



Message from the Mayor –April 2007

I have recently returned from a holiday in China which was a true eye-opener for me. The major cities of China are all under construction – cranes everywhere. So much so, that the citizens are now joking that the crane has become their national bird.

What impressed me most about my travels in China was their respect for their history and the excellence of their new construction which is being built in the same vein of grandeur and beauty as their ancient buildings and monuments. Future generations visiting China will likely be as in awe of these new additions as any current visitor is today of the many extraordinary ancient world heritage sites that exist in China.

Construction in China stands out both for its quality of design and creativity and in the magnitude of the projects. Everything is being built to last, to impress and to appeal. The citizens seem to be proud of their achievements and of their place in the world today and are optimistic regarding their future.

All this is impressive but what intrigued me most, particularly because of my involvement in municipal government, is how spotless, safe and well-managed the cities were. Also, environment issues and protection of minority rights were heavily discussed items in local newspapers. Climate change concerns and what each individual could do to help address these situations were brought up by every English university student we spoke to. Minority groups were not only protected but encouraged to prosper (94% of the Chinese population is of the Han origin, while the 6% come from 55 other ethnic groups). Moreover, the cities were spotless – not a piece of paper or junk seen lying around anywhere.

This experience brought me back to Baie d'Urfé with a renewed appreciation of our own little paradise and how we can continue to make our little town a town known for its excellence, beauty, cleanliness, environmentally friendly policies and safety; how we can continue to encourage our wonderful volunteers who help us achieve this reputation and how we can motivate our youth to come on board.

Our citizens are key to maintaining Baie d'Urfé as a special place to live in and visit. April 15th through the 21st is volunteer week ... a special thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help us blossom and prosper!

Also, April 22nd is Earth Day ... let's us all think of ways that we can contribute to protect our city and our planet. I would appreciate hearing any ideas you may have on this subject.

Maria Tutino