



Spring / Summer Bulletin
May 26th 2015

Message from the Mayor



Another year has come for the Town of Barkmere, now going on the 90th of its existence. And just like its oldest resident, Mr. Paul Baril, who has turned 97, the Town keeps going and going. And that going will be busy for our Town this year.

As we announced last year, we need to rebuild our condemned Town Hall, and most probably combine it with the Community Centre, as the current one has its own problems as a public building. In May, the Council has hired a team of architects from Mont-Tremblant to design and devise our new “home”. You can read more about this in the article from Councillor Tim Kalil. This project will evolve rapidly during the next few months, and I invite you to follow the progress in *our Echoes from Barkmere*, compiled and published monthly by Councillor Chantal Raymond. Chantal is also the driving force in the project of creating a new nature trail on Goulden Island, of which she talks about in these pages.

The Town Hall is not our only structure that needs attention. We still have to secure financing for the rehabilitation of the dam at the outlet of the Lake. But financing or not, urgent repairs are required to protect the current dam structurally, as it has lost its protective planks on its frontal portion. We will also have works happening in the landing area this summer, as we will be installing a dry hydrant for fire trucks to refill.

Our collection areas at the landing and at Duncan Road will have to be reviewed. My fellow Councillors are often teasing me, by saying that my favorite topic of discussion is waste management, or more succinctly: garbage! And after six years of dealing with this serious problem, I have a lot to say! Too much for this page, so I have added a separate article that I invite you to read.

Back in November, I was telling you on this page how happy I was with our “new” director general. Well, I do not know if the situation with our garbage containers is responsible, but she already left us. This unexpected departure has given us the opportunity to hire Mr. Steve Deschenes for this position. Steve comes with a lot of experience in managing territories and has also worked for government agencies. I welcome him to Barkmere, and I am looking forward to working with him, as well as with Dave Roy, our dedicated building and environmental inspector.

There are clouds in our blue skies, though. The recent cuts made by the Quebec government have affected many municipalities and our Regional Municipality (MRC) as well. Pressure will be hard on financially healthy municipalities like Barkmere to share in the growing costs of others.

Already, the MRC is pushing forward with a project of a regional entity to regroup all the fire services. The current proposal would result in more than doubling what Barkmere is currently paying. And the mayors of our surrounding municipalities are openly talking about merger of our small municipalities, as does the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Perhaps there are more services that can be shared, just like we did in the past with the fire services and the first responders, and we will keep listening to proposals that are mutually beneficial. But I do not believe that our community has anything to gain in a fusion. We have one of the lowest taxation rates in the Province, definitely lower than our neighbours. We do not have costly services like road maintenance, a choice we made in the past, which we want to continue, and which benefits us greatly.

And most of all, having our own Town, we can decide of our future as a community, instead of having others decide for us. A future, which I hope, will be a continuation of the preservation of Bark Lake as the natural jewel that it is. Your Council and your Mayor will greatly need your support to keep Barkmere going. And not going away.

The Town of Barkmere relies mainly on a general property tax levy for its operations, and capital expenditures. Barkmere has one of the lowest general tax rate in the Province of Québec. And apart from two specific taxes for the maintenance of Duncan Road and Priest's Road, billed only to the properties adjacent to these roads, the general tax is all inclusive: there are no special tax for waste management, police, water, etc. like other municipalities do.

It is very important that each taxpayer pay their taxes and other charges in full and on time. If this is not so, the other tax payers have to pay for the extra costs that would be incurred by the Town to manage the delinquent accounts. These accounts are charged interest of 15% and penalty of 10%. The Town is normally required to pay 15% in fees to a legal firm to collect the unpaid accounts. Since the beginning of 2015, the Town has been working on two files whereby a legal firm specialised in municipal collection has been hired. So far, one taxpayer has paid the full amount a few weeks ago. To keep up neighborly relations we count on your punctuality!

