



## Barkmere Echo – July 2025

The following is a summary of the last Town Council meeting held on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025:

### MILFOIL 2026

Our friends Anne Létourneau and Sylvain Miller advised us that they would have less time in 2026 to remove the milfoil plants. Council has therefore granted a contract to the company FYTO Inc. for the 2026 campaign. However, it will be up to our volunteers to identify the growing plants so that they can be removed. It will therefore be important to continue the CEAP shoreline monitoring program.

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON BOATHOUSES AND SHELTERS

A promise is a promise. The Council had promised to revisit certain issues raised during last year's review of the Town's urban plan, including the issue of boathouses and boat shelters amongst others. The Council had indicated that since the Town would have to review all of its urban planning regulations anyway as part of the process of adopting the new development plan for the MRC des Laurentides, it would be the perfect time to do it.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs rejected the new MRC plan and introduced other parameters (general land use guidelines), and the new plan will not take effect before a few years. The Council considers this period too long to address our local issues.

At the last Council meeting, a fourth project for a floating, wall-less boat shelter was approved, following the recommendation of the Consultative Committee for Urban planning (CCU). However, CCU members expressed serious concerns about the visual impact of these structures, amongst other things, by their potential proliferation.

The Council therefore proposes to move forward immediately with a public discussion on the issue of boat shelters, through a consultation session to be held on July 26<sup>th</sup>. In order to ensure an open and honest discussion, the Council wished to temporarily suspend the granting of permits for the construction of these structures during the consultation period. However, the only legal way to do this is to present a notice of motion and adopt a first draft bylaw (even if the issue has not yet been discussed publicly). The Council therefore adopted a very brief draft, simply for form's sake, in order to be able to hold the consultation session.

This is an issue that may stir up strong feelings, and Mayor Luc Trépanier wants the consultation to be conducted with respect for everyone and for the different opinions that our citizens may have, in order to have a positive and productive debate.

## SHELTER FOR MOTORCYCLES AND BICYCLES

The Town received only one bid for the construction of the shelter, but it was excessive. A new call for tenders was launched to find a contractor at a more reasonable cost.

## LAST COUNCIL OF THE MRC

The organization Éco-corridors Laurentiens gave a presentation to the mayors of the MRC to introduce other forms of land protection besides the protected areas recognized by the Ministry of the Environment.

They discussed private protection through donations and conservation servitudes. Even a municipality can protect its own land in this way, through servitudes or other means, to ensure that protection is permanent and not subject to revocation following elections, for example. In our case, one example would be Goulden Island, which is protected only by zoning regulations.

There is also a type of protection called ‘humanized landscape,’ which is a kind of social contract where the municipality establishes regulations for landscape protection and citizens agree to comply with them. But the process of accepting and complying with such protection is cumbersome and rigid.

It is also possible to have certain ‘other environmental conservation measures’ (OECMs), such as municipal regulations or other solutions, officially recognized by the Quebec government.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS

*A report from Councillor Jake Chadwick*

We are pleased to announce that the milfoil surveillance and removal program in Silver Bay is going well so far this season. Only a handful of plants have been found and removed to date. While this is welcomed news when compared to prior years, we have to continue to be vigilant as some areas of Silver Bay have not yet been surveyed in detail. Since Anne Létourneau and Sylvain Miller will have less time to dedicate to Bark Lake in the future we have negotiated a contract with Fyto Inc. to assist with the search and removal operations starting next summer. Fyto is a professional firm which has a network of divers with a core competency in invasive specie identification and remediation. The contract is flexible in terms of effort meaning that if we need more time from them, it can be arranged (and vice versa). Anne and Sylvain will continue to be involved but we need a back up and succession strategy.

