



Ville de / Town of

BARKMERE

Fall/Winter Bulletin

November 28th 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Another year on its way out, under a snow blanket which may have started a little earlier than usual. It was a year during which the Municipal Council was very active, and during which the whole administration was renewed. I am proud of our new “recruits”, Director General and Secretary-Treasurer, Me Martin Paul Gélinas, and Building Inspector and Supervisor of Equipment and Facilities, Mr. Gabriel Bélanger. Mr. Gélinas and Mr. Bélanger have worked for the municipality of Lac-Tremblant-Nord and are bringing with them a long experience within a municipality similar to ours. As I am writing these lines, we are still looking for an Accounting Clerk and Administrative Assistant, to fulfill our needs at the Town Hall.

Council has introduced this past Fall, a pilot project to reimburse the difference between the resident and non-resident fees for municipal services of leisure and culture available in the surrounding municipalities. This program aims to compensate for the lack of similar services offered by our Town, such as public library, sports, etc. The project is only for the permanent residents, in order to answer one of their requests during the Citizen’s Forum, held last March. This pilot project will continue in 2019.

We have also modified the zoning bylaw, to allow repairing existing cribs under wharves, and also allow to add a walkway where the lake is not deep enough to reach a dock with a boat. This will end some irritating situations for many lake residents.

Council also introduced a bylaw to create a financial reserve for the maintenance of Jésuites Road, replacing the previous outdated bylaw under which the Town can levy the special Jésuites Road tax. The goal of this new bylaw is to ensure that all taxpayers that are using the road, are paying for its maintenance (in proportion to the value of the properties serviced), and not only the owners of the lots identified in the previous bylaw. The financial reserve will also ensure that the funds levied for this sector tax are only used for the maintenance of that road, and that the surpluses not be transferred automatically to the general fund of the Town. The new bylaw also allows to finance the reserve with government subsidies, given the public nature of Jésuites Road, which will help to cover major repairs, without adding to the fiscal burden of the taxpayers of that sector.

This brings us to talk about the budget for year 2019, and the effect it will have on our tax bill. The expenses of the Town will increase in general by 3% over the budget of 2018. The costs of some municipal services, like fire protection, continue to grow at an accelerated rate. Normally, we should be expecting an increase of the general tax by 3% also. But the new evaluation roll of the Town, introduced this past August, is showing an increase of property values of around 1%, and therefore the general tax rate only needs to increase by 2%. This being said, the budget committee will recommend to the Council to give back a credit to the taxpayers, since the Town did not entirely use the amounts budgeted for the campaign against Eurasian Milfoil in 2018. This measure will enable to maintain the general taxes at about the same level as 2018 (apart from fluctuations linked to the new property values). But this credit will not be recurrent, and we will have to expect an important increase in 2020.

On this note, I wish you wonderful Holidays and a very happy new year 2019 full of joy and health!

Luc Trépanier

**INVITATION TO OUR
Annual Holiday Season Luncheon
Saturday, December 8th
Barkmere's Community Centre
around 12:00 noon (after the Council meeting)**

Getting things done in Barkmere : How many Citizens does it take to amend a Dock By-law?

By Stephen Lloyd



At the time that you are reading these words, Barkmere By-law 251 (the Docks By-law) should have finally received MRC approval and fulfilled all the formalities required for it to come into force. Whether you call them “docks” or “wharves”, these structures are extremely important in Barkmere. People care deeply and have strong opinions about the Dock By-law.

The stated purpose of the By-law is to “ amend the permitted dimensions of docks and provide clarification as to the scope of repairs and demolition permitted to be carried out to non-conforming crib docks which benefit from “grandfather rights”. However, the non-legalistic goal of the By-law was to fix three fundamental problems which we have been discussing and grappling with for many years:

- What do we do about folks with shallow water lake-front locations who need an extra-long dock (beyond the standard 15 meters maximum) to simply access their properties?
- Why the heck are we not allowed to rebuild or repair cribs that are underwater? Does that mean that every “grandfathered” crib dock on the lake will eventually have to become a pilings dock?
- What do we do with all those abandoned underwater crib structures? Is fish habitat more important than navigation safety?

To many people, the answers to these questions were completely evident: no annoying rules are required at all. Just let people figure it out for themselves! But if you think about it a little bit, and talk to a few people, you see that it is not that simple. There are navigation safety concerns, aesthetics issues and basic environmental protections to take into account. Not everyone can get what they want. As a community, we are also stuck with the Province of Quebec and MRC rules which apply to our dock standards. To top it all off, municipal law requires us to come up with general rules that apply to everyone. We can’t just “deal with it as we go”.

