



Barkmere Echo – March 2024

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with sorrow that we learned that Mr. Gerald Miller passed away on February 14th, at the age of 81. Mr. Miller was one of the many children of Rosario and Elsie, a family which played such an important role in the history of Barkmere. We offer all our sympathies to his partner Jocelyne, his four daughters and all his grandchildren.

FIRST REPOSE SERVICE

The Town Council has resolved not to renew the intermunicipal agreement for the First Response Service of Arundel at the end of this year 2024. The service was deemed inadequate for the needs of the Barkmere citizens. We are currently preparing alternative measures such as first-aid training for those interested. These alternative measures will be better adapted to the realities of Barkmere, its citizens and its territory. These will be officially announced in the coming months.

LEGAL BUSINESS

The Town accepted to participate in a conference for an out-of-court settlement with all parties involved in the case of Barkmere vs Grou-Michaelsen, regarding the road built without a permit east of Cope Bay.

LAST COUNCIL OF THE MRC

The MRC adopted a resolution to contribute \$250,000 to establish a social trust with the goal to create affordable lodging on its territory. This is a groundbreaking initiative to take on the lack of lodging.

Since the beginning of the year, with the emission of the tax bills, the employees of the evaluation service of the MRC are harassed and overloaded with calls from angry citizens who believe that the service is responsible for the tax increases in some municipalities.

We must remember that the amount of taxes assessed on a property is the result of the adoption of the municipal budget, and not directly linked to the increases of property values. The municipal evaluations are based on mathematical formulas linked to the real estate market, and only serve to divide the taxes fairly between the municipalities and between the landowners. Some expenses, like the Sûreté du Québec

are directly linked to the real estate values. But it is mainly the allocation based on these values between the municipalities which causes the share of a given municipality to increase some years, or to decrease as it is the case for Barkmere this year.

This is why the administration and the Council attempt each year to adopt a reasonable budget, to keep the taxes at an acceptable level.

STUDENT SUMMER JOB AT THE LAKE

We are currently looking for dynamic and responsible students, aged 14 and over, who would like to work at the lake for the 2024 summer season. If you are interested in working as a landing attendant and would like to learn more about the position, please send us a message at communications@barkmere.ca as soon as possible!



BARKMERE'S 100TH



In the run-up to the 100th anniversary of the founding of Barkmere which we will celebrate on the weekend of July 25th, 2026, Barkmere100 - our Centennial Committee, is gathering family stories from residents. We hope these stories will provide a perspective for future generations of the characters and events that have shaped its evolution and make it such a wonderful place.

Each family has a unique perspective of events on the lake and in the village and we hope you might be willing to share some of your stories with us. These can be in various forms - ranging from anecdotes, pictures, memoirs, song sheets, artifacts, and oral interviews, etc.

We'll combine these stories with research from a variety of sources (Jesuit archives, les archives du Quebec, historical research, interviews, etc.) in order to paint a portrait of the lake and village decade by decade from the early 1900s to date.

While we've provided some suggested questions (below), please respond in the manner best suited to your family's story.

Questions:

- When did your family first come to Bark Lake and/or Barkmere village?
- What are your first memories / What most impressed you about the lake / village?
- Are there particular memories of people and events at the lake / village that you'd share? (e.g. storms, cottage building, socials, etc.)
- Do you have photos, memories or other documents and artifacts that you would agree to share - either in a permanent digital archive or temporarily on display at Town hall (in secure cabinets) during the festivities?

- How has the lake / Town changed in your time?
- What are your hopes for the lake / Town?

The Centennial Committee has set up a secure, online data collection (via Google Drive) to capture and store your family's contribution.

If you or someone in your family is interested in participating in the Family Stories project, please contact committee co-chair Stuart Jack to get access and instructions to share your stories: sjack@nesglobe.com



*Sunny morning on March 14th
Photo by: Shanny Larose*

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.