



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL



Mayor's Message

Heidi Ektvedt

The holiday season is a busy time in the municipal world and your Council, together with administration, worked diligently to develop a clear path forward. Our 3-year Capital Expenditure Program, adopted in December, demonstrates Council's intention to invest in infrastructure with commitments of \$ 8.1M in 2022. Highlights for anticipated 2022 projects include:

- Drainage & paving of Lakeview & Sunny Acres
- Restoration & renovation of the Town Hall
- Exterior restoration and improvements to Fritz Farm and the Red Barn
- Mobility study
- Professional services - Surrey between Apple Hill & Lakeview (anticipated execution 2023)

In January, Council adopted the 2022 Operating Budget. Despite significant increases in our agglomeration share (up 11.1% over last year), resulting from Montréal's deficit, Council was able to maintain conservative tax rates.

Through our strategic vision public consultation, several key service areas were identified by citizens and I'd like to highlight some provisions based on that consultation that are reflected in our \$8.8M local operating budget.

- Technician in Environment to further enhance environmental services
- Urban Planning Inspector/Technician to improve service on the territory with respect to local bylaw enforcement
- Technician in Leisure Services to complement existing volunteer driven initiatives by adding new opportunities

Public meetings for the Capital Expenditure Program & the Budget were held virtually, recorded and can be found on the Town website.

With the weather co-operating and our commitment to have residents benefit from winter activities within the Town, our Public Works have been busy gearing up for the season.



Thank-you Nick Mavrias, Ron Smith and all the crew for your top effort. For our recreational skaters, a dedicated night crew works to build and maintain the ice on our 3 rinks. Sledding at Allan's Hill is a popular activity, with safety a top priority for the Town. Public Works monitor the site regularly and continue to make adjustments as needed.



Thank you to **Baie-D'Urfé Rescue** for your week-end presence at the hillside. Based on last year's successful pilot project, and with enough of a snow base on the ground, the cross-country tracks are groomed and good to go!



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Mayor's Message (continued)

Thank-you **Werner Buchmann** for sharing a special moment out on the trail along with 3 generations of your family living in Baie-D'Urfé.

November's magical tree lighting event, hosted by the Citizens' Association, was the perfect start to initiate holiday cheer. C.A. members **Betsy Williamson, Linda Tait** and **Inès Forgue** worked behind the scenes to pull the breathtaking moment together, along with resident **Diane Weiss**, who proposed the idea. I'd like to recognize **Tony Brown** of the C.A., who is ending his mandate as editor of the News & Views. Tony's business acumen, dedication and many talents can be seen throughout these monthly publications. The role involves many volunteer hours each month and please know that your contributions have been valued. The C.A. welcomes its new editor, **Richard Gregson**. A biologist by profession, Richard is multi-talented, known for several wonderful local initiatives, inspires a love of nature as well as having a passion for photography, capturing many picturesque photos of our town. I'm sure the transition will be smooth and I look forward to seeing the continued evolution of this monthly publication.



Are you looking to build a snowman? The C.A is holding its **2nd Snowman/ Sculpture Challenge** and I can't wait to see all the

entries. If you are looking for a spot, I'd love to see one at Town Hall!

With volunteers at the heart of our community, the Town extended a small token of thanks again this year for all the contributions YOU make that enrich our town. I hope many red amaryllises are blooming beautifully in your homes.

Heidi Ektvedt



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

- Traffic Committee -
- Environment Committee -
- Parks and Recreation Committee -

The Town of Baie-D'Urfé is looking for citizen volunteers to sit on the following committees: Traffic (3 citizens), Environment (5 citizens), Parks and Recreation (5 citizens).

The purpose of these committees is to study and submit opinions and recommendations to Council based on the mandates entrusted to them by Town Council.

Inspired by the Town's strategic vision, members of these committees will be called upon to actively participate in the various consultations seeking to establish action plans to implement this vision.

Deadline for applications:
February 25, 2022

If you are a **resident of Baie-D'Urfé**, interested in traffic, the environment, sustainable development, parks, recreation and culture and are available to attend meetings, this call is for you! Depending on the needs, these committees may be called upon to meet several times a month and the meetings are held during the day.

Citizens who wish to become members of one of these committees are invited to apply by providing their name and contact information, the reasons for their interest, their relevant experience and their availability.

Please note that a candidate is ineligible to sit on a committee if their employment or direct or indirect interest consists in the fact that they are a member, director or officer of a municipal or para-municipal organization, a non-profit organization or an organization or business with which the municipality has or is likely to have contracts, or that a member of their family is also a member.

TO APPLY: by email at adimarino@baie-durfe.qc.ca or by mail to the attention of Antonella Di Marino: 20410 Lakeshore, Baie-d'Urfé, QC H9X 1P7

2022 MUNICIPAL TAXES

Due Dates:

February 24

2ND INSTALMENT: May 24



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Council Communiqué

Brigitte Chartrand



What a whirlwind the past few months have been! Being sworn in on Friday November 12th, a regular caucus meeting on the Tuesday, followed by “meet the staff” and many, many days of budget meeting. These past few months have been a whole new education.

