



# MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL



## Highlights of the Financial Report

Maria Tutino

Dear Fellow Citizens,

In accordance with section 105.2.2 of the *Cities and Towns Act*, I am pleased to submit the highlights of the **Financial Report** for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, and of the independent auditor's report.

The Town of Baie-D'Urfé's independent auditors, *Goudreau Poirier inc.*, have reported that the financial statements reflect, in all material aspects, a true and fair view of the financial position of the Town of Baie-D'Urfé as of December 31, 2019. The results of its activities, variations in its financial assets, debt and financial cash flow for the year-end are in accordance with the Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Congratulations to our finance team comprised of **Julie MacDowell, Maritza Vilcherres, Maggy Bogetto and Darlene Ward** for their excellent management of our financial records and for delivering the information to the auditors in a very professional, complete and timely manner during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### OVERVIEW

The 2019 financial report was tabled at a Council meeting held on May 12, 2020.

Since 2012, the Town has recorded an operating surplus of over a million dollars.

The 2019 financial year ended with an operating surplus of \$1 835 907. Following are the highlights.

### 2019 REVENUES

Total revenues for the Town of Baie-D'Urfé for 2019 were \$20 593 562, an increase of \$540 522 over budget. The main factors explaining the increased revenues are:

<b>Property Tax Revenues</b>	
- new taxation revenues	\$1 286 626
- Loss of revenue mainly due to contestation from the Industrial sector	\$(1 341 767)
<b>Interest</b> (bank, arrears, fines and penalties)	\$90 150
<b>Property Transfer taxes and permits</b>	\$666 066
- Loss of revenue from contestation of transfer tax in the Industrial sector	\$(181 077)
<b>Other Revenues</b> (rentals & services rendered)	\$(3 062)
<b>Government grants</b> (compensation in lieu of taxes)	\$23 586
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 540 522</b>

### 2019 EXPENDITURES

Total expenditures for 2019 were \$18 885 512 excluding amortization.

**Regional expenses** accounted for \$12 642 844: \$152 015 which was paid to the Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC) in membership fees and \$12 490 829 which was paid to the City of Montreal as our share for island-wide services including \$317 172 for Town-wide water consumption costs. Of the approximately \$12.6 million which we pay to Montreal, about \$2.0 million was for general administration, \$3.5 million for Police services, \$1.9 million for Fire services and \$3.0 million for public transport.

### LOCAL EXPENSES

Local operating expenses totalled \$6 242 668.

The Town invested about \$1.02 million in its infrastructure.

In 2019 the Town used \$1 709 035 from the Town's accumulated surplus, financial reserves and reserve funds to fund capital projects and operating activities. Some of the capital projects financed by the accumulated surplus, financial reserves and reserve funds were:

1. New Daycare Centre (CPE) (\$338 814)
2. Construction of a BERM from Lakeview to Apple Hill (\$327 438)
3. 2019 paving and drainage program (\$325 829)
4. Municipal road equipment (vehicles and heavy equipment, \$253 753)
5. Drainage pipe between Gay-Cedars and Lac St. Louis (\$206 657)
6. Bertold Canine Recreational Area (\$126 886)
7. Park and Playground infrastructure (park John Weir, \$56 024)

### 2019 SURPLUS

The Town started its 2019 fiscal year with an accumulated surplus, financial reserve and reserve funds total of \$9 354 874.

In 2019 the Town recorded an operating surplus of \$1 835 907.

This operating surplus is attributable to increased revenues of \$540 522, lower expenses of \$394 928 (\$321 365 from salaries and benefits due to vacant positions) and budget allocations from its accumulated surplus and financial reserves of approximately \$900 460 to its operational budget for building maintenance and repairs, Emerald Ash Borer program and tree maintenance,



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## Highlights of the Financial Report (Continued)