In June, the Council held a public meeting and threw these questions out to the people. By virtue of the good ideas that came out of that meeting, as well as from the many discussions and reflections from citizens over the summer, it became very clear that, as we all know, “the smartest person in the room is who? The room!”

You can read the technical details in the actual By-law, but the general answers provided by By-law 251 to the above questions are as follows:

- If you have a shallow water lake-front, you can now run a narrow “passerelle” out from the 15 meter mark of your standard-sized dock for the distance required to reach a depth of 1.4 meters. The “passerelle” needs to be marked with reflectors so that no one runs into it at night.
- You are now allowed (with a permit!) to renovate and repair underwater cribs. You just have to maintain the existing footprint and you can’t move the cribs around.
- You are now allowed to demolish cribs. You don’t have to just leave them in the water, as a navigation hazard. In fact, if you take down a crib dock, you will be required to remove the cribs as well, at least enough to allow a 1.4 meter clearance for safe boat passage.

If these solutions sound “so simple that we should have done it like that a long time ago”, that is probably because they are intuitive and they just make sense. Most importantly, they are rules that come from our citizens and are hopefully “owned” by the community. Thank you for your patience and input.

Environment Matters

By : Jake Chadwick



The most important news to report on the lake environment is the encouraging results from our summer 2018 campaign combating Eurasian Milfoil. The Milfoil team accomplished their objective of focusing their efforts on the Silver Bay area of the lake. A total of 486 plants were found and removed in 2018. This represents a 30 % reduction from the 696 plants removed in 2017 and a 90 % reduction from the 5,000 plants removed in 2016. We can conclude that the trend is indeed positive and that our pro-active efforts and investments have paid off. That said, we can never be complacent when it comes to this invasive species and we must continue our diligent efforts to prevent its arrival and proliferation.

To this end, we have budgeted funds for 2019 to be able to conduct at least as much surveillance and removal as prior years. We will also focus on training of resident volunteers in order to improve our ability to do our own surveillance through out the summer. The CCE is also planning to organize a town hall format meeting where experts from environmental organizations will come and provide us with an overview of the potential threats to our lake and how to best mitigate them. With the growth of invasive species coming to lakes in North America besides the dreaded Milfoil, the ability to be able to identify the presence by residents is imperative to a pre-emptive and cost-effective strategy.

Besides the milfoil programme we also conducted the usual water quality testing during the summer. Through the BLPA we participated in the Reseau de Surveillance Volontaire des Lacs (RSVL) programme under which we collected additional samples. We will get the results from the RSVL in early 2019, consolidate and prepare them to you in our annual report in spring. Based on the results received so far however, there is nothing untoward to report. Everything is within the expected ranges.

I would like to express thanks once again to Anne Létourneau and Sylvain Miller who spearheaded the Milfoil programme as well as David Castonguay who supported the team. Also, a word of thanks is due to my fellow CCE members throughout the year – Lyndsey Ackroyd, Lea Hardcastle, Doug Hartley, Stuart Jack, Kirstin Lachance, Stephen Lloyd and Luc Trépanier.

Infrastructure and Services

By: Marc-Olivier Duchesne



It was a great pleasure this year to represent and meet with you. It was very rewarding and full of challenges, particularly the one to get the season started with all the town services and without permanent employees. It was even a greater one for the summer employees that took up this challenge with success and were able to operate the town services and work on projects with little training and with remote bosses. The employees' efforts had even an influence on the weather which was great this year! I would like to particularly underline the professionalism, positivity and initiative of Mr. David Castonguay. Thank you!

During the summer, we completed the gangway to facilitate access to the docks of section A, at the end of the seven-door boathouses, increased the number of dock places and did some improvements. We also started to reorganise the parking at the landing to increase its capacity. We will pursue this process next year by improving the signage, adding more parking spaces and by having more direction from our employees. We must remember that traffic has increased since the Miller Estate boathouses were demolished because people rented replacement docks from the town. The Estate has started the reconstruction of their docks and when completed, it will create more parking room at the main parking.

Last winter was a good opportunity for members of the council to meet citizens from the town, to discuss their reality, their needs, reinforce our communication and start a few initiatives. These discussions will be part of our future projects.