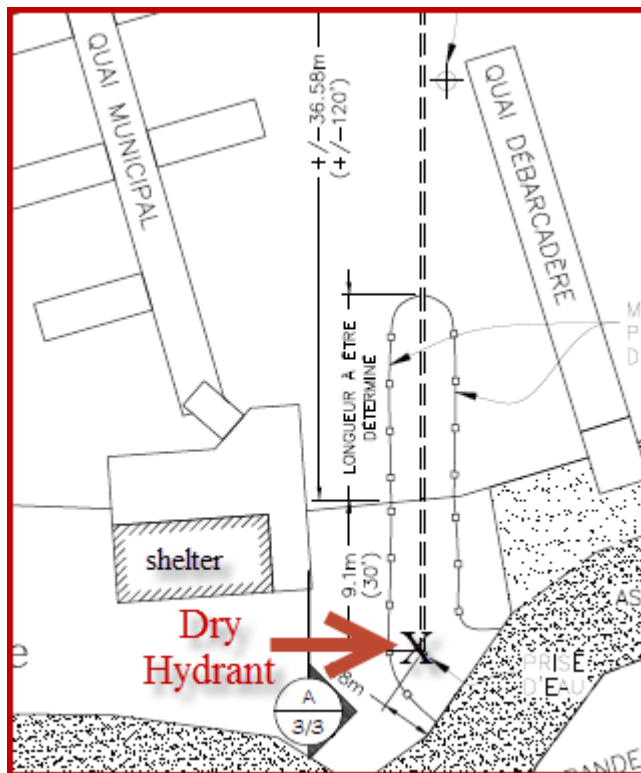
BARKMERE DRY HYDRANT PROJECT—UPDATE

By Bruce MacNab



After two years of delays, a dry hydrant will be installed in the landing area this summer. The work is scheduled for July 13-14th. It is possible that a section of the parking area will be closed during this period.

Location plan



This type of hydrant consists of permanent non-pressurized piping system from the lake to a location within 10 feet of a permanent road. This would allow the firemen to hook the fire truck up directly to the hydrant and pump water into their tank.

Once the installation is complete, the residents of the village will be able to request a reduction of their home insurance based on their distance from the dry hydrant.

Cadastral Reform – Barkmere 2015-2019

The MERN has begun to prepare a new cadastral plan to represent all properties accurately.

Currently, the land registers are based on surveys done around 1860. It is estimated that 50% of these plans contain inaccuracies, or are incomplete. The range and lot numbers will be replaced by a 7 digit unique number. The firm of Bédard-Tremblay has been mandated to perform this work.

The surveyors will contact the residents directly in the 2016-2018 timeframe for an appointment on their properties. Based on documentation provided and an inspection of the lots, the lot area and dimensions will be corrected if necessary. A consultation will follow with all residents to present the new lots, and to provide explanations and answer questions on an individual basis. In case of disagreement, the land owner can request a further analysis of the survey.

The cadastral reform will not include :

- Analysis of rights of way
- Placing any land markings (posts, markers)
- Crown land surveys

For more information, please consult: <https://www.mern.gouv.qc.ca/land/cadastre/index.jsp>