	NON-AFFECTED SURPLUS	AFFECTED SURPLUS	FINANCIAL RESERVES	RESERVE FUNDS	TOTAL
Balance (Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> )	\$4 166 810	\$2 536 988	\$1 772 918	\$878 158	\$9 354 874
Surplus for the year	\$1 835 907				
<b>ALLOCATIONS</b>					
Affected surplus	\$(1 893 704)	\$1 893 704			
Financial reserves	\$(39 135)		\$39 135		
Investments in progress	\$21 734				
Operating activities	\$(237 373)	\$(208 213)	\$(292 235)	\$105 124	
Capital projects	\$(215 055)	\$(654 545)	\$(262 682)	\$(253 753)	
<b>Balance (Dec. 31)</b>	<b>\$3 639 184</b>	<b>\$3 567 934</b>	<b>\$1 257 136</b>	<b>\$729 529</b>	<b>\$9 193 783</b>

the 2019 by-election and legal files. The difference between the budgeted amounts and the expenditures will be allocated for 2020 projects such as paving, drainage and park infrastructure. In 2019 the Town used close to \$1.4 million of its accumulated surplus and financial reserves to finance select Town projects (including certain ongoing projects), which in return decreased expenses.

As of December 31, 2019, the accumulated surplus, financial reserves and reserve funds totalled \$9 193 783 (with the addition of the 2019 operating surplus of \$1 835 907 to the accumulated non-affected surplus). See the table above.

During the course of the 2019 fiscal year, the provision for contested property valuations was increased by \$1 522 844, resulting in an amount of \$3 102 517 as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

### 2019 LONG TERM DEBT

Our long-term debt amounted to \$700 100 (decreased by \$338 700 from 2018). Of this amount, \$145 583 is reimbursed by

the Quebec Government, whereas the balance of \$554 517 is solely recovered from the residential and/or industrial sectors through local improvement taxes. Since 2016 the Town has had no "at large" debt.

### 2019 REMUNERATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

The remuneration of all Council members must be included in the financial report and be published on the Town's website. The information is available on our Town's website under the **Finance Profile** (2019 section) - Remuneration of the Elected Officials (S45 - page 11).

Respectfully submitted by  
Mayor **Maria Tutino**



### Mayor's Message

The good weather is coming and many of us have been cooped up at home, either by oneself, with one or two family members or with a household of family members of all age groups. Some are working from home, others are waiting for the provincial government to ease restrictions so that more businesses can be opened and that life can return to the "old normal".

While at the moment, the Covid statistics show that in Baie-D'Urfé and in the West Island in general, the number of reported confirmed cases

◆◆◆◆ Maria Tutino

and deaths are low and well below our population share of the island, now is not the time to be complacent nor to let down our guard.

Currently the Island of Montreal is the epicentre of the pandemic in Canada.

As of May 14, Baie-D'Urfé had **15 confirmed cases** and **0 deaths** reported and was one of only 3 municipalities that had 0 reported deaths (Senneville & Hampstead were the other two).



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## Mayor's Message (Continued)

Maria Tutino

	CANADA	QUEBEC	ISLAND OF MONTREAL
Confirmed cases	73,401	40,724	<b>20,633</b>
Deaths	5,472	3,351	<b>2,154</b>

The Island represents about 51% of Quebec's cases and 64% of the deaths; even more concerning is that about 28% of Canada's confirmed cases and 39% of the deaths are from the Island.

At the moment, conditions are such on the island of Montreal that it is "better to be safe than sorry".

- ▶ **On May 7<sup>th</sup>**, Premier François Legault decided to again postpone the opening of shops and schools in Montreal by another week to May 25<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ **On May 14<sup>th</sup>**, the Premier announced that:
  - ▶ Schools would not open in the Montreal area before September and that daycares would remain closed until June 1<sup>st</sup>;
  - ▶ The easing of the lockdown would only proceed if the situation in Montreal is under control;
  - ▶ "The use of face mask could be a **game changer**".

Many on the island of Montreal, including myself, felt that those were the right decisions. It is important to be ready to ease the restrictions as many are suffering economically, socially and psychologically but it is also important to do it at the right time. Now was not the right time.

At the May 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Council meeting Interim Director General Nicholas Mavrias laid out the Town's plans as to how it intends



to move forward as the government allows more and more municipal services to re-open. The



Town's municipal service delivery plan will be measured and customized to Baie-D'Urfé's reality (number of staff, equipment & fleet availability, social distancing requirements and all the other elements that need to be put in place to ensure the staff's and residents' safety). He focused on the "how" and not on the "when" given that certain conditions must be in place before things can be done safely. Some services **cannot and will not start** without those conditions in place, even if available in other municipalities.

