



## Echoes from Barkmere – May 2025

The following is a summary of the last Town Council meeting held on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2026

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The mayor would like to note that last February, a longtime resident of both Barkmere and Huberdeau, Mr. Yves Saint-Georges, passed away at the age of 87.

The City Council has offered its condolences to his family, particularly his two sons, Daniel and François. The community joins them in honoring his memory.

### SUMMER EMPLOYEES AND AVAILABILITIES AT THE LANDING

The Council officially hired the summer employees assigned to the boat landing: Ms. Daphné Trépanier-Mehnert, as well as Mr. Justin Walker and Mr. Frédérick Delisle-Mongeau. Mathilde Doyon-Pouliot was hired as an administrative assistant in the General Administration and Urban Planning Department.

It should be noted that Mayor Trépanier recused himself from the discussions during the adoption of this resolution due to a conflict of interest.

Our students will be on duty on weekends until the end of June, and then daily during the months of July and August.

We remind you of the importance of remaining polite and respectful toward these young workers, who are an integral part of our community.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The City presented its financial statements for the year 2025 at the May 9 meeting. Despite significant increases in regional expenditures, the City still managed to generate a small surplus of \$36,000, made possible primarily by higher-than-budgeted revenue from real estate transfer taxes. The planned withdrawals from the accumulated surplus were hardly used at all, as the expenditures covered by these withdrawals did not materialize for the most part.

The City invested nearly \$80,000 in 2025, primarily for the acquisition of the Parc des Résidents land.

The City's surpluses therefore remained essentially the same as at the end of 2024. We can thus continue to face unforeseen events with confidence, whether they are directly or indirectly related to climate change, the whims of higher levels of government, or the legal and environmental expenses necessary to continue protecting Barkmere, its lake, and its citizens.

We should likely expect a smaller surplus, if not a deficit, for the year 2026. The Council adopted a budget that includes an increase in transfer taxes, while acknowledging that the real estate market is expected to cool off this year, which appears to be the case.

### FOREST FIRE ON APRIL 28, 2026

If you haven't heard yet, on April 28, a forest fire was accidentally started in the eastern part of Silver Bay by a faulty leaf blower. Ironically, the Town of Barkmere and the Mont-Tremblant Fire Department (SIVMT) had issued a no-burning notice just a few days earlier.

In Barkmere, we all live in a rural, forested area where fire department response is difficult. These advisories must be followed, and it is prohibited to light campfires or burn branches while they are in effect. Additionally, a permit application must be submitted to the Town before burning any branches larger than a campfire. Permits are free and can be requested with a simple phone call or email; the Town simply wants to ensure that we all live safely within our community.

The fire on April 28, which devastated a significant area of forest near three homes, highlighted the need to revise the SIVMT's response protocol in Barkmere. The firefighters' response proved to be highly ineffective, with little or outdated equipment, and ultimately achieved nothing. The City will contact the SIVMT to request a working meeting to analyze the response, draw conclusions, and develop a clear protocol for firefighters and the municipal administration. The administration and City Council had already begun reviewing the condition of the pumps installed around the lake, which are too weak, too difficult to start, and, frankly, too old.

Yet it was with one of these old pumps that one of our citizens managed to contain the fire, with the help of a few other residents, and protect the three homes at risk until the SOPFEU firefighters arrived. Equipped with better gear, they were able to extinguish the blaze.

But had it not been for the quick and intelligent intervention of Mr. Richard O'Shaughnessy, there is no doubt that the three homes would have been completely destroyed by fire and razed to the ground. The City Council also made a point of recognizing Mr. O'Shaughnessy's quick thinking and swift action by adopting a resolution of thanks on his behalf, in the name of the City.

## INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE COUNCIL

A draft bylaw governing the conduct of City Council meetings has been introduced and is the subject of a notice of motion for adoption at an upcoming meeting. This is a legal requirement for cities and municipalities, and Barkmere did not have one in place until now.

The bylaw codifies the practices of the past 100 years and ensures that the Council's operations comply with the Cities and Towns Act in this regard. The draft bylaw is available on the City's website. We invite you to review it, as it also addresses citizen participation in meetings and clarifies, among other things, public comments and the question period.

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY

We would like to remind everyone that parking in the landing area will not be available from Thursday, July 23, through Monday, July 27. Please make alternative arrangements. The organizing committee, municipal employees, and volunteers need time before and after the event on Saturday, July 25, to set up and take down the necessary equipment.

You will be able to drive up to the municipal pier to drop off your belongings and supplies, but unloading and boarding must be done quickly so that the area can be cleared and you can park your car in one of the designated parking spaces.

The municipal administration is currently preparing a map of the various sites that will be available for parking. A shuttle service will be set up to connect these sites to the landing, as some of the selected locations are quite far from the municipal docks. It is important that parking users begin planning alternative arrangements for this weekend on their own, whether staying with friends, carpooling, etc.

The summer activities calendar is ready and will be published shortly by the City and the Association for the Protection of Lac des Écorces (APLÉ). Lots of fun in store this summer. Let's hope the weather celebrates Barkmere's 100th anniversary with us!

## LAST COUNCIL OF THE MRC DES LAURENTIDES

Just as the City did at the last Council meeting, the MRC also submitted its financial statements last month. This process did not spark much enthusiasm among Council members. They saved their comments for the discussion on the allocation of the MRC's surplus funds to various projects and expenses. As usual, Mayor Trépanier expressed some reservations about expenditures that he considered frivolous and unnecessary. Without much success this time around...



*Picture taken by Frédérick Delisle-Mongeau on May 16, 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.*