



## Barkmere Echo – July 2024

The following is a summary of the last Town Council meeting held on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

### ANNOUCEMENTS

#### **Prohibited swimming?**

The Town installed some signs prohibiting swimming at the Residents Park and at Goulden Island. Of course, this has provoked multiple reactions. First, it must be made clear that the Council never voted a resolution, or adopted a bylaw, to prohibit swimming. But a second sign more explanatory was not received in time to accompany the first one.

Every year, the insurance provider of the Town, the Mutuelle des municipalités du Québec (MMQ) comes to inspect our installations. They noticed that swimming at these two places is not only accepted, but even publicized. Consequently, the Town must respect the [Regulation respecting safety in public baths](#), CQLR c B-1.1, r 11, from the Quebec government. The Town will continue to be insured for these public parks, but, as a public organisation that must respect the laws and regulations of Quebec and Canada, it must take action to meet the requirements of this provincial regulation.

The Town is not in a position to respect these requirements at all times, like the presence of lifeguards and security equipment. Therefore, the only solution left is to indicate that public swimming is not allowed at these places. The Town does not have the necessary personnel to watch if people still swim there. The Sûreté du Québec could do it, but their agents are coming to the Lake only two or three times a summer, with the goal of distributing tickets to owners of pleasure boats.

#### **Navigational safety**

The Mayor returned on his bad adventure related in the last municipal bulletin. He noticed that despite the repeated warnings from the Town, some people continue to be reckless. He has himself seen some boats circulating late at night without any navigation lights. He reminded people the importance to be visible at night, and to abide by the rules of navigation. We must not wait until a very bad accident causing the death of one or more people happens.

### BARKMERE-MONTCALM PROTECTED AREA PROJECT

There was a very good attendance to the information meeting for the creation of a protected area for Barkmere and Montcalm on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>. The document of the presentation can be viewed [here](#).

The whole population of Barkmere and Montcalm is invited to complete a survey conducted to prepare a socio-economical study of the benefits of this protected area. You can access the survey by clicking on [this link](#).

## **PURCHASE OF THE RESIDENTS PARK**

The Town decided to proceed with the purchase of the lot where the Residents Park is located. A resolution was adopted to that effect, to request an amicable sale agreement with the current owner, according to the value of the land stated in the municipal evaluation roll. If no such agreement can be reached with the owner, the Town will use its expropriation powers as defined by the provincial law.

Beside being a peaceful place allowing our residents from the village to have access to Bark Lake, the park is crossed by a permanent little brook. The land is also too small and too close to the shoreline to allow building. This is why Council decided to preserve its current usage permanently.

## **LAST COUNCIL OF THE MRC**

The Council of the MRC modified his temporary control bylaw for the development and road constructions close to lakes and watercourses. With this new version, the prohibition applies to the direct watershed of the lakes, which are the lakes themselves but also around the direct tributaries of these lakes. This bylaw and the new zoning plan of the MRC which contains the same rules, will have an important impact on our own bylaws. The MRC is now waiting that they be accepted by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

The MRC noticed a generalized enthusiasm regarding the creation of protected areas on its territories, with at least five of its municipalities proposing projects, and many others working of them. It was therefore decided to prepare a regional plan aiming to increase the percentage of protected land, and to include these areas in the regional zoning plan. The plan should be ready for adoption in August or September.

## **A POSITIVE UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL SEARCH AND REMOVAL OF EURASIAN MILFOIL PLANTS IN SILVER BAY**

*A report from Councillor Jake Chadwick*

So far this summer, approximately 30 plants have been found and removed by the dive team. This compares to 150 for the same period last year and approximately 400 in 2022. This good news comes with some caveats however. Visibility in the lake has been relatively poor so far this summer, mainly due to the heavy rains and presence of some golden algae. Hopefully visibility will improve for the remainder of the summer. That said, we are cautiously optimistic that we will see a significant reduction in milfoil plants found this year. Thanks again to the continued dedication of Anne Létourneau and Sylvain Miller. As the work continues all residents are reminded to stay clear of Silver Bay area east of the small island and not to enter the inlet area by any means.

We are promoting a shoreline blitz weekend on July 20/21 in which we ask all residents to survey their shorelines, as well as their immediate neighbours and to report their results on the CEAP online form which can be found [here](#). Small marker buoys for suspected plants can be found in the fire pump boxes around the lake.

## SUSAN DE SCHULTHESS ARCHIVE ROOM

The Council adopted a resolution to name the archive room of the Town Hall, the Susan de Schulthess Archive Room. Susan, a former councillor who left us recently, had a passion for the Town documentation. She spent an enormous amount of time to collect them, sort them, digitize them and organise them. It is just normal that we honour her memory in this way, to remember her dedication and her efforts over many years.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE URBAN PLAN AND THE URBAN PLANNING BYLAWS

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, at 1PM, we will hold an informal public consultation regarding the changes that the Council will propose to the Town's urban plan and to the bylaw deriving from it. We hope to have an open and frank discussion, before the formal framework of the process stipulated by the Law.



Sailing race at the lake  
*Photo by: Daphné Trépanier-Mehnert*

*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.*