



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – NOVEMBER 2007

Agglomeration news

The dates for the parliamentary commission to debate Bill 22 have been set. Bill 22 is an Act which was introduced in June by the Minister of Municipal Affairs to amend various legislative provisions concerning the urban agglomeration of Montreal. The demerged cities are scheduled to give their presentation on Tuesday, November 13th at 10:30 am in Quebec City. The City of Montreal will be speaking at 3pm on the same day. That day falls on our next Council meeting night which means that I will be most likely absent from our Council meeting next month.

A subcommittee of mayors from the demerged cities, of which I am a member, have been working very hard to prepare our case for substantive changes to the agglomeration, changes which we feel would make the agglomeration a fairer, more democratic and equitable body ... a body that would be better equipped to deal with regional issues and make decisions that would be beneficial to the whole island and not just to Montreal, the majority partner on the island.

Three issues are very important to us:

- 1) that an objective committee be established that clearly spells out what constitutes a regional service and then, based on those clearly established criteria, the committee would determine what the regional services should be for the agglomeration on the island of Montreal;
- 2) that each city in the agglomeration be provided with a bill for their fair share of providing these regional services. That is to say that the agglomeration would no longer be able to tax the citizens directly. There would be one tax bill for the citizens. The local city (e.g. Baie d'Urfé) would tax its citizens in order to cover both the local costs and its share of the agglomeration expenditures.
- 3) that the agglomeration be a legal entity. This last item being the most important of all. The agglomeration cannot continue to be the City of Montreal or vice versa due to the obvious inherent conflict of interest.

The parliamentary hearings may be our last chance in a long while to effect the much needed changes to the very dysfunctional agglomeration reality we have been living with for the last two years. Two years of frustration where we have witnessed the City of Montreal imposing its agenda on the rest of the island and finding creative ways for our citizens to pay a larger burden of the agglomeration tax and in some cases, even getting us to pay a share of their local services. Two years where we in Baie d'Urfé have been doubly taxed for water and sewage treatment, paying for both services through agglomeration and local taxes even though we don't receive any water from the agglomeration in either the residential or industrial sector and we do not receive any sewage treatment services for our residential sector since we are served by septic systems.

A copy of the final brief will be available in early November on our website at www.baie-durfe.qc.ca. Let's hope that the promises we have been getting from our provincial members of parliament that changes will be made, will actually come to fruition and that we are not disappointed once again.

Citizens in the spotlight

This month I would like to highlight two employees of the Town of Baie d'Urfé and two citizens from our residential sector.



Pierre Yves Morin and Carole Lecours

Anyone who has come into the Town Hall in October has had the pleasure of admiring Pierre Yves' and Carole's handiwork. Both came in on a weekend to decorate the Town Hall for Hallowe'en to the delight of the many visitors to Town Hall and those working there. They did a splendid job and we all appreciate them generously giving of their precious family time to do this for us all. Thank you, Pierre Yves and Carole ... and I, like many others, await your next creative projects.

Greg Patenaude

The Town wants to acknowledge Greg Patenaude's generosity in providing the funds to replace the flooring in the kitchen at the Town Hall. Late spring, the Town was approached by Greg who had heard that the Town was considering renovating the kitchen at the Town Hall and was looking at a variety of different flooring options. Being President of Bois Péladeau Inc., Greg felt that it would only be natural and fitting that the Town's choice should be wood, Canadian wood, a choice complementary to the building's character while at the same time promoting a Canadian industry.

Greg generously picked up the tab for the wood and its installation and the work should be completed by the year-end. Thank you, Greg and thank you to Bois Péladeau Inc. for your very generous donation.

Eleanor Algie

Mark November 15th on your calendar and come join me, members of Council, Eleanor's family and the many friends of Eleanor Algie at Maxwell Residence from 2pm to 4pm for a huge celebration ... Eleanor's 100th birthday party! Come and help us honor a great lady who has been a citizen of our Town for half a century.

The Town will be honoring Eleanor and all Baie d'Urfé centenarians with a tree planted on the grounds of Town Hall. If you know of any other citizen who has already reached the hundred year mark or who will be doing so soon, please let us know so that we can add their names to the commemorative plaque.

Baie d'Urfé Citizens Association

November is also membership month for the Baie d'Urfé Citizens' Association. Please consider becoming a member. It is a very affordable way for you to learn about what is happening in town and what activities your neighbors and local associations are up to and also, for the Town to keep you informed.

November, as usual, bodes to be a very active month.
Keep safe, keep healthy, keep happy and keep smiling!

Maria Tutino
Mayor