One of my favourite moments was “meet the staff”, where all of Council was introduced to the office staff and management team. Since then, we have had several exchanges with the team and I have to tell you, we are blessed to have such amazing individuals working for all of us.

When it comes to the budget, a town budget is very similar to a household one; MONEY IN can be summed up in very few lines, while MONEY OUT... endless.

Just like in a home, there are the recurring expenses: regular maintenance, activities and my favourite, projects. This is where, if money was endless, ALL our wishes and wants would be fulfilled. But just like with a household budget, we unfortunately need to make choices. With all the numbers provided to us by the finance department, along with reports on the town’s infrastructures, buildings, activities and needs from our various volunteer committees, Council debated, discussed, and with the help of the administration, came up with a **3-year forecast**.

THIS FORECAST INCLUDES MANY PROJECTS!

Some are fun (think of a new kitchen or bathroom) and others... well not so much (think of a roof



or septic system), but all need to be done and most important, done in the right order. Imagine that you have just finished a full bathroom renovation and the roof leaks and makes a mess of it. This

is not the time for “I should have”, “I could have” and “I would have”.

Now that we have settled the budget forecast, we are looking at the committees. First on the list is the TPAC (Town Planning Advisory Committee) and so far, we have received many interested citizen applications! **Thank you for sending in your candidacy.**

After reading many of the letters, I would like to take the opportunity to clarify the role of the TPAC. Its role is to study and submit recommendations on urban planning matters to the municipal council. It does not have the power to change or rewrite any by-laws.

Next on the list are all the other committees on which different council members will be sitting. It will be challenging and new to many of us, but we are all ready and eager to dive in.

As I write this, a new year has started. Even though we are back in lockdown and it feels like Groundhog Day, I’m looking for the silver lining, what the future will be bringing and the changes we, as Council, hope to be making.

On that note, wishing everyone all the best for 2022!





RECOVERY OF YOUR WASTEWATER



On behalf of the entire Environment Department team, we wish you a happy and green 2022.

At the beginning of this new year, we are giving you an overview of the treatment and recycling process of your wastewater carried out with the organic waste collected annually on the territory of the Town of Baie-D'Urfé. This article allows you to follow the ecological direction of your septic tank sludge collection, as well as ways to improve its management.



Throughout the territory, your wastewater is sent to your septic tank, which allows for the separation of solids and grease by settling. Every two years, your septic tank is emptied by a Town-appointed contractor to remove the material that has accumulated since the last cleaning. Regular emptying is essential to ensure the longevity of your septic system. At this stage of your wastewater's journey, proper management of the waste you send to your wastewater system can prevent many problems. First of all, it is important to know that only toilet paper and excrement can be discharged into your wastewater. This is organic material that can enter the decomposition cycle. Any other matter may lead to clogging of your pipes at the inlet or outlet of your septic tank, a malfunction of the equipment used to empty your tank, or contamination of your water, thus decreasing the treatment efficiency of your septic system or leading to environmental problems.



All of the Town's septic tank sludge is sent to a wastewater treatment facility by the mandated company. At this stage, the organic portion of your wastewater is recovered and recycled, like compost, to enrich the soil in its own way. Rich in nitrogen, phosphorus and organic matter, septic tank sludge can be used as agricultural fertilizer, similar to manure. It can be spread in its natural form or,

after incineration, as ash in accordance with strict environmental requirements. Proper management of your waste facilitates the sludge reclamation process by reducing the concentration of contaminants and by reducing the number of purification steps. In fact, the sorting of foreign bodies, whether plastics, latex or other contaminants, is carried out at the treatment centre and allows the required standards for recycling to be met. The reduction or elimination of these foreign bodies considerably reduces costs and environmental risks and facilitates the attainment of clean sludge for land application.

Proper management of your domestic wastewater results in several benefits throughout the treatment and recovery chain, whether by reducing the maintenance and repair costs of your septic system or by reducing the environmental risks and purification steps in the recovery process.

We remind you that for all other information related to the operation and legislation of your septic system, please refer to the Regulation respecting wastewater disposing systems for isolated dwellings (Q-2, R.22).



NOTES :

- » **Septic tank emptying** season is fast approaching. The Town is taking charge of the planning of the emptying of septic tanks and for septic tanks that are scheduled to be emptied this year, the emptying will be automatically planned with the mandated company and is obligatory. If you have any questions, please contact **Antony Gosselin** of the Environment Department (agosselin@baie-durfe.qc.ca, 514 457-5339).
- » Under Regulation Q-2, R.22, many septic systems require **mandatory annual maintenance**. Proof of maintenance or a contract must be sent to the municipality annually. Please refer to the Regulation in question for information on the obligations in this regard.