



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL



Mayor's Message

Heidi Ektvedt

With municipal election results in, I am pleased to announce the **new Baie-D'Urfé council**. With four members, along with the mayor, acclaimed, I eagerly awaited results to welcome the final two. A warm welcome to returning Councillors **Wanda Lowensteyn** and **Janet Ryan**, along with new Councillors **Nadia Bissada**, **Brigitte Chartrand**, **Nick Drouin** and **Stephen Gruber**.

I would like to thank citizens for your confidence. I feel privileged and remain extremely committed to our incredible town, all the while working over the next 4 years toward best collective decisions for its future, along with Council.

The learning curve is steep for newly elected officials and during the election period, much work was done behind the scenes to prepare packages for them to understand their new roles and responsibilities. As projects move along, they are also learning about the status of ongoing files. Each department within the administration had the opportunity to make presentations to Council to explain their role within the town and I'd like to thank our Director General, along with his team, for their professionalism and preparation.

One of the first responsibilities of this new council is to adopt the 3-year Capital Expenditure Plan, along with the 2022 yearly operating budget. The 3-year plan will be adopted at a special meeting in December, as required by law. The annual operating budget will be adopted in Jan-

uary, exceptionally, as is permitted in an election year. Decisions will need to be made locally; however, as I write this article, we are still waiting for Montréal's budget numbers and the impact on our agglomeration share, which represents a significant portion of our annual operating budget.

Unlike political parties, our municipal council is made up of independent council members and I hope this council will support the voice of citizens as outlined in the Strategic Vision and work toward "next steps" in continued citizen engagement to further elaborate this vision. The vision document is available on the town website and was distributed door to door to all residents. For anyone who would like a hard copy and did not receive one, additional copies are available at the Town Hall.

I will be meeting with council members to discuss how best to divide up responsibilities and review town committees so that we are in a position to effectively use our roles to support your town. More details will be announced in the February News & Views.

As we move into the holiday season with some uncertainty around ever-changing health regulations, ***I wish each and every one a very warm and***

safe holiday season amongst close family and friends as we look forward to bringing in 2022 with cheer.





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Council Communiqué



Nadia Bissada

Dear Residents,

This is my first time writing to you as a Town Councillor. A couple of months ago, I was writing the Interface column as the Citizen's Association Vice-Chairman and here I am today, writing to you as a Town Councillor. Funny sometimes how things evolve!

I would like to start by thanking the community for its trust and vote of confidence. I am just starting on the job and am becoming rapidly aware of how much I have to learn and how much information I have to absorb. Many thanks to our Director General and to the Administration for helping and supporting our learning process with documents (lots and lots!), and well-managed and informative presentations and schedules. Thank you to Mayor Ektvedt and Councillors Ryan and Lowensteyn for complementing our learning with their experience and knowledge. Thank you also to Councillors Gruber, Drouin, and Chartrand, my fellow newcomers, for all the good questions they ask; they too help me understand and learn!

The first big challenge of your new council is the budget. As our Director General mentioned in the November Council meeting, the 2022 Capital Expenditure plan will be adopted in December. By the time you are reading this article, your council will be well versed in the intricacies of the Town's operational and, more importantly, capital expenditures. We will have to establish priorities, make choices, difficult ones, and decisions. Among the many variables, data, and estimates that will be taken into account, the Strategic Vision will undoubtedly be an important guiding factor throughout our discussions.

I am no longer a member of the Citizen's Association Executive Committee (I rescinded my position with the CA given my new role as a councillor), and would like to thank the Committee members for their time and efforts in organizing the "Meet the Candidates Night" on October 21st. In November, the CA also organized a webinar presented by Dr. Shaheen Shariff addressing Cyberbullying, and a Christmas Tree

Lighting event, our first in Baie-D'Urfé, and held its annual Toy Drive together with the Baie-D'Urfé Scouts' Food Drive. I would like to encourage all residents to take an active role in their Citizens' Association's activities, by participating and/or volunteering. You can contact the CA by email: bdca.arbd@gmail.com or check its website at: <https://baiedurfe.ca>.

