



Bill 22 was tabled today ... a bill deposited by the Provincial Government to deal with the agglomeration of Montreal. A bill that outlines several elements for discussion in the fall on how the agglomeration could be set up and governed so that there could be an objective mechanism to identify services that would be shared and provided by the agglomeration and to provide more transparency, accountability and equitable cost sharing for all the partners on the agglomeration regardless of their size.

Already the spin doctors are hard at work crying foul play and outrage that those rebellious 220,000 citizens who dared fight and win to take back their cities, cities that had been forcibly merged, now have the audacity to want a structure and governance that is transparent and accountable. Why won't we go away, they ask? Why won't we just allow ourselves to be taxed at will without any representation or voice at the table? How dare we look for reasonableness, fairness and equitability? After all, we, the 15 municipalities, are just a tiny minority on the island, just 13% on the island of Montreal. Shouldn't we be just feel honored and privileged to help share the tax burden of our 1.6 million neighbors ... why do we need to know if the service is one that is regional in nature, if the service benefits all the citizens on the island? Why do we need to know where our tax dollars go? What's our beef anyway?

Suffice it to say, that the battle for fair treatment and respect will continue. We recognize our responsibility to the island of Montreal and are more than willing and ready to share the island expenses and help the island prosper. We always have and we will always continue to do so.

We also recognize our responsibility to our citizens and we have to make sure that we are not bullied into paying more than our fair share and that larger cities are not allowed to transfer their local burden onto our citizens back. The fall parliamentary session will be a busy one for us as we try to find some fair resolution to a problem mired in emotional landmines and spin-doctoring.

On a positive note ... let's reflect on excellence and some recent events that highlight why Baie d'Urfe is special and why we fought so hard to get back our town.

First The Baie d'Urfe Citizens' Association and Baie d'Urfe Days

I have been a citizen of this beautiful town for almost two decades and the Baie d'Urfe Days Festival always renews and strengthens my appreciation for our Town, our citizens and the Citizens' Association. Where else but here can such a hugely successful, well-run, well-participated 3-day volunteer driven and managed event occur?

Many, many thanks to Lyman Canning and his Baie d'Urfe Days team for organizing this year's outstanding weekend of events. It was by everyone's account, definitely the best ever (at least until next year!)

Town Gardens

The Town is beginning to look like the Baie d'Urfe of pre-merger days. Our Public Works Department have been working very hard to return the gardens to their former colorful and splendid state. See if you can find the two floral sailboats that Adam and Daniel created in the Fritz Gardens for your enjoyment.

First Responder Service



There are 66 fire stations on the island of Montreal. On June 11th 7 new fire stations, including our own on Surrey, were fully geared up to provide first responder service for priority one calls – for medical emergencies requiring immediate attention. Now all 15 stations in the western section of Montreal are fully staffed with first responder service.

In just the first week of operation our first responder team answered 5 calls in Baie d'Urfe. The average response time has been around the four minute mark significantly below the 14 or so minutes that it took an ambulance to come answering before. This is a huge difference especially in cardiac arrest cases, where every minute is critical, because it takes just six minutes of oxygen deprivation for brain damage to occur.

A big thank you to our Firemen at Station 52 for agreeing to provide this invaluable service to our community.

Baie d'Urfe Scouts

One of our citizen leaders in scouting has received a very special award from the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General and Chief Scout of Canada.

Joseph Pepin was awarded the SILVER ACORN for Especially Distinguished Service to Scouting in recognition of the leadership and inspiration he has given to the Scouting Movement and for all his hard work on the Quebec Council.

Congratulations, Joe for being recognized officially for your many distinguished years of involvement with the Scout movement. Baie d'Urfe youth is privileged to have benefited from your services for the past fifteen years. Thank you and well done!

Alexander von Humboldt Scule wins Environment Award

Congratulations to teacher Annette Woehrlé and the students of Alexander von Humboldt Scule for winning the "Profs en action 2006-2007" contest organized by the Fondation Muséums Nature Montreal, which includes the Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Gardens and the Planetarium. The winning project entitled "Recycling at our school ... care about your environment" entailed providing properly labeled separate recycling containers (paper, plastic, metals and glass) for all class rooms, offices, cafeteria, library, etc, as well as organizing an information session for all students and staff, and explaining the importance and how-to of recycling at the school. Students went around the school collecting the recyclables weekly..

Thanks to Maren Gube, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the school and a Baie d'Urfe resident for sharing this information with us. It is good to see that our youth are following in the traditional Baie d'Urfe style of citizen participation.

Fire Hydrants

The artists of the community, of all ages, have been at work on our fire hydrants. By the time you read this, there should be 29 new painted hydrants around the town (in addition to the 28 which were painted last year). 13 are being painted this year by our schools (Alexander von Humboldt, Joseph-Henrico and Whiteside Taylor) and 16 by individual residents or families.

The new hydrants are scattered all over town, from Magnolia to St. Andrew's, from Surrey to just off Lakeshore. There are 11 west of Morgan and 18 east of Morgan. To help you find them, a complete list is below. Go on a walking tour, or bicycle around, and see how many you can find!



Once again, I have been amazed at the creativity and talent shown by all of our citizens. The new hydrants range in subject matter from animals to seascapes, to a Picasso-esque face (209 Calais), to a desert island (22 Watterson), to a map of the world (Fritz Farm). Don't miss the beautiful painting of flowers tucked away at 41 Fir.

Many thanks to all those who participated. We will be doing more next year – watch for the call for volunteers next spring!

Hydrant Location:

Balsam (43), Bedford (93, 115), Burgundy (6), Calais (209), Carriere (8), Devon (92), Dowker (696, 710), Elm (117), Fir (41, 45), Fritz Farm east side, Gray (27), Iroquois (295), Lorraine (287), Magnolia (10, 39), Maughan (15), Normandy (26),

Red Barn (west side), St. Andrew's (84), Surrey (124, opposite Gray), Victoria (702), Watterson (22, 31), Westchester (697), Winters (283)

Have a great summer, all! Enjoy your families and keep safe and be happy!

Maria