

Mayor's Message

Maria Tutino - Mayor

Historical Milestones

325 years ago, on November 29, 1686 l'Abbé d'Urfé, a Sulpician priest, signed the first register of the Parish of St-Louis-du-Bout-de-l'Île. 100 years ago, in March of 1911, the new Town of "Baie d'Urfée" was created.

Celebratory Year

2011 is a very special year for us since we are celebrating the incorporation of our Town. Our Centennial Committee has prepared a year-long program of activities that will certainly make this a year to remember. Committee members have worked closely with Town organizations, schools, staff and citizens to create new centennial activities and to also enhance existing Town festivities with a centennial twist.

The centennial celebrations started with our annual New Year's Levee, where our citizens were pleasantly surprised to be greeted by Council and staff dressed in period costumes and Mr. Robin Thibault, RCMP bagpiper, who volunteered for the occasion. An exhibit of framed historic photos and memorabilia was also organized to send guests back in time. In January, there were also two Centennial inspired Open Houses which I was pleased to attend. I would like to thank Joseph-Henrico and Dorset schools for their invitations and for their embrace of the centennial in the planning of their year's activities.

This month's centennial focus will be on the 3rd annual Winterfest that is being put on by the Baie d'Urfe Citizens' Association on February 12th (a big thank you goes to Ron Cryer and his team). The Town will be sponsoring the dance-skate event and the horse drawn sleigh rides. Come join in the fun... there will be activities for all ages!

Following are some of the other activities planned thus far for 2011:

- ▲ Commemoration of the Town's incorporation (March)
- ▲ Earth Day Hosta giveaway to every household (April 29 and 30)

- ▲ Official unveiling of the Morgan entrance project (June);
- ▲ Baie-D'Urfé citizens' art exhibit at the Fritz Community Center organized by Nicole Dorion (various media with theme scenes of Baie-D'Urfé, week of June 13th)
- ▲ Special Pyronia fireworks display (Baie-D'Urfé Days, June 19th)
- ▲ Celebration of the first Council meeting (July)
- ▲ Antique Car show on the grounds of the Fritz Community Center (August 7)

More activities are in the works and will be announced in future News and Views columns. Special thanks go to the Centennial Committee consisting of Councillors Kim Millette and Lynda Phelps, and staff members Darlene Ward and Nathalie Hadida for all their hard work.

2011 Budget

By now, you will have received your 2011 tax bill from the Town of Baie-D'Urfé. Once again, Council is very pleased to report that Baie-D'Urfé citizens continue to have the lowest residential, 6 dwellings and more and non-residential mill rates on the island of Montreal.

The mill rate for residential properties has been set at \$0.8009 and the rate for non-residential properties at \$3.3959. The rate for buildings of more than 6 dwellings is \$0.8009. All rates are per \$100 of property valuation.

These rates reflect the fact that Council decided to spread the 2011-2013 roll's property valuation increase over 3 years rather than imposing the increase in one shot as 5 out of 15 cities on the island chose to do.

For the 10 cities who chose to spread the valuation increase over three years, residential mill rates range from **\$0.8009 (Baie-D'Urfé)** to \$1.5556; non-residential rates range from **\$3.3959 (Baie-D'Urfé)** to \$5.6007 and 6 dwellings and more rates range from **\$0.8009 (Baie-D'Urfé)** to \$1.5556.

For the 5 cities who decided not to spread the property increases, residential rates range from \$0.7221 to \$1.1860, non-residential rates range from \$3.3053 to \$3.9479 and 6 dwellings and more rates range from \$0.8571 to \$1.2143.

For comparison purposes, had we chosen to tax our citizens taking into consideration 100% of the property valuation increase in 2011 instead of just a third of it, Baie-D'Urfé's mill rates would have been: a residential and 6 dwellings rate of \$0.6972 and a non-residential rate of \$3.0643.

So, when reading the newspaper comparisons, don't let the numbers fool you... we are still the lowest on the island in an "apples to apples" comparison!

Junior Council - 1st quarter date changed to February 10th from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Junior Council is still going strong. We have had an average of 20 youth attend our meetings since its creation in March 2008. I am very proud of this initiative and of its success. Our youth have embraced the Junior Council and are actively participating in the running of our Town. They have initiated some projects, supervised others and offered invaluable advice to the Mayor on others. Thanks to them, certain park equipment have been selected or improved, certain safety measures have been implemented and certain Town projects have been either initiated or enhanced. This year, they will be contributing to the Town's centennial celebrations. More to come in future columns.

The success of our Junior Council is spawning others on the Island. Côte St-Luc is the latest City to announce the creation of a Junior Council based on our model.

It has been a real pleasure for me to work with the youth of Baie-D'Urfé and to look at our Town and its administration through their young eyes and young minds.

Please tell your kids about this group, better still, encourage them to attend one of our meetings.