<https://mern.gouv.qc.ca/english/land/cadastre/index.jsp>

Environmental Matters

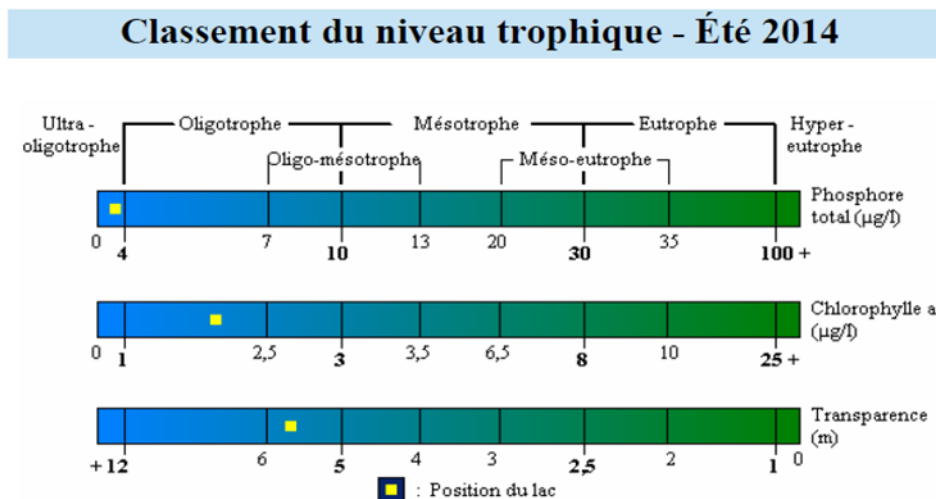
By Jake Chadwick



Water Quality

As usual, we are pleased to report on our water quality testing results for last season. Once again we tested for important biophysical parameters every month from May through November.

Below is the classic summary diagram from the “Réseau de Surveillance Volontaire des Lacs (RSVL)” program run by the Ministère du Développement Durable, de l’Environnement et Lutte contre les Changements Climatiques (old MDDEP) in conjunction with the BLPA. The program shows where our lake is positioned on three important measurements of water quality: 1) total phosphorus; 2) chlorophyll “a”; and, 3) transparency.



The results showed little movement versus last year and confirm once again that the lake is in the Oligotrophic phase of its life. In the case of phosphorus, we continue to get average readings at the lower end of the scale putting the lake in the Ultra-Oligotrophic zone which is good news since a low nutrients level mitigates the development of undesirable aquatic plant life and premature aging of the lake. We will continue to monitor these parameters this coming season under the RSVL program with the BLPA and within the CCE’s own water testing program to further build our database of water test results.

We also conducted fecal coliform tests at various points on the lake as well as the outlet stream. The results in the lake were excellent but we did get one higher than normal reading in the outlet stream which we will recheck in the spring. It was a rainy day with associated higher run-off which likely contributed to the reading.

Overall the results of all the 2014 water tests were very good and the quality of water in the lake remains excellent. The complete 2014 Water Quality report is being finalized and will be posted soon on the Town website. I encourage you to review it to familiarize yourselves with the type of testing we are doing and the results. You can also see the summary results of the RSVL program at the following link: <http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/eau/rsvl/index.asp>

Shoreline Restoration Project

Protecting our shoreline is the most important way to preserve the quality of our lake water. With the increasing level of development around the lake shoreline preservation will become more and more important. With this in mind, we started a new initiative in 2014 to work towards reclaiming damaged shoreline as determined by the 2013 Biofilia study. In that study, the shorelines deemed “highly disturbed” will be the focus of our efforts. Last summer, a major initiative took place at the Tate Vandewater property in Wentworth Bay that was seriously damaged by the storm in July of 2013. With the help of volunteers, notably the Jack family, and a biologist from the Organisation de Bassin Versant hundreds of sapling trees and shrubs were planted in the damaged areas. We are looking forward to seeing the results this spring.



(above) Tate Vandewater Property Before Planting



(above) Tate Vandewater property during planting

This summer our objective is to work on a few other sites around the lake that are “Red Zones” in the Biofilia study. In addition to an area at the landing that we have identified as a case study there are a number of residents that have volunteered their properties as case studies. We will have a very encouraging report for the project in the fall bulletin!

Free Tree Distribution

All residents are advised that there will be a selection of sapling trees available FREE OF CHARGE for planting at the town community center on May 30 and 31st from 13:00 to 17:00hrs. There is a selection of coniferous (white and red pine, tamarack) and non-coniferous trees (maple, cherry, oak, yellow birch). The trees are graciously provided by our water basin association and residents are encourage to come and collect a few to plant on their properties, hopefully in the shoreline to help build up the protection of the lake.

Mini echos of Barkmere

By: Chantal Raymond



Walking on Goulden Island, last year, I found that the trail along the water was not a trail that we could qualify as 'easy'. In certain places, it could even be rated as 'difficult'. I thought that we should create a trail along the summit of the island that could probably be easier and that could offer a different panorama. Knowing that Jim Tooley had previously charted the trail on the island with great expertise, we asked him, with the consent of the BLPA, if he would be interested in opening a new trail.

