



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – OCTOBER 2009

Since this is the last Mayor's Communiqué before the November 1<sup>st</sup> election, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a status report on certain projects which will continue into the next year.

Please note that there will most likely not be a Mayor's communiqué nor a Council Communiqué in November since the results of the election will not be known prior to the submission deadline.

### **Agglomeration projects**

Work remains to be done with regards to the double taxation of sewage treatment. I have had more discussions this month with representatives of the provincial government and they appreciate the importance of their intervention in order to get a fair and equitable closure to this problem. Three years of trying to solve it with the City of Montreal have not been fruitful.

Other issues that need to be addressed in collaboration with the mayors of the other demerged cities are the double taxation of water, reduced agglomeration responsibility for Montreal's downtown expenses and the governance of the agglomeration, among others. The resolution of any one of these areas of responsibility will result in significant annual savings for the Town of Baie-D'Urfé, rivaling even the great success the demerged cities had with the passing of Bill 22 in 2008.

The changes resulting from Bill 22 continue to produce encouraging results for Baie-D'Urfé. Last month, I spoke of the very positive financial effect of having had the responsibility for arterial roads and the debt incurred by the agglomeration for the repairs of those roads during the 2006 to 2008 period returned to the respective cities where the roads are located. This month, we received another pleasant surprise which saw our revenues for 2009 increase by over \$100 000, a result of the one tax bill. Post demerger (Jan 1, 2006) and pre Bill 22, any growth during a tax year would require that Montreal receive its portion of the taxation revenue for the increased evaluation growth of Baie-D'Urfé properties due to new constructions or major renovations during the fiscal period. Given that more than 75% of our pre-2009 tax dollars collected went to the agglomeration, more than \$75 000 of that particular transaction would have gone to the agglomeration – NOW 100% goes to the Town of Baie-D'Urfé! Bill 22 is beginning to be known among the demerged cities as the gift that keeps on giving.



The bicycle path in the industrial sector is on track and we expect completion of this project by the summer of 2010. We have also been notified that Baie-D'Urfé has received a grant for the completion of Phases 2 and 3 of the pedestrian pathway in the industrial sector. Completion of this project is also expected for 2010.

### **Local issues**

Both the Morgan Entrance Town beautification project and the pedestrian pathway on Surrey east of Morgan will continue in 2010. The former will be reviewed as part of the 2010 budget exercise by the new Council, while the pedestrian pathway project on Surrey is expected to be started in the spring of 2010.

Discussions on the mechanisms of a senior bus service in Baie-D'Urfé are still at the needs assessment stage and will continue into 2010.

The Junior Council met in September and once again, about 20 young citizens attended the session. Many more great ideas came forward from our Junior population, some of which have been forwarded to the next Council's budget committee and traffic committee. Our Junior Council is a very energetic and enthusiastic group and is proving itself to be a strong voice within the community. Minutes and agendas have been introduced to the group, a concept that the Junior Council members have accepted easily. Check out the Town website to read the agendas and minutes from previous meetings.

Finally, there was a recent fire in Baie-D'Urfé on Lakeshore Road which brought out the best in our Town. Baie-D'Urfé citizens and members of the Rescue Squad came out to support the concerned family in large numbers. The Rescue Squad also provided invaluable support to the many fire department firefighters from several stations that were present. The tragedy was a big one for the affected family but the big hearts of our citizens and their warm response made a horrible situation a little more tolerable. Many thanks to the Fire Department, the Baie-D'Urfé Rescue Squad and those citizens that came out to help. You all did Baie-D'Urfé proud.

Maria Tutino  
Mayor