



Barkmere Echo – January 2026

The following is a summary of the last Town Council meeting held on Saturday, January 17th 2026:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council observed a minute of silence in memory of Mr. Gordon Miller, who passed away last month at the age of 93. Mayor Trépanier, on behalf of all Council members, expressed his sincere condolences to the family of the deceased. He hopes that the Town will honour Mr. Miller during the coming year.



WINTER CARNIVAL FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY



The mayor has invited the entire community to participate in Barkmere's first winter carnival on Saturday, February 7th. Activities include:

- Skating/Walking: a figure 8 will be plowed on Miller Bay and a separate ice surface will be installed with boards for a shinny hockey game;
- Sleigh Rides: a wagon pulled by 2 big horses (Suffolk Punch breed) with seats and blankets (note: in the event that Miller Bay ice is not suitable, the sleigh rides will be on the village roads);
- Sauna and cold plunge
- Initiation to Snowshoeing (tbc)
- Food: chili and cheese sandwiches, pop, juice, water, cup cakes;
- Snacks: Maple taffy, hot chocolate (with marshmallows & whipped cream!);
- Music, and lots of winter fun!

The Community centre will be open for warming, washrooms and lunch while tents in front of Town Hall and on the ice will be provided for warming and snacks.

If weather or ice conditions on the Lake change, forcing activities to be modified or postponed to February 14th, an announcement will be sent by email to all Echos recipients.

DONATION FROM LINDA CARNELL AND BILL BOZEMAN

The Council would like to thank Ms. Linda Carnell and Mr. Bill Bozeman for presenting the Town with a commemorative wooden plaque for the Barkmere centenary.



APPOINTMENT TO THE CCU

The Council appointed Mr. Charles Le Guen as a member of the Urban Planning Advisory Committee, replacing Mr. Pierre-François Chapleau, who resigned last Fall. We thank Pierre François Chapleau for his service and contributions to the community.

Mr. Le Guen is a resident of the Narrows and has spent his entire life at Bark Lake, where his father bought a cottage in the 1970s.

TAXATION BY-LAW

The Council adopted the bylaw establishing the tax rates for 2026. The general tax will only increase by 0.5%, the mill rate being fixed at \$0.3224 per \$100 of evaluation.

MUNICIPAL TAXES – 2026

Please be advised that the 2026 tax bill will be sent out towards the end of the week of January 26th. If you authorized us to send it by e-mail, we invite you to check your inbox to view your tax account. Please let us know if you have not received it in the next weeks, to avoid penalties.

FINANCIAL AUDITOR

The Town once again retained the services of Mr. Daniel Tétréault, CPA, to audit the books for the year 2025.

COUNCIL OF THE RCM OF THE LAURENTIANS

The December 18th meeting was very frustrating for Mayor Trépanier. The MRC administration decided not to recommend the creation of the Barkmere-Montcalm protected area north of Bark Lake, as part of the CRE Laurentides consultation. However, the MRC des Laurentians had already given its support to the

project at its meeting on October 19th, 2023. The mayor was surprised that a civil servant could decide to go against the decisions of the MRC Council in the context of this consultation. This is quite unacceptable.

The MRC administration, for reasons related to behind-closed-doors negotiations with the Ministry of Forests, deemed that the Barkmere and Montcalm project was not entirely compatible with their forest basin project aimed at forcing forestry companies to carry out more intensive logging operations in certain areas and not to log in other areas. The ministry has entered into a supply guarantee with the C.S. Spencer company of Lachute, and this guarantee covers hardwood species. Naturally, this type of wood can only be harvested in the southern part of the MRC, namely in Montcalm and Barkmere.

Mayor Trépanier succeeded in getting the adoption of a last-minute amendment to the resolution presented in support of the forest basin project, adding that the municipalities concerned should be consulted before any agreement on this subject is reached.

He will continue to argue to the consultation authorities that the MRC of the Laurentians did indeed support the protected area project of the municipalities of Barkmere and Montcalm, as specified in MRC Council Resolution 2023.10.917, which was submitted with the project to the Ministry of the Environment.

The MRC hopes that its forest basin project will persuade the Ministry to concentrate future logging operations in the municipality of La Conception further north. If this were the case, the peninsula could be spared for at least five years, which would be good news. However, there is not much hardwood in La Conception...

Due to the weather conditions, Mayor Trépanier was unable to attend the MRC Council meeting held on 15 January. There were not many items of interest on the agenda.

SHANNY LAROSE'S DEPARTURE

A shining success, a departure regretted by the Town of Barkmere

After three years of dedicated service to the Town of Barkmere, our colleague Shanny Larose is leaving her position to take on new professional challenges at Keurig Dr Pepper Canada (KDP Canada) an opportunity in her field of expertise in industrial relations.

During her time with the Town, Shanny demonstrated remarkable commitment, brilliantly juggling her professional responsibilities and her graduate studies. Her success in obtaining a master's degree in industrial relations at the Université de Montréal is a testament to her perseverance and ambition, an achievement that has always inspired us.

Although we regret her departure, we are sincerely proud of her progress and the achievement of her professional goals. We are deeply grateful for her valuable contribution to our municipal administration. Her professionalism, rigor, and team spirit will leave a positive mark.

We wish her all the best in this new chapter. We are delighted that Shanny will remain a resident of Barkmere, and who knows, perhaps we will have the pleasure of working with her again in other capacities in the future! Good luck, Shanny, in this exciting new adventure!



Picture taken by Shanny Larose on January 21st, 2026

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.