Jim was very enthusiastic with this new project provided that we did not touch any trees and emphasizing that he wanted us to have the least impact possible on its surroundings. I felt that we were really in agreement! He also warned me that he thought that the top of the island was not very nice. Weren't we surprised to discover that, on the contrary, the summit of the island is superb! We have therefore begun to trace the trail. As of today, Jim has almost finished tracing the entire length and we should finish the trail this spring – after the black fly festival ;-). Last week, we have found 3 nice natural panoramic views on the new trail that got us really enthusiastic!

Once the path is outlined with lots of orange ribbon, we will put up more definite signage, conform with the general guidelines of trail signage, but yet again, as little as possible to keep it as natural as possible. Jim figures that once the trail is well worn, we will not need much signage. In short, a nice project in bloom that will fit nicely with the efforts of the BLPA to improve the infrastructures of the island this year! Looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you walking on the trails of Goulden.

On a totally different note, please notice that we still have mooring space at the marina. If you want to rent a dock, contact the inspector at inspecteur@barkmere.org

Because of the great success of the handicapped parking space at the landing last year, we have delimited a 2d parking space for people with reduced mobility. Indeed, last year, the parking was very busy all summer.

Good news!!! If your cell phone is with *Rogers*, they now cover the region (3 lines reception, equal to 3 lines for Telus. More competition, bring it on!

And finally, if you are interested in receiving the *Echoes from Barkmere* by e-mail (that highlights the important points that happened during the municipal council) or if you want to receive the bi-annual *Bulletin* of the town, visit www.barkmere.ca and click in the box to subscribe.

We are not the smallest municipality in Quebec!!!! We fell to number 6!

Municipality	Population
Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague-du-Cap-Tourmente	2
L'Île Dorval	6
Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs	46
Saint-Benoît-du-Lac	50
Lac Tremblant-Nord	51
Barkmere	53

We are not alone...

By Stephen Lloyd



The wonderful pictures taken by Peter Kalil this spring, showing a black bear sharing our pristine Bark Lake waters in the Narrows, are a reminder that Barkmere is not only populated by people who pay municipal taxes. Barkmere is NOT suburbia – we have lots of non-tax-paying wildlife who also call the community home. And some of that wildlife is a lot stronger than us, with much bigger teeth!

While sightings of large mammals (other than deer) remain relatively rare, there are lots of black bears out there. The World Wildlife Fund in a

2002 study estimates that, even though there are fewer and fewer wilderness areas in North America for them to live in, there are still approximately 400,000 to 475,000 black bears in Canada. The Government of Quebec website advertising hunting indicates that we have approximately 70,000 black bears remaining in Quebec. Their populations also seem to be stable; black bears are not designated as “endangered”.



Fortunately, black bears are much less likely to attack humans than the brown bears, or grizzlies, who populate the West Coast. Attacks on humans in Eastern Canada by black bears seem to be limited to incidents where they become too accustomed to human garbage and get too close to campgrounds. Interestingly (and maybe helpful for you to know one day!) black bear attacks on humans seem to be because they are hungry – NOT because they are protecting their territory. For that reason, you are better to fight back against an attacking black bear, rather than simply playing dead or showing submission. However,

their sense of smell is 7 times more sensitive than a dog's, so the black bears roaming around Bark Lake this summer will probably sense you and get out of your way long before you stumble upon them.

While bears and the slight danger they evoke are part of the charm of Bark Lake, we should not become too complacent. Due to conversion of land use to agriculture and residential development, much of Western Europe no longer has any "scary" wild animals. The largest predator that remains in the United Kingdom is the fox. In Holland, the government is trying to "recreate" wild, natural areas, where humans do not control everything. They just don't have ANY areas like that anymore. (For an interesting overview of the differences between the Canadian wilderness and the manicured landscapes of Western Europe, and of a future we presumably want to avoid, listen to the CBC Ideas podcast on "Rewilding": <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/rewilding-1.2914191>).