We encourage all residents to survey their (and their adjacent neighbours’) properties for anything unusual and report to us using the CEAP Google reporting form which can be found [here](#). Alternatively, just send an email to [jake.chadwick007@icloud.com](mailto:jake.chadwick007@icloud.com) stating the date of the survey, the method (kayak, paddleboard, snorkel, etc) and the area surveyed. This activity is very important not only to confirm the presence of milfoil or not but to prepare for any other invasive species that may be introduced to the lake. In Ontario for example, many lakes are very stressed with the proliferation of Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis Obtusa*), a form of macroalgae that carpets the bottom of the lake along the shore from 2 to 10 meters depth. This beast is so bad that it has replaced milfoil as the invasive specie of concern. Here is a picture of Starry Stonewort surrounding a crop of milfoil. Nasty! Luckily it has not yet been reported in the Laurentians.



### **REMINDER – FIREWORKS AND CAMPFIRES**

We have received a call concerning fireworks on the lake. We would like to remind you that, in accordance with article 270 on nuisances, the use of fireworks is prohibited throughout the territory. The particles produced by these fireworks are harmful to the health of the lake and surrounding forest.

We would also like to remind you of the measures to be respected concerning your campfires. Under article 9 of the burning by-law, campfires must not exceed 1 metre in height, must have a maximum surface area of 1 metre by 1 metre, and must be surrounded by non-combustible material. Before lighting a fire, we recommend that you consult the SOPFEU website to assess the risk of forest fires and adopt the appropriate behaviours. You can consult the site by clicking on [this link](#).

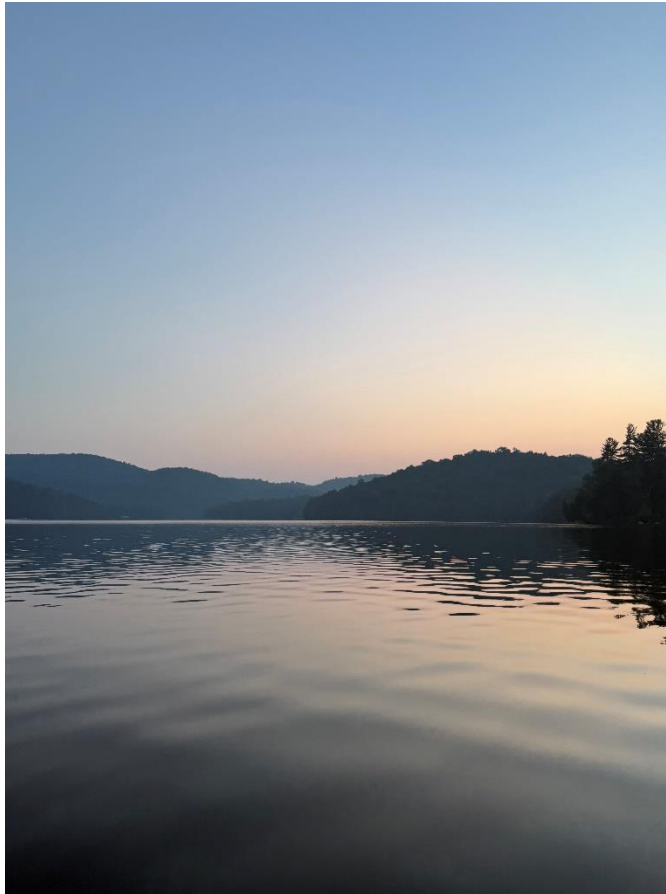
### **REMINDER – CONTAINER SITE CLEANLINESS**

It is strictly forbidden to deposit any object whatsoever on the grounds. Offenders are liable to a heavy fine. If an object cannot be placed in the containers, it must be brought to the ecocenter, not left on the ground. Please note that this rule also applies to the Duncan sector container site.

Contact the administration if you need more information.

### **PURCHASE OF THE RESIDENT PARK**

The Town informs the public that the deed of sale for the resident park has been officially signed. This acquisition ensures the long-term preservation of the park. The park remains accessible to all, and development plans will be announced in the near future.



*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.*