



## Barkmere Echo – May 2024

The following is a summary of the last Town Council meeting held on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 2024:

### **PARKING LOT AND MOTORCYCLE SHELTER**

The municipal parking lot was extended in the area located at the right when we arrive. This section will now be able to accommodate two rows of cars, but one row will be reserved for more compact vehicles. Ropes will be installed to mark out the two rows. This should alleviate the congestion during the month of July. At the same time, a place was levelled in view to build a shelter for motorcycles and bicycles. A map of the parking lot will be available in the next spring newsletter.

### **NEWS ON THE FOREST CUT IN THE PENINSULA AREA**

The Mayor announced some good news in the case of the projected forest cut in the peninsula area. We have obtained confirmation that the cut is NOT planned for Fall-Winter 2024-2025. Our strong opposition to the project during last year consultation very clearly demonstrated that this cut is not accepted socially. The Mayor also mentioned that the support of the Argenteuil MNA, Ms. Agnès Grondin, and her approaching the cabinet of the minister, have been very important to push back this project.

However, the battle is not won. There are two stages to pass for the Ministry while planning a forest cut. First, the social and economical harmonisation during which the planners must demonstrate that the cut is socially acceptable and economically profitable. Then, the operation or technical harmonisation, where the forestry contractor meets with local actors to establish some rules and some alleviating measures. This last stage is named “targeted committee” in the bureaucratic jargon. If the process reaches this stage, it will mean that the cut is already planned and will occur for sure.

Therefore, we must act before reaching the “targeting committee” stage. The Ministry indicated that they wish to meet with representatives of the Town this Fall to present a project that, in their view, will address most of the concerns expressed during the consultation. The position of the Council, expressed multiple times, is clear: this cut is totally unacceptable in central zone of our municipality, which is included in a regional project for a protected area, and where the Town wishes to establish a network of walking paths for the use of its citizens.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Councillor Jake Chadwick presented his report from a meeting of the MRC of the Laurentians meeting he attended. The goal was to reach a regional partnership to create protected areas on the territory. 18 out of 20 municipalities were represented and most have talked about their own projects of creating such

protected areas on their territory. The wind is blowing in the right direction for our common project with Montcalm.

## CONTAINERS FOR WASTE

The Town will tender to purchase and have installed some half-buried containers for waste collection at the landing and at Duncan Road. These containers are better looking, bigger and less susceptible to savage unloading of construction waste and other large waste items. This expenses, included in the three-year plan, will be financed by the TECQ program.

## SUMMER EMPLOYEES AT THE LANDING

Four young students from our municipality were hired to work at the landing this summer. They are Zoé Godin, Oscar Godin, Daphné Trépanier-Mehnert et Mathilde Doyon-Pouliot.



## LAST COUNCIL OF THE MRC

The mayor, who could not attend the last Council meeting, presented a short summary of the March meeting. The administration of the MRC presented a first draft of a regional plan to fight and adapt to climate changes. This plan contains a series of recommendations that we will have to put into practice.

The MRC adopted the second draft of its new zoning plan. We are now waiting for the answer of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, which can take up to four months. And if they reject the project, the process restarts again: modified draft project, adoption by the Council, submission to the Ministry... Once official, we will have to adapt our bylaws to conform with the new regional zoning plan. This is usually just a formality as our bylaws are generally more severe than those of the MRC.

A new evaluation roll for the Town of Barkmere will be submitted during this year and will take effect for 2025. If the situation with the other municipalities is an indicator, we should expect significant increases in property values.

## BARKMERE-MONTCALM CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT

We are pleased to provide you with a link to an article in *l'Information du Nord* featuring Mayor Trépanier on the Barkmere-Montcalm conservation area project (offered in French only):

<https://infodunordtremblant.ca/actualites/2024/04/26/de-nouveaux-projets-de-preservation-pour-la-mrc-des-laurentides/>

## OUTDOOR LIGHTING REGULATIONS

This year, the administration will be focusing on compliance with outdoor lighting regulations. Please click on the following link to read the main provisions in this regard:

## PREVENTION TIPS FROM: LA SURETÉ DU QUÉBEC



### Prevention Tip - Watercraft

Sûreté du Québec police officers wish to raise public awareness of the theft of watercraft and the materials found inside them. The police invite the public to be vigilant. Theft of objects from boats moored at the dock at night, and from the boats themselves, can occur at any time. The Sûreté du Québec recommends that you follow these few rules of prevention:

- Chain your boat to a fixed object and use a bolt-cutting-proof padlock;
- Park your boat in a highly visible, well-lit area;
- Do not leave valuables inside;
- Pay particular attention to unusual vehicles and people in your area;
- Warn a trusted neighbor if you're going to be away;
- Avoid leaving your boat unattended during an extended absence.

What's more, you can permanently identify all external and mechanical parts, making resale virtually impossible. Identification codes are stored in a database that can be accessed by police authorities and insurers.

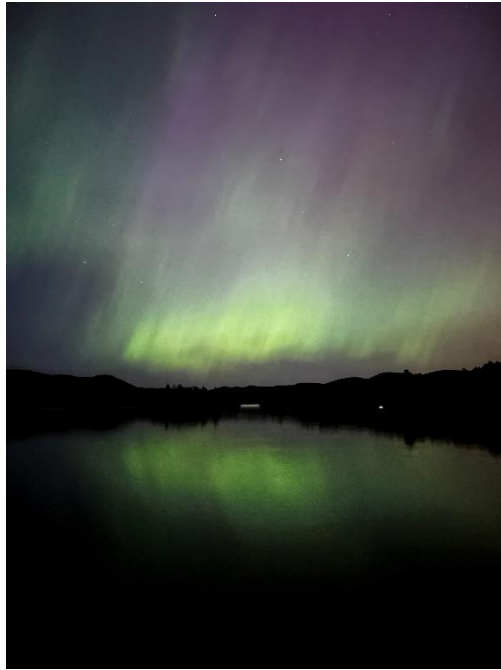
### Prevention tips - Off-road vehicles

Police wish to raise residents' awareness of off-road vehicle theft. Police are asking citizens to be cautious and vigilant in order to prevent the theft of their vehicles. Here are a few prevention tips:

- Preferably, park your all-terrain vehicle in a secure indoor garage or in a highly visible, well-lit outdoor area;
- Chain your off-road vehicle to a fixed object and use a bolt-proof padlock;
- Equip your trailer with a bolt-cutting-proof anti-theft device;
- Engrave the last six digits of your off-road vehicle's serial number on the chassis under the seat, on the top of the engine and on any other parts you deem useful. This will make identification easier and resale more difficult.

Without exposing yourself or compromising your personal safety, if you observe anyone behaving in an unusual or suspicious manner, notify the police immediately by calling 911.

For any suspicious person, take note of a brief description of the person; gender, approximate age, color of clothing and any distinguishing marks, such as tattoos, scars, special clothing or jewelry. For suspicious vehicles, the first thing to note is the license plate number, as well as the color and make.



*Photo by: Kim Lamoureux*

*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.*