Bears and their other predator friends, gray wolves, need huge areas of territory to sustain themselves. Depending on food availability, they can roam for hundreds of kilometers. While wolf populations in Canada are also not "endangered", there are only an estimated 5,000 wolves in Quebec. Again, however, in Western Europe and most of the United States, wolves have been pretty much wiped out.

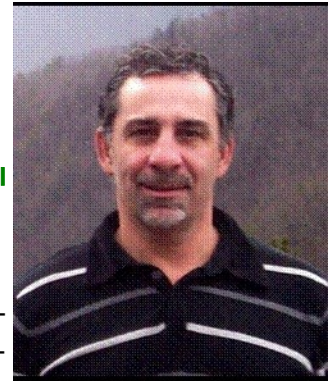
Some groups are working hard to make sure that the Laurentians remain home to wolves and bears and other species unique to the area. The goal is to protect ecological corridors between Mont Tremblant Park, in the North, and the Kenauk wilderness area, as well as the Oka provincial park, in the South. Barkmere falls within those corridors. The area along Highway 117 has pretty much become urbanized; however, we can still plan to organize other parts of the Laurentians, so that half-hazard development does not suddenly wipe out animal migrations and turn us into the next Western Europe. Councilor Chantal Raymond and I recently attended, with some 75 others, the annual general meeting of Éco-Corridors Laurentiens. We learned about steps that other Lake communities, such as Lac Manitou and Lac Brulé, are taking to not only protect their watersheds, but also to set aside for conservation lands which make up valuable habitat. See the attached link for more information: <http://www.ecocorridorslaurentiens.org/v-nements>.

Yes – the Bark Lake woods are a little scary. But we CAN manage to co-exist with other large carnivorous non-taxpayers. And I personally would like to keep the woods scary for the next generations that follow us...

PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS:

New Town Hall and Community Center

By: Tim Kalil



In the fall of 2014, the Town Council learned that our application for financial assistance through the PIQM initiative from the provincial government had been successful, and Barkmere would be eligible to receive financial support for the replacement of the Town Hall and Community Center buildings.

The program comes with a long list of requirements and documents, which are used to calculate the degree of assistance, which can reach a maximum of 65% of all admissible costs. This winter, after interviewing some firms, the council adopted a resolution mandating the consulting firm of Plan-Ing inc, of Boisbriand to act as consultants, in administering the project, on the town's behalf. Our contact person and project manager is Rachel Deslauriers. The team at Plan-Ing inc comes well-recommended, and specialise in smaller municipal projects such as ours.

Their first act was to put out tenders for the design and architectural components. After sending out five invitations, they received bids, by invitation, and the contract was awarded on May 9th, 2015 to Parent-Labelle Inc of Mont-Tremblant. This bid was judged superior based on a score, judging content, and their bid was also the lowest of the 4. Jean-Francois Parent and Mary-Eve Labelle will both oversee our file personally. Their recent projects include the Town Hall in Weir, and this firm also specialises in smaller projects such as ours.

We are now at the stage of evaluating potential sites and options. The existing Town Hall building will certainly be torn down, but we are exploring all options available for the existing community center. Replacement, refurbishing, re-purposing, all are being considered.

There are many exciting possibilities, and all will be studied with the help of Plan-Ing inc, and a committee consisting of the mayor, council members and residents. Ultimately we will be governed by cost, grant admissibility, and responsible financial management and practices, which don't burden future generations.

Our goal is to provide the community with a clean and healthy workplace for our employees, safe and secure record storage, and a community center which could also serve as a command center or shelter in the event of a disaster.

It will be an exciting year or two, and council will keep all informed of the progress as this project comes to reality.

The Ugly Side of Bark Lake

By: Luc Trépanier

Municipalities like our Town of Barkmere must provide multiple services to their population. Some of these services may seem glamorous, like the Police, or the Fire Prevention, with uniforms and shiny equipment. Some are even enjoyable, like parks and playgrounds, libraries and sports centres. But there are other services we would rather not hear about. Even though they are essential, we like to pretend they do not exist. They are grouped under the generic designation of “waste management”. No glamour or enjoyment there! But when not handled properly, these services become rapidly very visible, and rather smelly...

