in our MRC, forestry has nowadays few positive impacts compared to other existing activities.

Tricentris, the non-profit company, which is sorting and reselling the recyclable waste, is facing a dire financial situation, as the price of the recycled matter has plummeted recently. They are therefore asking the 85 member municipalities to do an additional contribution to their working capital to allow them to survive until the governmental returns for reduction of waste, and until the recycling activities are taken over by the private sector.

MILFOIL REMOVAL UPDATE

By: Councillor Jake Chadwick

A total of 394 plants have been removed year-to-date from Silver Bay. This compares favourably to the 585 plants removed in 2022. The other good news is that only 35 plants were found and removed from the inlet area. This compares to over 400 removed from the inlet in 2022. The team has done a wonderful job of clearing this difficult, shallow, and weedy area. That said, 359 plants were removed from the usual areas of Silver Bay. This is almost double what was found last summer. This confirms that we must continue to diligently patrol the Silver Bay area. The team also believes that we need to start patrolling and removing plants earlier in the season as some plants found in June were similar size to those found in late July. We would like to thank Sylvain Miller and Anne Létourneau for their unwavering support for our programme.

MUNICIPAL INSPECTOR – CALL FOR CANDIDATES

The Town of Barkmere is still seeking applications for the position of Town Inspector. This is a permanent, part-time position. If you are interested in this position, or you think of someone who might be, please do not hesitate to contact the director general, Martin Paul Gélinas, by e-mail at dg@barkmere.ca.

In the meantime, the director general acts as an inspector and will receive your permit applications or any other information concerning municipal by-laws. That being said, he may be absent from the office more often, as he'll have to ensure compliance with bylaws by going out. We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.



Photo by: Ken Mann

For more details, please 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.