After working closely with the BLPA, the project to replace the sheds and toilets on Goulden Island is at the stage of receiving tenders from contractors. We hope if the tenders are satisfactory to attribute the contract in the near future. We want to have the new premises ready for next spring. These installations will have solar power and composting toilets using 200 ml of water per flush only. This will enable us to respect the environment and prevent major excavation on Goulden Island.

Progressively, we will renew our road signs in town and the municipal signage in general. It will also be an occasion to look at security aspects, more precisely for pedestrians in town. The speed of cars is also a concern.

The reorganisation of the Landing is the major project for the next few years and will start soon. As stated before, the Miller Estate has demolished a big boathouse and the 7-door boathouse that is located on lots belonging to the town is proposed to become the town's property at the end of the 2019 season. These have rendered good services for many years and it is now time to ask ourselves what to do now?

The big question that will dictate this reorganisation is to know how many places in boathouses do we want to maintain, renovate and/or build? Following this decision, we will adjust the other dock places and consider also other needs, like those of residents who don't have a direct access to the lake and want to swim. As to whether we can technically and financially build them, the town has great chances of obtaining subsidies, which would permit us to think about it in total serenity.

To make this decision, we will need your help! In the next few months, we will distribute a survey to know what your needs are (docks, boathouses, access or other practical things to improve the Landing), the price that you are willing to pay for these boathouses, the size of the boats it can shelter and what you would like from the current Landing and what should be improved. Also, we are looking for a few members for the Consultative Committee of the Landing to help us improve it and satisfy more users. Contact us if you are interested. We need different points of view.

I wish you Happy Holidays and hope to see you soon!

A few words from The Inspector

By: Gabriel Bélanger

Hello everyone. I want to thank you for your warm welcome. I would like to take advantage of this Bulletin to underline some issues that need to be improved:

- Be careful not to leave waste in front of the containers. I already had to pick up a few times so far, so I ask everyone's cooperation.
- I noticed that the speed at the entrance to the bay is not always respected. Slow down between the warves at the landing and the white buoys.
- Being new on the lake that I do not know, I ask all citizens to make sure that their address (LDE) is visible from the lake. It is a question of safety in case of an intervention and facility for me to find a property.

I thank everyone for their usual cooperation.

The Local Leisure & Recreation Committee

By: Lyne Valois, President

The Leisure Committee that was created in spring has been able to entertain and bring together people from Barkmere by their activities. It started with yoga classes offered every Sunday morning. The classes will be offered year-long if people are interested!

The Committee has organised two game nights for people of all ages this summer. Many of you came to join us to have fun by playing different games or simply to talk. Many games for all ages are available during these nights as scrabble, pichenotte, fozzball, *Win, Lose or Draw*), etc. Now that we have a new ping-pong table, we are sure that many will have fun with small friendly competitions during our game nights.

In order to continue to offer you these new activities, the committee had a fundraising. The members really put their hands to work by baking cakes, pies, cookies, baklavas, breads and many treats. Thank you to all those who encouraged us and helped us raise \$400 !

We are organising a **Holiday Celebration and Game Night** at Barkmere's Community Centre, **Saturday, December 1st from 7 PM to 9H30 PM**. Come outwit your opponents at board games, shine bright at the ping-pong table and enjoy sweet treats, beverages and more...

See you there!

Jessica, Carol-Ann, Suzanne, Ghislain, Kevin and Lyne

BUDGET 2019

By: Marc Frédette



Year 2018 in review

Based on 2018 preliminary figures (our financial year closes on December 31), we expect our results to be in a neutral position with the need of a small portion of the \$86,000 surplus already allocated. Total expenses were lower by \$43,000 versus what we had budgeted for 2018 mostly due to lower administration expenses of \$12,000, lower sanitation expenses for \$15,000 (due to lower milfoil removal fees), transportation expenses for \$6,000, and \$10,000 saving in urban planning from a new working schedule.

Revenues were approximately \$33,600 above budget from slightly higher transfer taxes, grants and more fines issued by the town administration. Many transfers that occurred in 2018 have not been invoiced yet in 2018 and will be in 2019 due to issues at the Regional County Municipality ("RCM") resulting from the cadastral reform at Barkmere. Grants and transfer revenues were higher than budgeted by \$17,600 including a grant for our summer employees. Therefore we need to utilise \$9,400 of the \$86,000 we had budgeted last year from cumulated surplus from prior years.

2019 budget

For 2019, we expect total expenses to increase by 1.5% from the 2018 budget to \$644,900 for a net increase of \$9,400.