In the case of Barkmere, we do not have sewage systems, and the waste water treatment is left to the property owners, who must follow the requirements of the Quebec Law for the Quality of the Environment (under the watchful eye of the Town). We are left with the rest of the waste management services, which is the collection, transportation and disposal of the domestic waste, a.k.a. “The Garbage”.

Years ago, the Regional County Municipality (RCM) of the Laurentians has decided it would be responsible to handle this aspect of the waste management services, for all its 20 municipalities. It did so, because waste management is complex and costly, and also because the legal requirements have become more and more stringent, like the reduction of burying vs. re-use and recycling. The Quebec government also, increasingly, penalizes financially the municipalities who bury a lot of garbage, while offering them financial incentives to recycle.

While we are thus “exempted” of the bulk of the waste management, Barkmere has one direct responsibility left, that of managing the points of collection, or where the domestic garbage is transferred over to the management of the RCM. And in the case of a municipality with little road access and located in a remote rural area, finding solutions to manage these points of collection properly is rather challenging.

For years, the Town of Barkmere has “simplified” the problem by providing big containers at certain places, and rely on residents to voluntarily bring their garbage, and dispose of it neatly. We must now face the reality that it is a failure on multiple counts. These containers are very ugly in a Town that strives to keep a lovely bucolic look. A few years ago, the Town invested in individual garbage bins and organized a door-to-door pick up for the village. It allowed us to get rid of two ugly containers at the main entrance to our Town, and it seems to have helped increase the recycling ratio of that section.

But the situation with the remaining containers, at the landing and at the Duncan Road entrance has been getting worse and worse. Especially when residents take the quick approach to disposal: stuff everything in one bag, open the front of the container, throw the bag in there, and run away! The containers get overfilled in the front, while remaining mostly empty in the back. The front becomes an open all-you-can-eat buffet for crows and raccoons, and the remains start to stink up the whole area. And that is, when people even bother to throw their bags in the containers: some just leave them on the ground close to the containers.

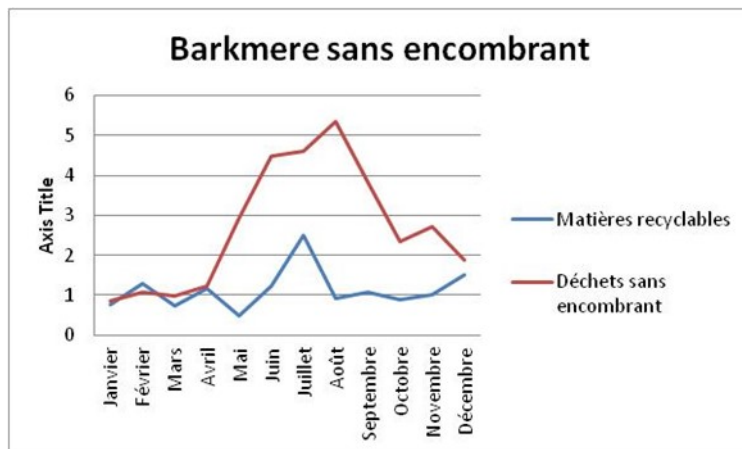
As I said, the Town is responsible for the points of collection. And if the garbage is not in the container, our employees have to pick it up, and put it back in, or move it from the front to the back. After a raccoon family has enjoyed our leftovers, it is not a pleasant experience to pick up the remains. Our employees were not hired to pick up our garbage.



The containers have also become the regional centre of disposal of whatever is not collected elsewhere or too “difficult” to dispose legally. They get filled with construction debris, old televisions, etc. Since all this stuff cannot be sent to the landfill site, the Town employees have to sort through it themselves to bring it to the closest Eco-Centre. And when it is impossible for them to sort it out (see the picture), we have to pay the garbage collection company to do it, at a rather prohibitive rate.

