



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – February 2008

It has been two years since the demerger and things are beginning to look like and run like the good old days ... our roads are being maintained, our buildings are being renovated, all our parks have received new equipment and the citizens and their Town Council and Administration have become reacquainted and are working harmoniously in the best interests of our community. The benefits of the demerger are apparent everywhere.

We are into our third budget since the demerger and Baie d'Urfé can still boast of having the lowest taxes on the island of Montreal in both our residential and non-residential sectors (despite the many scare stories of demerger opponents).

The 2008 budget was adopted at a special Council meeting on December 11, 2007.

Council's priorities for the year 2008 are safety, the environment, and continuing the improvement of our infrastructure. In the area of safety, we will install sidewalks on the remaining streets of the industrial sector, improve the street lighting on Surrey west of Morgan, and implement a policy to replace burned-out street-lights faster throughout the Town. We will start purchasing larger, wheeled recycling bins for all residents, which will go into use in March 2009. Under the heading of infrastructure, we will complete the new sidewalk on Lakeshore Road to the western boundary of the Town, continue with the drainage work, and do some renovation in the Public Works building. We will also be seeking government grants to allow us to make improvements to our Curling Club/emergency shelter building and our library.

The Baie d'Urfé mill rate for residential properties has been set at \$0.1622 (all rates per \$100 of property evaluation), and the rate for non-residential properties at \$1.1500.

Residential mill rates in other municipalities and boroughs on the island range from \$0.2860 to \$0.8679 while the non-residential mill rates in other municipalities and boroughs range from \$1.1504 to \$4.0448.

Town responsibilities and focus have changed from pre-merger days largely due to added agglomeration activities, an increased interest in the environment and an increasingly aging population. The last census indicated that 18% of Baie d'Urfé population is over 65 years of age (up from 16% in the 2001 census).

In answer to these new challenges, council portfolios have been changed to better respond to the current needs.

As of February 1st, the new portfolios are as follows:

Finance and Administration:	Janet Ryan (514 457-0302)
Public Security, Seniors and Communication:	Huguette Thomassin (514 457-3450)
Town Planning and Transport (residential & industrial):	Chuck Colomb (514 457-9020)
Youth, Environment & Quality of life:	Kim Millette (514 457-5679)
Parks and Recreation & Cultural Affairs:	Lynda Phelps (514 457-5306)
Public Works and Town Infrastructure:	Wayne Belvedere (514 457-6772)



CITIZENS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

I am so pleased to start this year's News & Views column about Baie d'Urfé "Citizens in the Spotlight" with this very special group of people, who I feel are very much an important part of our community and whose excellent service to our community and to our neighbors grows with each passing day. I am speaking, of course, of the tremendous men of Station 52, our Baie d'Urfé firefighters.

Several incidents in the past couple of months have been brought to my attention by grateful citizens ... I am sure that there are many, many more wonderful stories out there about these "knights in red".

The first incident involved Captain Bruce Lyness and his team of Richard Joyal, Robert Morin and Andrew Van Den Elshout. They rushed to Dorset School and helped stabilize a staff member until the arrival of an ambulance. Dorset principal Judy Pyves could not speak highly enough of the good work that this team did and the care in which they did it!

The second incident was on New Year's Day and Captain Groulx with firefighters Paul Bergeron, Dominique Sauvé and David Gagnon who came to the aid of a poor couple traveling through Baie d'Urfé, who had been struggling for 2 and a half hours stuck in a ditch on Lakeshore with no hope of a towing company coming to their aid. Many other citizens had also come to their aid and failed. I was privileged to witness this rescue mission and I too shared the couple's reaction that night, one of blessed happiness from the kindness of strangers. I went home that night after the Levee, probably in the worst storm in recent history for a New Year's Day, feeling good about the world and content that I live in Baie d'Urfé and that these special men are part of our community.

The third incident occurred in Beaconsfield and was recounted to me by one of my best friends ... it was her house that Captain Bruce Lyness and firefighters Jean Raymond, Richard Joyal and Robert Morin visited at 4 in the morning when they had a power failure which had lasted over 30 hours and they were facing a flooded basement, a defective freshly bought sump pump and rising waters. Anna was hugely impressed with their efficiency but what impressed her most was their kindness and pleasantness. They turned a terrible, miserable situation into a positive experience.

The fourth and fifth incidents involved Town staff. The firefighters of Station 52 came to the rescue of Daniel Masse and Adam Vandoninck which proved once again how invaluable the first responder service has become in our Town. The first responder teams arrived well in advance of the ambulances in both cases and attended to our staff with great diligence and care. Adam and Daniel are both doing well now, no small thanks to the immediate care they received from our firefighters.

To these men of Station 52 and all the other unsung heroes whose stories have not reached my ears, thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Maria Tutino (514 457-6291)
Mayor