Last but not least, given that the next issue of the News & Views will be in 2022, I would like to wish everyone **a healthy, peaceful, and happy Christmas and Holidays, and all the best for the New Year**. Take care and stay safe!!

Nadia





VISION ON OUR BIODIVERSITY AND URBAN RICHNESS

Harmony between urbanization and natural environments is a major issue in the plans and vision of Québec municipalities today. The challenges related to the connection between these two environments, which in an ideal world should not be considered distinct, are attributable to economic development and rapid demographic growth, which have led us to regard these green spaces as exclusively for recreational purposes. However, together with this pitfall come issues of prosperity, health and loss of biodiversity. It is on the basis of these aspects that we hope to promote the maintenance and growth of our green spaces from year to year, through various biodiversity programs.

As we often hear in the news, green spaces help to reduce the creation of heat islands and the effects of pollution, particularly in large metropolitan areas. At the same time, their benefits are increasingly being studied in terms of improving mental health and reducing chronic stress, illnesses, death from cardiovascular disease and Type 2 diabetes¹. Their presence in the urban environment is now essential for human health, creating places that are conducive and beneficial to physical activity, cognitive performance and emotional well-being². The increase in social capital, as well as the decrease in sedentary lifestyles, are benefits that generally attract the elderly and adolescents³.



In a town like Baie-D'Urfé, the importance of our vegetation cover within a large metropolis also provides an attractive territory for the establishment of healthy and unique local fauna and flora. Urban

ecosystems often show imbalances in food chains, energy flow and the intensity and frequency of disturbances⁴. The development of our green spaces not only allows for the creation of refuges for animals in large green spaces, but also ecological corridors that allow for the migration of local species between these patches of habitat. Reducing the fragmentation of habitats created by roads or cleared land, these corridors allow for genetic flow and exchange between different organisms and populations in the area, thus improving the health of the ecosystem. By ensuring that management plans



take into account endemic biological communities, we promote the establishment of heterotrophic populations that are often threatened and we fight against the appearance of invasive exotic species. As a result, a multitude of beautiful Québec wildlife species, such as the red fox, wild turkey, raccoon, grey squirrel, chipmunk, groundhog, white-tailed deer, and many others can be seen in Baie-D'Urfé on a regular or sometimes rarer basis.

Our efforts to manage greenspace have a much broader vision than the ecological health of our area. They also make the well-being of our citizens a priority.

Under the Regulation respecting the recovery and reclamation of products by businesses in force in Québec, ARPE-Québec is the only program officially recognized by RECYC-QUÉBEC and the MELCC with respect to electronic products. Nearly 150 products are accepted under the electronics recycling program (computers, televisions, audio-video, cell phones and video game consoles). Your official drop-off location is 300 Surrey, Baie-D'Urfé.

With the holiday season approaching, here are a few ideas for a more ecological Christmas: favour a live potted Christmas tree, allowing you to give it a second life by replanting it. Reusable and/or compostable natural decorations are also a priority, all with a view to reducing our ecological footprint.



1. WHO, 2016. *Urban green spaces and health*. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe.
2. Kaplan, R., S. Kaplan, 1989. *The experience of nature: A psychological perspective*. CUP Archive.
3. Kweon, B.-S., W.C. Sullivan, A.R. Wiley, 1998. Green common spaces and the social integration of inner-city older adults. *Environment and Behavior*, 30, pp. 832-858.
4. Pickett, T.A., et al., 2001. Urban Ecological Systems: Linking terrestrial ecological, physical, and socioeconomic components of metropolitan areas. *Annuals review of ecology, evolution, and systematics*, 32, pp. 127-157.



Votre conseil municipal 2021-2025

Your 2021-25 Baie-D'Urfé Council

Mairesse
Mayor



Heidi Ektvedt

Conseillers(ères)
Councillors



Wanda Lowensteyn



Janet Ryan



Nadia Bissada



Brigitte Chartrand



Nicolas Drouin



Stephen Gruber



MERCI

THANK YOU