



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – MAY 2008

We got lucky!

The winter was long and brought almost record snowfalls. Expecting the usual spring weather (rainy and warm), cities prepared for the worst flooding in years. But as unusual was the winter, so was the very dry April weather and fortunately, Baie d'Urfé and most of the other cities on the Island were spared.

Baie d'Urfé Juniors do us proud

The first Junior Council held on March 27th was a great success with twenty-six of our young citizens attending. Our juniors brought forward many interesting and constructive ideas on how services and communication to the youth group could be improved. Among other suggestions, they indicated that they would like to see more bicycle paths in Town, more water fountains in the parks and would like us to provide a water playground area. They also talked about wanting occasional Friday night get-togethers in Town ... a youth attending said that she would consider organizing them if she had some help. Please give me a call at 514-457-6291, if you would like to help.

Our youth had opinions on everything ...on snow clearance and salting, on the environment and the need to improve recycling, on speeding and the state of our parks and playgrounds. Last but not least, in the typical Baie d'Urfe fashion, they wanted to know what they could do to help the Town. They suggested a couple of ideas, which the Town will consider for implementation this year.

Our children were delightful, positive and well informed. The future of Baie d'Urfe is in good hands! Since all parties enjoyed the first Junior Council meeting, it was suggested that we meet on a quarterly basis. The next one will be in June.

Seniors' Meeting in May

Councilor Huguette Thomassin has scheduled a meeting with our seniors at 1pm on May 14th at the Red Barn. Please see her column this month for more details.

Finally all the hard work is beginning to pay off.

May should bring good news for the citizens of the demerged cities on the Island of Montreal. The Minister of Municipal Affairs is expected to announce the much-anticipated agglomeration reform. All indications are that the reform will address many of the issues that the demerged cities have identified over the last couple of years. Let's hope we are not disappointed again.

Also, in May we hope to have finalized an agreement on how Baie d'Urfe's sewage could be treated by the agglomeration. Our citizens pay agglomeration taxes that include sewage treatment (and have done so in 2006, 2007 and 2008) even though we don't receive the service at the agglomeration level and are taxed locally for it. Foreward going, this would mean that the Town of Baie d'Urfe would no longer have to pay to have the sewage from citizens' septic systems treated and therefore would not include the cost in the local tax bill. This would remove one of the double taxation irritants that Baie d'Urfe has experienced since the demerger. Water is another one and a bigger and more costly one ... a lot more work awaits us before that double taxation issue is resolved.

It looks like I will have a lot to report next month. If you can't wait that long, join us at the Council meeting on May 13th, 7:30 pm at the Town Hall where I start each meeting with a report on what's happened during the month.

Maria Tutino, Mayor



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Mayor