



## Mayor's Message – October 2007

### Agglomeration news

A date has not as yet been set for the parliamentary commissions to deal with the structure and governance of the agglomeration of Montreal. It could be as early as mid October to as late as November. Meanwhile, the mayors of the demerged cities are continuing their work to finalize the brief that will be presented at the hearings.

A lot of work was also done this month in trying to quantify the extent of double taxation imposed on the citizens of Baie d'Urfé by the agglomeration. For example, since 2006, Baie d'Urfé citizens, both corporate and residential, have been taxed by the Town of Baie d'Urfé for the water they consume. At the same time, the agglomeration taxed our citizens, based on property value, for the water infrastructure required to improve the island-wide water network. The amount, which is not trivial (several hundred thousand dollars per year), is totally unjust as 100% of the water Baie d'Urfé citizens consume comes from Pointe Claire and is totally covered by the local tax bill.

As well, we have tried to determine the extent of double taxation for our residential sector when it comes to sewage treatment. Once again, the agglomeration taxed our homeowners for sewage treatment, a service that our homeowners do not benefit from since our homes are on septic systems. Moreover, our homeowners' local taxes cover the cleaning of their septic systems.

We will be addressing these injustices at an upcoming meeting in early October with the provincial government's designated consultant who has been mandated to review the financing of water by all the 16 municipalities on the island and to make appropriate recommendations to the Minister. I will keep you posted on our progress.

On a positive note: **Morgan Road**, from Lakeshore road all the way through to Chemin Ste Marie, is one of the roads being considered by the agglomeration to be a north-south bicycle path. The first phase of the bicycle path is being incorporated into the reconstruction of the Morgan interchange (Chemin Ste Marie end) which should be completed by the end of October. The second phase, which could start as early as this fall, would be the portion from Lakeshore to Highway 20. The third phase through the industrial sector is being considered for 2008. All the costs would be absorbed by the agglomeration including, for phase 2, expanding the road 1.5 meters on each side, filling the ditches on the east side of Morgan and repairing any damages to citizens' properties.

### Town News

Construction activity continues. Drainage work on Hawthorne, Picardy and Bedford was delayed due to the difficulty of securing some essential equipment for the job. The equipment has been received by the contractor and they are busy at work on Hawthorne as I write.

In the industrial sector:

- 1) The pedestrian pathway on Clark Graham should be completed by October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) The work on the Morgan interchange is now projected to be completed by October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Town employees, along with a participant from our Industrial sector (Johanne Boucher, Human Resources Manager - WECO Electrical Connectors Inc.), took a first aid course in September on defibrillator usage. The Town bought a defibrillator last year and our Volunteer Rescue Squad received the required training. Wherever the Squad goes, so does the defibrillator. We hope to buy another defibrillator soon, which will be kept at Town Hall.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe Halloween.  
Maria Tutino