The general and administration expenses are expected to go up by 7.5%, or \$20,600, stemming from additional financial reporting resources, increased law enforcement expenses, additional building maintenance, and a decrease in telephone and legal office expenses. The fire protection service is going up by \$3,500 under the agreement signed in December 2017. We anticipate lower expenses for the Eurasian water-milfoil removal activities to reach \$10,000 from a budgeted amount of \$22,500 in 2018. We also anticipate a reduction of \$14,000 related to urban planning expense due to a shorter work schedule and an increase of \$1,500 for inter-municipal activities for permanent residents. Our waste management cost provided by the RCM and the RIDR, a group in charge of our waste disposal, are expected to decrease by 10%, or \$2,700, entirely due to our mayor's hard work and foresight. The RCM has increased our allocation of its costs by 4.7% for roughly \$1,600. Finally, we have budgeted an increase in amortization expense, a non-cash expense, of \$11,800 mostly resulting from the Landing reconfiguration investments. We anticipate 2019 revenues to be higher by \$2,000 from higher transfer taxes as discussed above.

In order to minimize the burden on the citizens we will use \$78,500 from the surplus generated in prior years. In addition, given our healthy financial position and the lower milfoil budgeted expenses, we are pleased to introduce a special tax credit (similar to a negative tax) of \$12,500 from the accumulated surplus resulting in a 0.6% decline of the 2019 general tax rate over 2018. Our general tax rate will therefore be \$0.578 in 2019 versus \$0.582 in 2018.

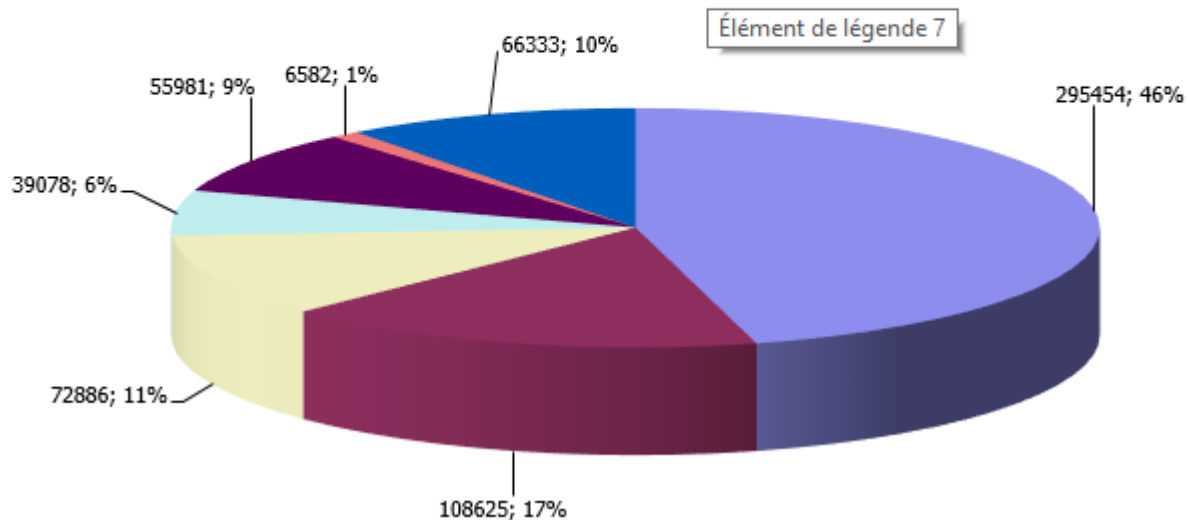
Expensive Toast

In December 2017, the town of Barkmere signed a five-year agreement with the Régie Incendie Nord Ouest Laurentides ("RINOL") regarding the fire protection service at Barkmere whereby the town pays the RINOL a flat fee. In addition, RINOL invoices Barkmere for every alarm on its territory. For example, a fire truck dispatched to the site costs \$750 excluding charges for two firemen (another \$200 or more). For false alarms, the town charges back the citizen that has triggered it. For some of you that have your smoke detector connected to a monitoring service company, RINOL would be alerted immediately and you should have visitors (a beautiful red fire truck and friendly firemen) within minutes. Make sure you know how to cancel the false alarm otherwise that smoky burnt toast in the morning might not only leave a bad smell but a bad taste in your mouth and wallet.