In the past, the Municipal Council had decided to provide a permanent service to the population to dispose of the large items, with open-top containers. But that service has become known to the surrounding areas, and Barkmere has become a regional dump, with the high costs of disposing of it all, 2014 being the record year with 18 tons of garbage. This year, we had no other choice but to eliminate this service, and replace it with mobile Eco-Centres on two weekends, June 20th and August 15th. There will not be any other time to dispose of the large waste and items that cannot be accepted in the regular collection. The Lake Association is repeating its laudable initiative of last year with a barge pick up, that will occur on August 16th, to coincide with one of the mobile Eco-Centre weekends. Outside of these times, please be responsible and bring your items to the local Eco-Centre, 110 chemin de la Rouge, in Huberdeau.

We are studying other ways to improve the container situation: fences, smaller containers, cameras to catch the illegal “dumpers” within our municipality and from the outside. Accordingly, I have requested from the RCM that it raises the amount of fines we can distribute. Please contact me at mayor@barkmere.ca, if you have any ideas. We need to find better solutions, because our current approach literally... stinks!



Over the course of the winter, we received some statistics from the RCM comparing the relative weights in tons of recyclable material vs. non-recyclable. Knowing we had a problem with our large item containers, I have asked the RCM to remove the 18 tons of large items from the comparison, since they would skew the numbers. The blue line represents tons of recyclable materials, and the red line, non-recyclable. During the months of winter (when the cottagers are mostly absent), our recycling ratio is about 1 to 1, or 50% recycling, which places us amongst the best in the RCM. I want to congratulate our permanent residents: they are being environmentally responsible.

However, as soon as the cottagers appear, the ratio goes down immediately to reach 20% by mid-summer, the worst of the whole RCM. And since I excluded the large waste from the graph, the situation is actually worse, because we did dispose of large items during that time (remember the barge pickup), even though the total was not all “ours”.

For a self-proclaimed environmentally-responsible community, this result is just shameful.

Why are cottagers in general not recycling? Other municipalities in the RCM are also observing the same behaviour. I invite you to write me at mayor@barkmere.ca, to tell me what you find difficult about recycling here. Is it recycling in general? Or just the way we are doing it in Barkmere, with bags that we have to carry to the collection areas? We are already bringing our black bags; why can't we separate it in two bags, the black and the clear blue? What could we do to improve our score?

A very similar community to ours, Lac-Tremblant-Nord, with mostly cottagers and no road access, has ranked the best in the whole RCM with a recycling ratio of 47% in 2014. So it is possible for us to do better. We need to find out how, because we are contributing to environmental damage and increasing our tax bills, for just... garbage.

Rental Docks — A financial update

By: Marc Fredette



Over the winter three events have had an impact on the rental docks. First we reconfigured the space to maximize the number of boats, second we built a walkway, and third we got the approval from the government to not charge sales taxes anymore and to refund the users.

Reconfiguration

By way of background, the rental docks are not owned by the Town and the Town is required to pay a yearly rent, indexed at 2.5%, to a third-party under a long term contract signed in 2007. Accordingly, in 2015, the Town will pay \$15,150 and, assuming 5% for additional administration expense such as accounting, lease preparation and boat description, the economic cost is around \$16,000. In 2014, the Town collected only \$15,400 and has to ensure it not only covers its cost but also provide boat access to its residents by offering as many parking spots as possible. The Town's building inspector has been very creative and by adjusting each spot to a standard width and by pushing the dock away from the shoreline, we are able to fit more boats. The Town has now 42 spots including one used by the Town's boat and two smaller spots resulting in 39 regular spots versus 37 last year increasing revenues by \$858. The Town had to incur \$1,300 in reconfiguration cost and we expect to get a return on this investment of less than two years. For the users, there is no impact on your yearly rental costs but as a taxpayer of Barkmere, this is a financially responsible way of managing the resources of the Town.

New walkway

The old walkway was not safe and had to be rebuilt. The infrastructure cost was approximately \$10,000 and will be amortized over 5 years. Based on conservative assumptions the user will pay \$59/year for a regular spot and \$33 for a smaller one. At the end of the five-year period, the cost to the user should be zero. In essence, the cost of a regular spot is \$488 (including the \$59) in 2015 and we expect the cost to increase by approximately 2.5% as stipulated in our contract to reach \$533 in 2019 and down to \$485 in year 6 (2020) after the new walkway has been fully amortized. An assessment of our assumptions will be made on a regular basis to hopefully shorten the amortization period.