As Quebec Premier Legault tailored his deconfinement policy to reflect the Covid reality on the Island, Council fully respects the Administration's measured and cautionary approach to reflect the Baie-D'Urfé reality.

### FOR RESIDENTS 70 YEARS OR OLDER

You should have received by now a "Message from Mayor Tutino regarding Important Covid-19 information for Citizens 70 years of age or older". If you have not, please contact me at **514 457-6291** or at [mtutino@baie-durfe.qc.ca](mailto:mtutino@baie-durfe.qc.ca) and one will be delivered to you.

Be kind, be careful, stay well and keep safe!

Mayor **Maria Tutino**

*The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Municipal Council as a whole.*



# MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

## Council Communiqué



Andrea Gilpin

In April, Council began webcasting its Public Meetings and this has been met with very positive feedback not only in a few letters to Council, but also in casual conversations that I have had with citizens.

### I believe webcasting public meetings is important for the following reasons:

- ☞ Webcasting provides equal access to our citizens and may increase access, as many citizens are not able to physically attend a meeting;
- ☞ An archived webcast provides access to the meeting at a time of a citizen's choosing, providing more flexibility;
- ☞ Residents can listen to the entire meeting or scroll to their discussion of interest, saving time for the citizen;
- ☞ During an election period, webcasts allow citizens to see the Council in action, and provide some insight to the personalities of Councillors, to help them make their voting decisions should Councillors choose to run again.

Most importantly, webcasting increases transparency and provides citizens with all the information exchanged during a meeting in real-time. There is no need to wait for approved minutes to be posted, generally one month later, for those who are unable to attend.

Although Council has only agreed to use webcasting during the COVID pandemic, the response from citizens has been strong. We have had four meetings webcasted thus far: April 2, 14, 20 and May 12. As of May 12<sup>th</sup>, these webcasts had been viewed **221, 304, 217, and 305 times**, respectively. In comparison, we have approximately 6-20 citizens attending the Council meetings, in person. The webcasts have attracted an impressive reach and, in my view, are certainly worth the investment for increased transparency and access to information for our residents.

☞ Please write to us with your feedback, as this will inform our decision to continue webcasting after the COVID period. If you haven't taken the

opportunity to see our webcasts, they can be located on the Town website under "**Democratic Life**".

On a separate note, the Administration completed its 2019 Financial Audit during the peak COVID lockdown and was successful in tabling the auditor's statements at the May meeting, on schedule. The audit was completed successfully without reservation and the Mayor will provide a full report during the June Council meeting.

Some citizens have been asking Council about how our projects and finances may have changed given the pandemic. At this point, there continues to be too many uncertainties to fully understand the impact on both our human and financial resources. Baie-D'Urfé generally pays approximately 69% of its revenues as its quote part to the agglomeration and therefore until we understand how the agglomeration is going to divide up their expenses amongst the municipalities, we cannot determine what we have left locally for our projects. The agglomeration has not provided any guidance as to when we can expect to have an estimate regarding the magnitude of these costs. Once this is known, we can revisit our budget and re-prioritize our projects for this year and next. I can assure you this is top of mind for Council and the Administration.

I invite you to follow me on *Facebook* at **Andrea Gilpin, Councillor, Baie-D'Urfé, Seat 5**.

A sincere thanks to those of you who are on the front line every day helping manage the crisis – we cannot thank you enough for all that you are doing. On a final note, I hope that you and your family stay safe and healthy during these challenging times.



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### THE DELICATE BALANCE OF NATURE

Do you know of any laboratory in the Town of Baie-D'Urfé that have the capacity to produce oxygen for our lungs, purify the air we breathe every minute and the water we drink every day? Labs that can pump excess water from the earth, which helps control the humidity in our basements? Yes, you guessed it, is our TREES!

