



Barkmere Echo – November 9th 2024

The following is a summary of the last Town Council meeting held on Saturday, November 9th, 2024:

BARKMERE-MONTCALM PROTECTED AREA

On October 28th, we received a letter from the Ministry of Environment confirming that our request presented on October 15th was complete and admissible. For the next step, the Ministry will hold a regional consultation in Spring of 2025, as they received a significant number of projects from around our MRC. The goal is to establish some priorities and an overall plan.

Afterwards the Ministry will perform to an interministerial analysis of the various projects. It will surely be at that time that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests will attempt to block these projects, mostly located on public land. Finally, the Ministry of Environment is planning to render a final decision towards the end of 2026 or the beginning of 2027.

LAST COUNCIL OF THE MRC

On October 17th, the administration of the MRC presented a draft budget for year 2025. It will result in an increase of a little over 4% for the quota-shares of the municipalities. We can expect a higher increase for the Town of Barkmere, following the introduction of a new evaluation roll for this year.

On the other hand, our contribution to the Environmental Complex of the Rouge will increase by about 30%, that is, \$2,500. However, starting in 2025, we will not have to contribute to Tricentris for recycling, while still getting a return from Recycle-Quebec for the previous year, which will serve to absorb this increase.

Regarding recycling, the MRC will contribute \$7,000 to the program of recycling boat covering plastic in 2025.

ENVIRONMENT

Councillor Jake Chadwick provided a final summary of the milfoil search and removal work conducted over the summer. A total of 87 plants were removed, all in Silver Bay as usual. This represents a reduction of 77% from the 374 plants removed in 2023. While these results are very encouraging, we are reminded that the visibility in Silver Bay was relatively poor this summer which made the search work more difficult. The dive team also lost some time due to the pontoon boat being out of commission for several weeks. Despite these reservations, the 2024 results are still the best ever and suggest that we have the problem under control. Once again, we thank Anne Létourneau and Sylvain Miller for continued dedication to our lake's health.

ADOPTION OF BY-LAWS AMENDING THE URBAN PLAN

Prior to last Saturday's council meeting, a public consultation was held, attended by approximately 30 people, both in attendance and in Zoom. The next steps in the adoption of the by-laws are as follows:

Council will carefully consider and discuss further the issues raised at the public consultation. Revised versions, as the case may be, will be presented, together with explanations, at the December 14 Council, with the objective of adopting the updated versions at the meeting. A 30-day period will then be available for citizens to submit an assessment of conformity to the *Commission municipale du Québec*. In the meantime, the MRC will have to approve the conformity of these by-laws with the planning program. The effective date of the by-laws will be set on the date of conformity issued by the MRC.

INVITATION TO THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

We invite you to attend this year's final Town Council meeting on 14 December at 10:00. During this meeting, the budget for the year 2025 will be officially adopted. The meeting will be followed by the Town's Christmas celebration.



As usual, you can follow the council meeting remotely via the ZOOM platform. However, you'll miss out on the party, which we hope will be well attended!

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.



Picture of the lake

Photo taken by: Shanny Larose