



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – MAY 2009

Spring is in the air... flowers are beginning to nudge their heads out of the frozen ground and starting to blossom and grow.

This is similar to the bursts of positive information springing forth from many Town projects, projects that in some cases have been in the works for several years. These include projects where funding and/or implementation involve outside parties such as the bicycle path on Morgan (north of the 20), the pedestrian pathway in the industrial sector and the elimination of double taxation for Baie-D'Urfé citizens regarding sewage treatment.

Bicycle Path on Morgan (north of the 20)

I am pleased to announce that the project is definitely a go for 2009. A letter to that effect has been received from the agglomeration department responsible for bicycle paths and all steps are being taken to complete this project by year-end. This project, valued at \$1.2 million dollars, will be covered 100% by the agglomeration.

This is great news for Baie-D'Urfé – and a major turnaround from the agglomeration's initial position of just a few months ago.

Members of our industrial sector whose property border the proposed bicycle path have all formally confirmed that they will provide us with the requisite servitudes, at no cost to the Town, so that the project can proceed as planned.

Industrial Park Pathway: Phases 2 and 3

In April, Baie-D'Urfé received notification from the Québec government that our Town's application for a grant for phases 2 and 3 of a pedestrian pathway in our industrial sector had made the short list for consideration. Our project has been chosen among numerous others to be tabled for approval by the MAMR for a grant in 2009.

This would be a significant grant for the Town and would cover 2/3 of the cost of the project estimated at \$600 000. It is to be noted that if this project is selected for a grant, the remaining cost of about \$200 000 would be paid in its entirety by our industrial sector as a local improvement tax.

Sewage Treatment

Halleluiah! We are getting closer and closer to resolving the double taxation issue with regards to taxes Baie-D'Urfé citizens pay for the treatment of sewage both at the local and agglomeration level.

Sewage treatment is an agglomeration responsibility and Baie-D'Urfé citizens in the residential sector have been paying roughly \$140 000 a year since we demerged to pay for a service that we do not receive. 100% of the residential sector is served by septic systems (a service that the citizens are also taxed locally for).

Our Treasurer, Ghislaine Turcot, has met with the agglomeration staff this month to finalize the details prior to approval by the agglomeration council later this year. Once resolved, Baie-D'Urfé will post savings of about \$76 000 this year and every subsequent year.



AMT Meeting

Don't forget to add to your calendars the meeting with Joël Gauthier, president of the Agence Métropolitaine de Transport on Tuesday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fritz Community Center to discuss train service in Baie-D'Urfé.

Citizens on Patrol

Starting May 1st, this new organization will begin patrolling the Town, observing and reporting any suspicious activity that members encounter. Much like a Neighbourhood Watch program, these patrollers will provide a second level of surveillance of our property and community.

Following is a picture of the patrol vehicle ... look out for it ... the objective is to have a patrol at random times during the day, every day of the week until December 31st, 2009, moment at which a decision will be made as to whether this trial project continues into 2010.

At the time of writing, sixteen citizens have already signed up to be part of Citizens on Patrol.

If you would like to volunteer for this new organization or want to know more about it, don't hesitate to call Peter Neville at 514-457-9277 or visit our website at www.baie-durfe.qc.ca.

Many thanks to Peter for doing the legwork to get the program off the ground and running.

Junior Council Pothole Patrol

Our inaugural Pothole Challenge was a great success... at least from my personal financial perspective!

Our Public Works staff did such a fantastic job that our junior council could not find a single pothole large enough to be considered for the \$5 reward.

Enterprising Richard Schumacher is the winner of a dinner for 4 at Subways for finding the largest non-qualifying pothole... which was in walking distance from my house. (I'm sure there is a punch line there somewhere!) Congratulations, Richard!

This program and other Town projects will be discussed at our next Junior Council meeting which will be held at the Fritz Community Center on Thursday, June 11th. Please let your children know about the Junior Council – their contribution to date on several topics has been much appreciated by Council.

White Grub Information Session

The Town hosted an information session on lawn care and white grubs hosted by Micheline Lévesque, renowned specialist in this field. Over 100 citizens turned out to learn how to best prevent and treat white grub damage. Information flyers are available at town hall and will be posted on the Baie-D'Urfé website. We are looking at the possibility of offering a second information session on the topic this summer.

Maria Tutino
Mayor