



## Council Communiqué – February 2007

Last year, we heard from many citizens about issues that seriously concerned them. The number one item on their list was the drainage problem that has plagued various neighborhoods. Those households situated along side the 20 did experience some improvement in the drainage when the overpass was built. But even this improvement suffered some setbacks. If it is not regularly maintained, back up problems could occur. Maintenance is now being done by the Minister of Transport and the situation is better. But we still can improve and we will.

A preliminary Master Plan required by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for application to receive funds from a Grant program has been completed, and is expected to be approved. From this Grant program we will receive \$675,000 from the Government of Quebec, monies collected from the Federal Gas tax intended to be transferred to the municipalities for their water and sewer infrastructures. We believe this amount will be sufficient to do the required study and work to improve the Town's drainage system. Once the funds are received, the first stage will be to send out tenders to hire an Engineering firm to conduct surveys throughout the Town, especially those areas most severely affected, evaluating the roads, ditches, and collection basins. This type of in-depth evaluation has never been conducted before, nor have these types of funds been available to us, so with the advantage of both these elements we sincerely expect to be a good position to achieve permanent solutions. We will keep you updated.

The reality with this crazy weather we have been experiencing is that nature's forces can quickly overwhelm the best drainage system, so citizens should still protect themselves with proper back up systems. At the last storm, our Rescue Squad and Public Works department helped drain forty household's basements. Malfunctioning sump pumps, no back-up sump pumps or battery system, or blocked pipes are often the causes. Residents are reminded that the pumps operated by the Town's water system are usually not efficient enough to prevent a flood and are prohibited by law. This cold spell has finally allowed us to give the go ahead to build the hockey and skating rinks that our families enjoy.....they should be functional at the time you are reading this, enjoy them in case the rains come back !



VILLE DE / TOWN OF BAIE D'URFÉ

Fondée/Founded 1686 • Incorporée/Incorporated 1911

---

Residents may have noted that there has been some damage caused to lawns by our snow removal contractor. This type of damage is unavoidable due to the fact that the Town has no curbs and that under certain weather conditions the snow comes before the ground is frozen. The Town will ensure that repairs are made as early as possible in the spring.

A final note, we expect the 2007 tax bills to be out to you by the first week of February.....yes, some people are asking when.

Lynda Phelps  
Councillor