



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – SEPTEMBER 2008

2nd Citizens' Consultation regarding building size to be held on October 16th

Since the demerger, the number one concern expressed by residents has been regarding the large size of the new houses going up in Baie d'Urfé and the effect that they are having on the landscape, community and lifestyle in Town. The concern is not a new one; it is one that has been expressed before. This issue was identified in the Baie d'Urfé Planning Program of 1989 and is again part of the 2008 Planning Program.

Specifically, the 2008 Baie d'Urfé Planning Program states the following:

"Baie d'Urfé Planning Bylaws already include high standards with regard to building size, shape and materials. They also include provisions regarding the planning and use of open space and the preservation of trees.

However, a number of large houses built recently contrast very sharply with the smaller houses which still form most of Baie d'Urfé's residential landscape. With the significant and continuing increases in land values, there is considerable motivation for individuals to buy a smaller house in order to demolish it and use the lot for a much larger house, without any regard for the character of the street as a whole.

These new houses, as well as enlargements of existing houses, are often designed so as to appear larger and more imposing than the surrounding houses, reducing garden area and vegetation, and contributing to the urbanization of the neighborhood.

The tendency towards only large houses also affects the sustainability of the community, as the ratio of housing suitable for young families and seniors diminishes. The increase in house size is often accompanied by increased paving of driveways, patios, pool areas, etc.

This adds to the load on the Town's storm drainage system and further reduces garden space and vegetation.

One of the main objectives of the Town of Baie d'Urfé with respect to housing, arising from this Planning Program exercise, is to control the increase in the average house size and encourage sustainable development through the municipal zoning bylaws."

This concern is not unique to our citizens. Councils throughout Canada and the United States are preoccupied with this same issue and are in the process of developing legislation to restrict house sizes via differing measures appropriate to their specific landscape and community objectives.

Council has heard your concerns and at the Public Consultation Meeting of August 14th, Councilors Chuck Colomb and Janet Ryan presented draft by-law 875-73 and Council's proposed measures affecting the size, design and landscaping of future house construction in Baie d'Urfé. Had these proposed changes been in place in 2008, about 5 to 6% of the current houses in Baie d'Urfé would have been non-conforming (with those on lot sizes under 15 070 sq. ft. seeing no effect at all). It is important to note that all current non-conforming houses are grandfathered and that they would have the right to be rebuilt following a disaster in any place on the lot and in any design as long as the non-conformity was not increased.



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About 50 people attended the Public Consultation Meeting and gave Council some initial feedback – some in favor and others not.

Copies of the proposed by-law and of the handout that provides the highlights of the proposed by-law changes as compared to the existing building parameters are available at the Town Hall in English and in French. These documents are also posted on our website. Please familiarize with the proposed by-law and feel free to ask questions to ensure that you have a good understanding of what is being proposed.

Draft by-law 875-73 is not set in stone. What is being proposed is the result of two years of work by Council and our Planning Committee. It is important that we get your feedback. We need to know if our proposals have addressed your concerns correctly ... are we on the right track ... did we go too far or not far enough, and if so, in what area?

We welcome your comments and look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on **October 16th at the Red Barn at 7:30 p.m.** where we will go over the draft by-law again and then Council will listen to your remarks. Following that, Council will deliberate and decide whether the draft by-law should be altered, dropped or adopted as presented.

This is a very important piece of legislation that will define the future vision for Baie d'Urfé ... the decisions made with this legislation will impact on the type of Town and community we will have in the future. **YOU NEED TO BE PART OF THE DEBATE.**

Tax Credit for Seniors – Tuesday, September 30 at 1:30 pm at the Red Barn

Councilor Huguette Thomassin has made arrangements for Me Jill Eusano, attorney and Certified Senior Advisor, to speak on *Tax credits for home support services for seniors*.

New legislation has come into effect in July of this year that all seniors should be aware of. Seniors may be entitled to a refundable tax credit for expenses related to home support services. The tax credit is equal to 30% of certain eligible expenses. The tax credit yearly maximum is \$4 680 for eligible seniors and \$6 480 for dependent seniors.

Come to the meeting and find out what this means for you.

Baie d'Urfé Citizen Mychèle Amberg Honoured

Mychèle Amberg of Baie d'Urfé was one of ten Quebec citizens presented with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation on May 9th, 2008 in recognition of her commitment and devotion to veterans. Mrs. Amberg has been a devoted volunteer of Ste Anne's Hospital since 1987. She was Past President of the Board of Volunteer Services, and continues to serve on the Board. Mrs. Amberg also serves on various committees including the Multidisciplinary Committee on End-of-life Care. She helped establish the Ste Anne's Hospital Foundation and continues to serve as a board director.

Congratulations, Mrs. Amberg ... your hard work and devotion does not go unnoticed!

Rhian Wilkinson – Baie d'Urfé Olympian

Baie d'Urfé resident Rhian Wilkinson continues to excel at the highest athletic levels. Her bio reads as follows:



- 2003 Pan Am Games bronze medallist
- Finished fourth at the 2003 World Cup (played in 2007 World Cup in China)
- Was second at the 2008 CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualification Tournament (qualifying Canada for the 2008 Olympic Games)
- Named the 2007 Québec Soccer Federation's Senior Female Player of Excellence
- Won the 2007 Canada Soccer Fans' Choice Award

Add 2008 Olympian to her resume and also, a great performance by Rhian and the rest of the Canadian Women's Soccer Team in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The Canadian women, playing in their **first Olympic tournament**, advanced to the quarter-final with a 2-1 win over Argentina, a 1-1 draw against China and a 2-1 loss to Sweden. They lost 2-1 in overtime in the quarter-final against the USA, the number one ranked team in the world!

Some great news for our youth ... Rhian has agreed to speak to our Junior Council upon her return from the Olympics and in between other sporting engagements. We hope to have the reunion sometime by the end of the year. I will keep you posted!

Graham Ball – Spotlight on a promising young athlete

Graham Ball is another Baie d'Urfé resident worthy of mention. This young teenager, son of David Ball and News and Views editor Holly Myles, participated in a 10 member Junior Tennis Tour which traveled to Grenoble, France this summer for 17 days to participate in tournaments against different teams in different cities.

In order to participate, students had to maintain a 75% scholastic record. Graham competed in 20 matches, winning 18 of these, in order to reach the finals. He was the runner-up in the tournament with the town of Voiron and the winner of the tournament in St. Ismier.

Congratulations Graham!

Junior Council Meeting

The next Junior Council meeting will be on Thursday, September 11 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Please let your children know about it. Anyone ten and over is welcome!

Maria Tutino