



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – SEPTEMBER 2009

Given that there was no News & Views in August, this month's report is a bit longer than normal.

There is a lot to report, particularly on the agglomeration side of things – some very positive, others less so.

First, let's deal with the positive.

Arterial roads and arterial road debt

As you know from my previous columns, the demerged cities had responsibility for arterial roads removed from the agglomeration budget in June 2008 with the signing of Bill 22. Bill 22 also dictated that the debt for the work done on any arterial road during 2006 through 2008 was to be assumed by the city where the work was done.

We asked the provincial government to do this, because we discovered in 2006 that while the 15 demerged cities paid for about 21% of the costs of the repairs and while 18% of the arterial roads were in the 15 cities' territory, less than 6% of the annual \$100 million plus budget was spent in our combined territory. For Baie-D'Urfé, this meant that from 2009 onwards, our annual financial obligation for arterial roads would be reduced by well over \$500 000 a year.

I am particularly proud of this accomplishment since Baie-D'Urfé's analysis in April 2006 kick-started the drive to remove arterial roads from the agglomeration's responsibility.

But the story does not end there. In the 2009 budget, Montreal charged each demerged city an estimate of the debt for the arterial road work done in its territory. The demerged cities challenged the debt attribution by appealing to the government and have recently been vindicated for doing so. For Baie-D'Urfé alone, the savings are well over \$400 000.

This file, I think we can say, is closed. One thing we have learned with our dealings with the agglomeration over the four years, is that even when we think we have won a certain point, like getting the responsibility for these major roads returned back to the municipality in which they were located, we have to be vigilant until every detail has been ironed out.

Bus shelters

We have been successful in getting the agglomeration to replace the four bus shelters in Town and to assume their maintenance going forward. From 2010 onwards, we will not be including this expense in our local budget. The capital expenditure, which has been assumed entirely by the agglomeration, is estimated to be around \$40 000.

All four should be up by the time you are reading this.

Now for the less positive agglomeration news:

Sewage Treatment

After three years of working with the City of Montreal to try to resolve the double taxation with regards to the cleaning of our septic systems, we came to the sad conclusion on



August 20th that no solution would be forthcoming without the intervention of the provincial government.

We had high hopes for a positive conclusion when a notice of motion addressing the Baie-D'Urfé situation finally made it to the May 2009 Agglomeration Council meeting. These hopes were subsequently dashed when the resolution was removed from the June Agglomeration meeting without our being advised.

Further negotiations during the summer months has brought the resolution back on the August 27th Agglomeration meeting agenda. However, Montreal is unwilling to set a completion date for the project. Every year this is not resolved, Baie-D'Urfé citizens are taxed about \$76 000 more at the local level than they should be.

On August 20th, I contacted provincial government representatives and apprised them of the latest turn of events. They have been kept abreast of the situation over the past three years and understand the need for a speedy resolution on their part. I will report on any progress in the October newsletter.

LOCAL NEWS

Grant for industrial pathway

This project is on track and all indications are that we will receive a grant from the government to proceed with the next phase of the pathway in 2010. We anticipate that the grant will cover 2/3 of the cost of the project. This will translate into a major reduction of the expected local improvement tax for our industrial sector (savings of around \$420 000).

2008 waste management situation analysis

The City of Montreal recently released Portrait 2008 which provides an overview of how the agglomeration of Montreal and the individual cities on the island are doing in relation to the recycling, composting and other garbage reduction targets put forward by the provincial government.

The agglomeration of Montreal is comprised of 16 cities; the City of Montreal has 19 boroughs. Baie-D'Urfé, with a recovery rate of 61%, is only one of 3 cities (with Hampstead and Senneville) and 3 boroughs (Plateau -Mont-Royal, Rosemont-La Petite Patrie and Ville-Marie) who have attained the provincial target of recycling 60% of all recyclable waste in 2008. The Agglomeration as a whole achieved a 53% recycling rate. Well done, Baie-D'Urfé!!!

Baie-D'Urfé, with a recovery rate of 65%, has also attained the government's 2008 60% target for hazardous waste recovery (only 7 out of 32 boroughs and cities reporting did so). Our Town achieved 48% for the recovery of construction and demolition related debris - above the agglomeration rate of 43% but well below the 60% target for 2008 (only 3 out of 32 cities and boroughs reporting attained this target).

Our worst performance indicator was with regards to organic materials. We recovered only 22% of organic materials - well below the 40% target but well above the agglomeration rate of 8%. Baie-D'Urfé was fifth best on the Island with Senneville being the only one to reach the target.



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The government's targets are increasing to 80% in future years and we will have to continue to be innovative and work hard to recycle and compost more and reduce our garbage output. In 2008 we produced 689 kilograms of waste per person. Of this amount we recycled 154 kilos per person, composted about 76 kilos per person while leaving a staggering 459 kilos per person of garbage to be sent to landfills. This is an improvement from 2006 when we produced 708 kilograms of waste per person and recycled only 136 kilos per person, composted 72 kilos per person and sent 498 kilos per person to landfills.

I want to thank you, our citizens, for all the efforts you have made to produce such impressive results and I encourage you to continue participating in such an enthusiastic fashion so that we can maintain our reputation as a green community, a community who cares about the environment and a community who is prepared to take the appropriate actions to protect it.

Important dates in September ... ink them in your calendar

September 8	Council meeting at the Fritz Farm (7:30 p.m.)
September 9	2010 Budget Consultation meeting at the Fritz Farm (7:30 p.m.)
September 10	Junior Council meeting at the Fritz Farm (7 p.m.)
September 29	Special Council meeting at TOWN HALL (7:30 p.m.) (in lieu of the October meeting that cannot be convened due to the municipal electoral process)

Hope to see you at some of the meetings.

Maria Tutino
Mayor