



Barkmere Echo – December 2025

The following is a summary of the last Town Council meeting held on Saturday, December 13th, 2025:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the Council meeting, we received the very sad news that one of the most distinguished member and pillar of our community, Gordon Miller, passed away during the night between Saturday and Sunday, December 14th.

Gordon is survived by his wife Lillian; his four children Lynn (Ghislain), Mike (Mary), Johanne (Stéphane), Pete (Lorie); his grandchildren Alexie, Cedric (Molly), Jeremy (Kevin), Jessica, William (Vanessa), Maxime (Karen), Megan (Frédéric), Liam (Laura), Cameron, Olivia; great grandchildren Elodie, Emric, Nathen, Noah, Sloane.

On behalf of the entire Bark Lake and Barkmere community, we extend our deepest condolences and support to them.

WINTER CARNIVAL FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Stuart Jack, co-chair of the Barkmere 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee, presented the calendar of events and the breakdown of the Council's budget for the centennial celebration.

The next event will be the winter carnival, which will be held on 7 February, weather permitting, on the ice of Miller Bay. Details of the activities are presented by Councillor Grant Elliot in the municipal bulletin. This is a great opportunity to see Bark Lake in its winter coat of snow and ice, if you have never seen it before.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Council meetings will continue to be held on the second Saturday of each month. In January, Council will meet on Saturday, January 17th, to give the administration more time after the holiday break and the mailing of tax bills. In February, Council members wanted to hold the meeting on the same day as the Winter Carnival, 7 February.

ADOPTION OF THE 2026 BUDGET

The Council has adopted the Town's budget for 2026. Despite an increase in regional costs, the general tax will only increase by 0.5%. More details in the Fall/Winter 2025-2026 bulletin.

LAST COUNCIL MEETING AND GUIGNOLÉE

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended this final council meeting of the year. A total of \$480 was raised for the Guignolée, an initiative that supports families in our region. Your generosity makes a meaningful difference for those in need!

CLOSING OF THE TOWN HALL

The Town Hall will be closed from Saturday, December 20th for the holiday season and will reopen on Monday, January 5th. The mayor wished municipal employees a happy holiday season and congratulated them on their excellent work in 2025.

COUNCIL OF THE MRC DES LAURENTIDES

Seven new mayors participated in the Council meeting for the first time, but no female mayors. This leaves only three female mayors on the Council, which is somewhat disappointing and far from the desired parity.

Prefect Marc L'Heureux and Deputy Prefect Kimberly Meyer were reappointed to their positions.

Mayor Trépanier will continue to sit on the planning (urban planning) and multi-resource (public lands) committees, as well as the PADF (sustainable forest management) committee.

The MRC administration, somewhat at the last minute, introduced a significant amendment to the budget to include a \$750,000 financial contribution to a new homeless shelter to be built in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, a project totalling approximately \$12 million. The impact on municipal contributions is significant, with the increase for Barkmere rising from less than 4% to nearly 7%.

The majority of mayors were in favour of helping the less fortunate in the region, but once again lamented the provincial government's abdication of its responsibilities in health, education and social affairs. This forces municipalities to increase the fiscal burden of taxpayers to maintain community services such as hospital equipment, school grounds and now a homeless shelter.

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.



Christmas tree at the community center
Picture take by : Grant Elliott