Sales Taxes

The Town is not charging sales taxes (GST and QST) anymore after we successfully got the agreement from the government to be exempt. In other words, in 2014 for a regular spot the rental cost to a user was \$418 plus \$63 of taxes for a total of \$481. In 2015, the rental cost is \$429 (2014 price of \$418 indexed at 2.5%) plus the \$59 for the walkway for a total of \$488. If we had to charge sales taxes the total would have been \$561. Therefore, going forward and starting in 2015, the tax saving represents \$75/year for a user of a regular spot. And there is more, we obtained the government's approval to credit the users for taxes paid in 2012, 2013, and 2014. For the vast majority this one-time credit is almost \$200 and is applied against the 2015 rental costs.

PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC
MRC DES LAURENTIDES
VILLE DE BARKMERE



VILLE DE / TOWN OF

BARKMERE

TOWN OF BARKMERE RATEPAYERS

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF BYLAW NUMBER 228

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, General Director and Secretary-Treasurer of the Town of Barkmere:

THAT Bylaw 228, adopted by the Municipal Council on May 9th, 2015 entered into force on May 22nd, 2015, the date appearing on the certificate of conformity issued by the RCM of Laurentides.

This Bylaw modifies the Zoning bylaw 201, for the control of the vegetation in the shoreline.

The Bylaw number 228 is available for consultation at the Town Hall, at 182 Barkmere road, during normal business hours.

GIVEN AT Barkmere, Quebec, this 26th day of May 2015

Steve Deschenes
General Director and
Secretary-Treasurer

Line 120kv of the Grand-Brûlé—Saint-Sauveur Bypass

Special Collaboration: Marie-Hélène Gauthier

In December 2013, Hydro-Québec established a Regional Technical Committee (CTR) made up of land use, environment and landscape specialists from municipalities affected by their proposed new project line, which includes Barkmere. Also participating in the Committee were specialists from the MRC des Pays d'en Haut and des Laurentides, the Conférence régionale des élus des Laurentides, the Conseil régional en environnement des Laurentides as well as those of Hydro-Québec. I participated in the committee on behalf of Barkmere. A total of 9 meetings were held, each of more or less a half-day and the committee submitted its recommendations in October of last year.

The mandate of the CTR was to examine the scenarios that are able to meet the growing demand for electricity in the Laurentians and recommend one or more solutions for a project of lesser impact and which balances the interests, concerns and needs of the different stakeholders. A total of 10 scenarios were analyzed from a technical point of view and the chosen 3 were then reviewed from the environmental and social point of view. The scenario located in the “center axis” (i.e. one that will cross, among others, the Municipality of Saint-Adolphe d'Howard) was selected as the one having the least impact in social, environmental and economic terms.

What are the impacts for Barkmere

It is impossible to put in a new power line having zero development impact. So we chose to raise with Hydro-Québec the environmental and visual impacts that the new transmission line could have on our community, such as deforestation near our inlet, the alignment of the new towers as much as possible with those already in place, their height etc. Hydro-Québec understood our concerns and we are working with their representatives to optimize any possible mitigation measures (respect of shorelines, width of deforestation, choosing the type of pylons and their location). We also addressed the inappropriate use by ATVs and jeeps in the existing line, which is causing real damage to our environment. We received Hydro-Québec's collaboration to help us find a lasting solution to our concerns.

INFORMATION ON CITY HALL

OPENING HOURS

May to October
Tuesday to Saturday: 9 AM to 4 PM

Telephone 819-687-3373
Fax 819-681-3375

Personnel:

Town manager/ Treasurer
Building inspector
Website:

Steve Deschenes 1-819-687-3373
Dave W. Roy 1-819-681-3374
www. Barkmere.ca

(dg@barkmere.org)
(inspecteur@barkmere.org)