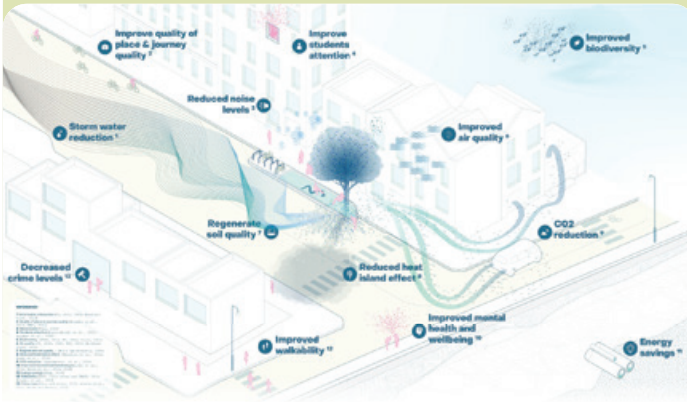
Trees, like almost all plants, are autotrophic organisms. That means they make their own food that allows them to grow. They are mainly the only ones to produce organic substances from inorganic materials. Through the photosynthesis process, plants produce oxygen, which many species and consequently human nature would not survive without.

are produced while consuming around 2 200 000 tons of oxygen.

Amazing isn't it? Well, know that the solution lies in our backyard, on our streets, in our parks and forests - Trees absorbs quantities of CO<sup>2</sup>, which produces photosynthesis. Protecting trees while planting new species can significantly offset urban GHG emissions and improve air quality. Speaking of it, let us not forget that trees also have the capacity to absorb dust and other pollutants, so that a mature maple can easily collect up to 20 kilograms of dust per year. Other species such as the elm, the beech, the alder, the willow, an oak or a white oyster, all conifers etc. are also known to filter air efficiently.

*We now have definite evidence that trees play the wonderful role of a complex laboratory. Can we do more?*

## Certainly!



Oxygen consumption per person at rest is estimated at around 3.5 milliliters per minute. So if a mature tree produces an average of 120 kg of oxygen per year, this corresponds to the annual consumption of a family made up of three people (2 adults & 1 child). Let us not forget to include in these calculations that a single car consumes 2.8 kg of oxygen per liter of gasoline. So, per 100 km traveled, a car consumes the amount of oxygen that a single mature tree produces in one year! According to the Quebec inventory of greenhouse gas emissions (Figure 1), in Quebec a person drives close to 20 000 km per year and produces 4000 kg of CO<sup>2</sup>. On average, with one million vehicles on roads, 4 000 000 tons of CO<sup>2</sup>



Think of planting at least one tree this fall around the house. Plant for the quality of air you breathe, plant for the quality of the water you drink, plant for the survival of life on earth!...





# MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

What's New!

Coordination : Valérie Fortin | Director of Communications



## Fête Nationale du Québec

Town Hall and the Public Works building will both be **CLOSED** on **Wednesday June 24** for the *Fête nationale du Québec*.



## CHANGES TO THE TOWN HALL OPENING HOURS



In the context of new guidelines for the reopening of our Town that will be implemented, please note that the Town Hall is now **CLOSED** between **noon** and **1 p.m.** from **Monday to Thursday**.

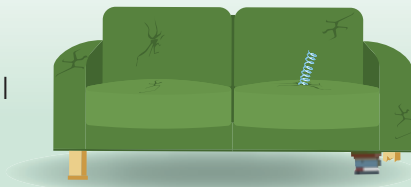
### NEXT BULKY ITEMS

**JUNE 8**

We wish to remind you that each household can put out a maximum of **TEN items**.

Pick-up is every second Monday of the month until November 9.

Have your **Collection calendar** always handy!



### Do you have any electronic waste you wish to dispose of?

You can put them with your bulky items or drop them off at Public Works. **A bin is provided for this purpose outside the building.**

### DISPOSABLE GLOVES & SINGLE-USE MASKS

#### In the context of the Coronavirus!

With the spring clean up of the flowerbeds and green spaces by our Public Works team, we have been finding many of these disposable items on the Baie-D'Urfé territory and around the Shopping Center's parking lot.

Let us keep our community safe by respecting and adopting strict hygiene measures in our Town and by throwing all disposable protective items **in the garbage and not on the ground** especially in this fragile public health period.



### ADDED MEMBER TO THE URBAN PLANNING DPT



Please note that Mrs **Yasmine Ben** has joined in May the Urban Planning team as *Municipal Technician*.

We are delighted to have her on board!

### PROPERTY TAXES - 2<sup>nd</sup> INSTALMENT DELAY

#### REMINDER

Please note that due to the current situation, the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) tax instalment has been deferred to **JUNE 25, 2020**.

