



Barkmere Echo – January 2024

The following is a summary of the last ordinary and extraordinary Town Council meeting held on Saturday, January 20th 2024:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with sorrow that we learned that Mr. Bill Jarvis passed away this past November 30th, at the age of 75. Bill was a quiet man, happy to pass the summer on his island, inherited from his uncle Frank. The Mayor remembers that he helped the then future mayor of Barkmere, whose boat motor had caught fire in the middle of the Narrows, and he had pulled him and his very young daughter Zoë all the way home. We offer all our sympathies to his wife Gini and their children.

We also wish to mention the passing of M. Christopher Wolff, who died on January 16th, also aged 75. We offer all our condolences to his wife Françoise and their son Sébastien. At the family's request, we would like to point out that there will be no funeral, in order to respect his wishes.

LAST COUNCILS OF THE MRC

There were two MRC Council sessions since our last meeting in December.

First, in December, we discussed the Public Land Usage Plan, prepared by the Institute of Territories this past year 2023. During the consultation leading to the report, we had insisted that the Town was planning other types of activities than forest cuts, like the creation of a protected zone and some trekking paths. Now, the report will be presented to the MNRF, and the MRC is asking the support of all its municipalities to adopt a resolution to this end.

In January, an inventory of the historical properties on the territory of the MRC was in question. A preliminary listing of the potential properties was presented at the Council, that is, some buildings constructed before 1940. Six properties of Barkmere were listed, such as the Jesuit Priest Chapel (now gone), the boat hangar, built in 1969, which is now replaced by floating wharves, and the Goulden Island "pavilion", which was built much later than 1940. It goes without saying that this list will need to be seriously revised. Especially that the final inventory will be filed with the Ministry to Culture and Communications: the owners will be able to express themselves, as these registrations would come with severe obligations for renovations and repairs.

Finally, it seems that with the new Quebec plan to return to the private enterprise the whole cycle of recyclable waste in 2025, the pickup and transportation of these would be given to the RIMRO, which currently picks up the door-to-door collection in Barkmere. This is concerning as this company has already repeated that they will not purchase a front-loading truck, which is necessary for our current containers,

and even the semi-buried containers that we had provided for in our three-year investment plan. The Mayor has difficulties understanding how we could service the whole lake with only regular bins, as about 50 to 100 would be necessary. We can imagine how it would look in the parking lot!

MUNICIPAL TAXES – 2024

We would like to inform you that the 2024 taxes will be sent out in the next few days. Those who have authorized us to send them by e-mail should receive them by February 1st. We invite you to check your e-mail. If you have not received anything by February 15th, please do not hesitate to contact us.

COVID-19 TESTS AVAILABLE

We are pleased to inform you that we have received COVID-19 tests at the Town Hall. These will be available to residents at no cost. Feel free to stop by during opening hours to get a box!



*A sunny afternoon at the landing
Photo by: Martin Paul Gélina*

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.