Revenues			
	2017 Actual	2018 Estimated	2019 Budget
Taxes	\$475 842	\$496 336	\$498 438
Other revenues	\$126 253	\$86 842	\$55 501
Cumulated Surplus Allocation	-	\$9 417	\$78 500
Cumulated Surplus Allocation - Special Credit	-	-	\$12 500
Total	\$602 095	\$592 595	\$644 939
Expenses			
	2017 Actual	2018 Estimated	2019 Budget
General Administration	\$194 598	\$262 657	\$295 454
Public Security	\$99 062	\$107 092	\$108 625
Transportation	\$73 382	\$64 939	\$72 886
Sanitation, Environment	\$35 262	\$39 173	\$39 078
Land Use and Planning	\$81 862	\$60 287	\$55 981
Recreation and Culture	\$2 935	\$2 256	\$6 582
Amortization	\$53 978	\$56 191	\$66 333
Total	\$541 079	\$592 595	\$644 939
Surplus (deficit)	\$61 016	<i>NIL</i>	<i>NIL</i>

Expenses - 2019 Budget

- General Administration ■ Public Security ■ Transportation ■ Sanitation, Environment
- Land Use and Planning ■ Recreation and Culture ■ Amortization



Mini Echoes from Barkmere

By Chantal Raymond



This summer we had a Community Work Party to apply mulch on the 4th rope game on Goulden Island. Following a call for help, I was mesmerised



as to the number of people that showed up. Dick's barge was parked at the end of the diving dock with a discouraging mountain of mulch. Bruce McNab came up with planks to make a shortcut to access the forest and by the time I drove my neurotic dog back home after having an earful of yaps, about 40 people had come. Under the supervision of Tim Kalil, we shovelled everything into pails and transported the heavy material by making a human chain. In fact, the whole thing was finished within 40 minutes! It really warmed my heart to see how much the community responded to our request for help, came out and stuck together. Thanks to all the volunteers.

Wells: A study showed that 25% of the population of the Laurentian region takes their water from individual wells. Even though the ministry responsible for Environment recommends to proprietors to proceed to analysis to ensure that water is not contaminated by chemicals or bacteria, only one citizen in five proceeds to these analysis. This can represent a health hazard because enquiries made in Québec attested that more than 8% of private wells show presence of *Escherichia coli*, a bacteria responsible for gastroenteritis, sometimes severe. The Direction Régionale de la Santé Publique has made index cards showing the main contaminants found in water (ex: *escherichia coli*, fluoride, nitrates, nitrites). Each card gives explanations and risks for health, the parameters that should be analysed and ways to protect yourself. The cards are in French and English on the site. Here is the link: www.santelaurentides.gouv.qc.ca/sante-publique/environnement/eau-potable



Cottage Theft: A few cottages in Green Bay have been robbed in November. Here are a few recommendations given by the Sûreté du Québec to avoid theft when fall is upon us, and we leave our summer cottages:

- do not leave any tools outside that could be useful for thieves (ladder easy to access, big garbage bin / recycling near a window).
- if you can get a hunting camera that takes pictures when there is movement, it can greatly help the investigations, if there is a theft.
- Having an alarm system can also be a good means of prevention.
- Make an inventory of your valuables.
- Engrave your valuables so that it's visible, then it's harder to sell things that are engraved.

What to do if unfortunately your cottage is burglarized?

- Call 310-4141 to file a complaint.
- Do not touch anything, leave everything in place while the police are heading on the scene to see if there is any evidence that they could take on the spot.
- Then, you can contact your insurance with the event number given by the police.

Polystyrene: There was pilot project in the region to voluntarily recycle polystyrene and it was a big success. The regional Eco centres of the MRC des Laurentides have recycled more than 6.7 tons of polystyrene (plastic #6) between the months of March 2017 and September 2018, permitting to prevent this matter from being buried. The MRC will therefore continue to offer this service to citizens at the Ecocentre of Mont-Tremblant. Good news: the MRC will invest in the Ecocentre of Huberdeau to make it more accessible and add more opening hours. We'll keep you posted.

I leave by reminding you that the only Town Hall phone number is now **819-681-3374**.

INFORMATION ON CITY HALL

OPENING HOURS

November to April

Monday to Friday: 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

Mayor:	819-681-3374	maire@barkmere.ca
General Director and Treasurer	819-681-3374, ext. 3	dg@barkmere.ca
Urbanism and infrastructures:	819-681-3374, ext. 4	inspecteur@barkmere.ca
Communications:	819-681-3374	communications@barkmere.ca
Finances (tax bill)	819-681-3374	finance@barkmere.ca

