



Council Communique – April 2008

Maxwell Residence

A request has been received from the Maxwell Residence for a by-law change which would permit an extension to the residence. The proposal is to extend the residence by 15 autonomous units and a complete assisted-living section catering to the needs of seniors with cognitive and physical challenges. The new wing would be approximately 10,000 square feet in size, and would extend from the existing building towards Victoria. Evergreen trees at least 20 feet high would be planted between the new wing and the neighboring homes. Unlike the plan proposed in 2006, this plan calls for the end of the new wing closest to the street to be 2 stories high instead of the full 3 stories.

The first draft by-law will be voted on at the next Council meeting on April 8. If the vote is in favour, the next step would be a public consultation meeting. Council would then vote on a second draft by-law. If this is also passed, residents in zones contiguous to the Maxwell Residence zone would then have the opportunity to petition for a register to be opened. A certain number of signatures are required to open the register. Once it is opened, if enough signatures are obtained on the register, Council would have to decide whether to withdraw the by-law or go to a referendum to decide the issue.

This is just a brief summary of what is quite a complicated process. It is not intended to be definitive, simply to give you a rough idea of the process involved.

Bicycle Path on Morgan Road

The Montreal Agglomeration Council is planning to build a bicycle path on Morgan Road, from Lakeshore to Highway 20, this summer. The path will be extended to Morgan Boulevard, through the industrial sector, in 2009 and will form part of a network of bicycle paths on the island of Montreal. The Town is working closely with the Agglomeration in the planning of the first phase, looking at the issues of safety (for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers), maintenance and appearance. Several preliminary plans have been discussed. At this point, we are still waiting to see the final plans. The full cost of the path will be borne by the Agglomeration.

Earth Day Composter Program – Sunday April 27

Once again, the Town will be making composters available to residents at a much reduced price. Residents interested in obtaining a Garden Gourmet composter for \$5 (retail \$30) are invited to attend the free composting information session to be held at the Public Works Building, 300 Surrey, between 10 am and noon. Experts will be present to answer your questions and help you get started.

Fire Hydrants

It may not seem much like it right now, but all that snow will disappear eventually. It's time to think about spring projects like fire hydrant painting. Once again we are looking for volunteers - we would like to see another 30 hydrants painted this spring, to add to the almost 60 that have been



done over the last two years. One group who have already volunteered to paint one is the Baie d'Urfé Cub troop, under the leadership of Akela Peggy Leech.

This time around I would like to issue some specific challenges:

1. There is a hydrant at the Morgan entrance to the town, just at the foot of the off-ramp from Highway 20 westbound. This is a very visible one, and it could be turned into something special – perhaps with a “Welcome to Baie d’Urfé” theme. If you are interested in submitting a design for this one, please contact me.
2. There are approximately 60 hydrants in the industrial sector, none of which have been done. We would like to have a few painted there also this year. Mr. Heiner Kammann and his staff at WECO have agreed to lead the way on this one, and are willing to paint several hydrants. Are there any other companies willing to paint one?
3. In 2006, all the hydrants along the Baie d’Urfé Days parade route were painted. Last year, a number of individual residents painted hydrants on their streets, which are scattered around the town. Looking at the map however, I see that there are several good-sized streets which still have no hydrants done, and it would be great to fill in those gaps. I already have commitments from residents on Birch Hill, Cambridge, Morgan and Somerset to fill some of the gaps. That leaves four more streets, so here is the challenge: would anyone on Jean-de-la-Londe, Lakeview, Oxford, or Sunny Acres like to paint a hydrant?

If you would like to get involved, either to respond to one of these challenges or otherwise, I can be contacted at jryan@baie-durfe.qc.ca or by phone at 514-457-0302. There are a few restrictions on designs: political or religious symbols, corporate logos, sports team logos, and flags are not permitted. The paint and brushes (and Polyclens!) will be provided by the Town. The aim is to have 30 hydrants completed in time for Baie d’Urfé Days on June 13 to 15.

Planning Program

At the March meeting, Council adopted the new Planning Program. A public consultation had been held on this plan on February 5. The new planning program replaces the City of Montreal’s plan, which had applied to us although it did not really meet our needs. The new plan establishes our general aims of land development policy, policies on land use and land occupation density, and the layout and type of principal thoroughfares and transport systems.

The plan states that one of its objectives is to control the increase in the average house size and to encourage sustainable development. The intention is to maintain a certain level of housing suitable for young families and seniors, and to maintain a sustainable community – in both a demographic and an environmental sense. The Town Planning Committee has, after much study, recommended to Council a number of by-law changes to achieve these goals, and we should see this effort come to fruition very shortly.

Janet Ryan
Municipal Councillor