



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – NOVEMBER 2008

Almost three years have passed since we got our Town back. And finally, after almost three years of living with the dysfunctional and abusive agglomeration structure that was imposed at the moment of the demerger, relief finally seems close at hand.

The devil is in the details, and as many of you know, particularly the subscribers to the News and Views and those who have followed our efforts over the past three years, we have been disappointed before.

First, the definites... In October, after two years of representations to the provincial government, Baie d'Urfe and the other demerged cities received monies owed to them relating to dumping fees and waste management objectives for the period of December 2006 to June 2008, monies which the City of Montreal wanted to go to the Agglomeration instead (about \$52 000 for Baie d'Urfe).

In regards to Baie d'Urfe more specifically, after again almost two years of effort, we are close to removing the double taxation for the sewage treatment required by our septic systems. We negotiated a procedure to have this sewage treated by the Agglomeration, thereby eliminating the cost to do so locally (since 2006 we have been paying for this agglomeration service even though we could not take advantage of it). This will translate into annual savings of over \$70 000.

Also, after 2 ½ years of sustained effort, the demerged cities succeeded in having the following changes made to the Agglomeration in an agreement signed with the government and Montreal on June 12<sup>th</sup>:

- One tax bill for citizens, which will be sent by the demerged city. The Town will receive a tax bill from the Agglomeration of Montreal based on a formula that is currently under discussion. The Town will then tax its citizens to help pay for local and agglomeration expenses.
- The cost of repairing and maintaining arterial roads will be returned to the city where the roads are located. Also, the debt associated with the work done during the years 2006-2008 will be assumed by the city where the work was done (while the demerged cities paid for approximately 21% of the work done on arterial roads and while 18% of these roads were in our combined cities, less than 6% of the work done was in our territories. There are no arterial roads to speak of in Baie d'Urfe).
- Reduction in the number of areas under the responsibility of the Agglomeration.

These three major changes to the Agglomeration should translate into a significant reduction in Baie d'Urfe's agglomeration tax responsibility.

Following, are three other important additional upcoming changes to the Agglomeration that arose from the same agreement:



## VILLE DE / TOWN OF BAIE D'URFÉ

Fondée/Founded 1686 • Incorporée/Incorporated 1911

---

- Creation of an Agglomeration Audit Review Committee (Vera Danyluk - Town of Mont Royal and Maria Tutino - Baie d'Urfe are the two representatives for the demerged cities.)
- Discussion table to review how water should be handled on the island of Montreal (Bill McMurchie - Pointe Claire is our representative).
- Discussion table to determine what Montreal downtown expenses, if any, should be considered as agglomeration in nature (Karin Marks – Westmount is our representative).

These are all positive steps forward for the citizens of the demerged cities and I am hopeful that the outcome of our continued efforts will bring future additional reductions in our combined local and agglomeration tax burdens.

Two other 2009 Baie d'Urfe - initiated projects dealing with the agglomeration are:

- 1) A bicycle path on Morgan in the industrial sector (project approved).
- 2) A seniors' "transit service" pilot project with the cities of Senneville, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue and Beaconsfield (request put to the STM for consideration in their 2009 budget).

A lot is going on at the agglomeration level and for the past three years that has been your mayor's main preoccupation as well as that of the mayors of the other demerged cities. We have made a lot of progress but there is still a lot more to do. The agglomeration aspect of the mayoral job takes up a significant portion of a demerged mayor's time. This naturally follows when you take into account that anywhere from 60% to 75% of the taxes collected in a demerged city's territory goes to the agglomeration (75% in Baie d'Urfe's case).

### At the local level

I want to take this opportunity to thank two of our citizens for their generous contribution to our Town.

Pharmacist **Simon Paquin** has once again donated funds to the Town for use in providing services to our community. In 2006, Mr. Paquin's contribution helped to furnish our Volunteer Rescue Squad with equipment required to provide emergency assistance to our Town's citizens. This year, his contribution will go towards the purchase of two additional water fountains for our parks.

Also, a big thank you goes to **Deirdre Ware** who donated her creative talents and helped fund the beautiful Town Hall kitchen curtains.

Thank you to them and to all the wonderful citizens who give so generously of their time and money to make Baie d'Urfe such a wonderful place to live in.

What a perfect opening to speak of the Baie d'Urfe Citizens' Association and their immense contribution to the Town, a contribution that has been ongoing since 1947. November is their membership drive. You owe it to yourself to join!

Maria Tutino  
Mayor