



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – JUNE 2009

Gazette readers were reminded on May 26, 2009 that it had been ten years to the day that former Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque had launched his one-island-one-city speech, a speech which columnist Henry Aubin felt was the “turning point in the debate about the island’s future”. His speech on May 26, 1999 eventually led to the forced merger of 27 municipalities with the City of Montreal on January 1, 2002.

It is hard to believe that ten years have passed - ten intense years of anti-merger / demerger / reconstitution battles with the end result being that the Montreal Megacity is in worse shape today than before the merger. As per Mr. Aubin’s column “Bourque’s legacy includes degradation of most services, more managers, stronger (merged) unions and a big jump in business people’s contributions to the city’s political parties as businesses compete for larger contracts.”

A lot of pain for very little gain, if any.

Two days later, Mr. Aubin advised his readers “She’s ba-a-a-ck! Louise Harel might run for mayor”... Mayor of Montreal, that is!

Who is Louise Harel? Louise Harel was the Parti Québécois minister of Municipal Affairs who spearheaded the forced merger of Montreal Island’s 28 municipalities. Never a dull moment in the municipal world!

If you haven’t already done so, read Mr. Aubin’s May 26th column “Bourque’s one-island-one-city speech launched the municipal reorganization” and his May 28th column “She’s ba-a-a-ck! Louise Harel might run for mayor” and relive some of the turmoil of the last ten years in our municipal history.

That is the past and lucky for us, Baie-D’Urfé was one of the fortunate 15 cities to successfully demerge from the City of Montreal on January 1, 2006.

So let’s enjoy our independence and our community. What better way to do so than partaking in the three day Baie-D’Urfé Days activities which will be held from Friday, June 19 through Sunday June 21. Thanks to the Baie-D’Urfe Citizens’ Association, this longstanding tradition continues. A weekend of fun is planned by many special volunteers for the enjoyment of all our citizens, young and old.

This year, the Junior Council is hosting a movie and popcorn night with the help of Mrs. Brigitte Secco, mother of five of our Junior Council members. It’s a first for our youth so let’s make sure it is well attended. Let your children know that this event will take place Friday, June 19 at the Red Barn! A big thank you to Mrs. Brigitte Secco for heading this event and also to the Rescue Squad for providing the popcorn for the evening!



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Mrs. Secco has also started up a children's choir which meets Fridays at the Red Barn from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. All children of Baie-D'Urfé aged 8 to 18 are invited to participate. The current group is giving a show at the Maxwell Residence Saturday, June 20 at 10:30 a.m. If your children are interested in joining, please contact Mrs. Secco directly at 514-457-4438.

I hope to see you at some of the events ... starting with the blood donor clinic on Friday and finishing with the spectacular fireworks on Sunday night.

Maria Tutino

Mayor