

September 30th Heavy Rainshowers

Councillor Peter Fletcher's column this month deals with the impacts of last month's extraordinarily heavy rainfall on certain homes in Baie-D'Urfé. Please read it as it appears that most of the flooding could have been avoided with better preparedness.

Another big area of concern that came up in our post-mortem discussions is that certain citizens are not aware that the Town offers assistance in flooding situations. This was also confirmed by the many seniors attending our seniors' meeting on October 20th.

To benefit from this FREE service, you need only call 514 457-5324 during Town business hours or 514 630-1234 outside regular hours. Help will be dispatched to your location as quickly as possible.

Our Public Works department and our Volunteer Rescue Squad are there to help, and they gladly responded to all those citizens who called in for help.

I want to take this opportunity to thank them all for the great service they provided our citizens... they worked through the night, the next day and the day after that to respond to all our citizens in distress. A special thank you goes out to our volunteers in the Rescue Squad who make it their priority to be available to help their fellow citizens in need.

Train de l'Ouest Movement Visits Quebec City October 19th

A convoy consisting of West Island elected officials; Mr. Gilles Farand, prefect of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges MRC; and Mr. Clifford Lincoln (former Liberal MNA and MP) and Mr. Georges Nydam (former Industrial Commissioner of the CLD West Island), now co-leaders of the Train de l'Ouest citizens' movement, went to Quebec City on Tuesday, October 19th to make the case that a dedicated passenger train service from Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue to Lucien L'Allier should become the government's priority transport project to serve the West-Island and that work on it should start NOW!

Representing the West-Island were Mayor Maria Tutino (Baie-D'Urfé), Mayor David Pollock (Beaconsfield), Mayor John Meaney (Kirkland), Mayor

Bill McMurchie (Pointe-Claire), Mayor Francis Deroo (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) and Councillor Dennis Dicks (Senneville). While the Councils of Dorval and Dollard-des-Ormeaux are also equally supportive of the project, they were not able to attend.

Much was accomplished by the group in Quebec City. Firstly, we attended the National Assembly Question Period where Mr. Geoffrey Kelley, MNA for Jacques-Cartier, deposited the petition of approximately 8900 manual signatures collected since September 7th. Over 2300 additional signatures and counting daily have also been collected via the Government of Quebec's website and will be deposited at the next government meeting in November.

Our first hour long meeting with the MNAs included Minister Yolande James (Nelligan), Mr. Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier), Mr. Francois Ouimet (Marquette), Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin), Mrs. Lucie Charlebois (Soulanges), Mr. Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil), Mr. Lawrence Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee), Mr. Jacques Chagnon (Westmount-Saint-Louis) and Mr. Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun). It was a very positive meeting. Each MNA assured us of his or her unconditional support for this project.

Our joint meeting with Minister of Finance, Minister of Revenue and Minister responsible for the Montreal region Raymond Bachand and Minister of Transport Sam Hamad with our MNAs in attendance was equally positive. What was scheduled as a 30 minute meeting with Minister Hamad (due to a scheduling conflict) and a 60 minute meeting with Minister Bachand became, to our delight, a 90 minute meeting.

Here is an excerpt from the statement released by the Ministers the day after our meeting.

West Island train and Montréal airport shuttle - A SUCCESSFUL MEETING WITH MAYORS OF MONTRÉAL WEST ISLAND

QUÉBEC, October 20, 2010

"We understand the representations of elected officials and citizens of the West Island. This was a successful meeting that will be useful for subsequent events. The some 380 000 citizens of the West Island need train service

Mayor's Message

on a dedicated railway line. And Montréal airport also needs a downtown shuttle. I see these as two priority projects," Minister Raymond Bachand said.

"I want to thank the mayors of the West Island and Clifford Lincoln for their work. Focusing increasingly on sustainable development, our government is making the utilization and increased offering of public transit a priority. To move this project forward, we intend to work with the elected officials concerned and we hope their project can become a reality as quickly as possible," Minister Sam Hamad indicated.

I would say mission accomplished by our group. We also made it clear to the Ministers and our MNAs that "as soon as possible" meant NOW to us!

Seniors meeting held October 20th

Councillor Kim Millette and myself held a very productive meeting with many seniors in our Town October 20th. Many thanks go to Baie-D'Urfé Community Life staff member Darlene Ward who helped spread the word and to the Maxwell Residence which kindly provided the much appreciated refreshments.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify areas where the Town could contribute to improving the quality of life of our Town seniors. While the objective was to deal with municipal issues, we also discussed the inadequacy of social services available to seniors in the West-Island.

One citizen approached me after the meeting and suggested that the Town keep in mind the Fifty Plus group when considering improved municipal services as they would also like to participate.

Council was asked to look into different matters relevant to seniors including: improvements to recreational services for the "fifty plus" group; improved communication regarding services available in Town for seniors; incentives to get doctors to set up offices in Town; the possibility of deferring tax increase payments to "after the sale of the home"; and the use of a Town facility where "Fifty Plus" groups could organize regular recreational-type activities or just hang out.

If there are other items that you would like us to consider, please share them with either Councillor Millette at 514 457-5679 or myself at 514 457-6291.

Following are the answers to the 3 questions that I agreed to provide responses to in this month's column.

- Volunteer Assisted Services (VAS) :
514 694-3838
- John Abbott Student Employment Center:
514 457-6610 extension 5315
- Latest tenants of the Baie-D'Urfé Plaza:
 - **Dr. Haber and DR. Westwood, pediatricians**
 - **Olga Dmytryeva-Roitenberg, sports medicine and rapid osteopathy**

Maria Tutino
Mayor