



## Echoes from Barkmere – June 2020

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2020:

- While the Quebec Government has relaxed the rules regarding gatherings and activities, the Mayor asks the population to remain cautious, and avoid interior gatherings in small places (no kitchen parties!) and to respect social distancing. Barkmere is home to a significant number of elderly people and therefore more at risk. It is our collective duty to protect them.
- The mayor alludes the possibility that the Government might permit to hold next council meeting of July at the Community Centre, but meanwhile, you can watch the municipal council on our town's website at [www.barkmere.ca](http://www.barkmere.ca)
- We have learned about the passing of Mr. David Hardcastle, father of Lea and Janet. Mr. Hardcastle was married to Barbara Jack and spent more than 30 years in Barkmere. In the name of the Council, the Mayor is offering his most sincere condolences to the President of the BLPA, Lea Hardcastle, and her family. He is asking the Council to hold a minute of silence in memory of Mr. Hardcastle.
- The Lake was once again the “victim” of a bloom of diatoms, these microscopic diatoms or golden algae, which have proliferated and gave the water an unpleasant odour and taste. All the laboratories being closed during the Covid-19 epidemic, we have not been able to have samples

analyzed to confirm that it was indeed the same diatoms. But the symptoms and the conditions were the same as those of the last bloom we had - the temperature of the water remaining cold for a few weeks after the ice out. We cannot refer to invading species in this case, since diatoms are naturally present in the Laurentian waters. But these blooms are probably caused by a phenomenon, either a supply of nutrients, climate change or a combination of factors.

- A major forest cut is planned in the sectors behind Whittal Bay, Green Bay and Silver Bay. The current plan includes the opening of multiple new roads, which is contradictory with the urban plan of the Town. We will therefore express our disagreement with the plan submitted by the forestry company for these roads, as we hope to negotiate a plan less damaging for the Lake. There are already many existing roads in this area, which would allow for the forestry operation to take place with fewer damages. The Municipality of Montcalm indicated their agreement and will participate with us in this negotiation with the help of the MRC.
- The BLPA will have its Annual General Meeting on June 25 at 07:30 pm via google meet. Family Regatta on August 1<sup>st</sup> is canceled due to the covid-19. The only event still remaining is the corn roast, scheduled on September 5<sup>th</sup>. For up-to-date news, consult [www.blpa.ca](http://www.blpa.ca) As to the Junior BLPA, there is a sunset cruise planned at 8:00 pm near Goulden Island on June 20<sup>th</sup>. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, they will have their annual triathlon at 3pm starting at the visitor's dock. Also on August 22, *Capture the flag* at 3pm on Goulden Island.
- Mr. Jake Chadwick informs us of the reopening of water analysis laboratories. He will therefore, jointly with the BLPA, restart the RSVL program (Réseau de Surveillance Volontaire des Lacs). Also, seasonal water quality tests will start again.
- The Town approves the purchase of two signs identifying the Town Hall and the Community Centre.
- The MRC has selected the CAUCA organization to replace the 9-1-1 call centre service of the Town of Mont-Tremblant. The negotiations have been a bit "laboured", but the agreement was finally signed. Mayor Trépanier has insisted to include a clause to enforce compulsory bilingual service in the

agreement. CAUCA has refused, arguing that this was part of the protocols of answers and procedures which will be adopted in parallel from the main agreement. We will have to remain vigilant as this facet of the call centre has been problematic for Barkmere in the past. The MRC is also preoccupied, as all its municipalities have cottagers and tourists, whose main language, if not the only language, is English.

- Lyne Valois, President of the Local Social Activities Committee, informed us that there are no yoga classes offered in Barkmere this summer. However, Marlene offers classes at Arundel Golf Club, on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. For more information, visit her website: [yogaetcetra.com](http://yogaetcetra.com).

Once again, for more details, 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.



*199 ch. Barkmere road*

*Barkmere, QC J0T 1A0*

*Tel: 819-681-3374*

[communications@barkmere.ca](mailto:communications@barkmere.ca)