



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

Mayor's Message



Maria Tutino

SEPTEMBER 27 CLIMATE MARCH

The March for Climate had about five hundred thousand participants marching through the streets of downtown Montreal to draw attention to the need to fight climate change. The marchers were generally young, vocal and concerned about the need to act now.

I was present as were some of our residents. Some, who could not attend downtown, attended marches nearby (with a couple being held in our Town).



Here is what resident **Oana Silaghi-Bedikyan** said about why she organized a Climate March in Baie-D'Urfé.

"We can all do something, no matter how little we are, and it matters that we do. The crowds may have been overwhelming in the main march for little ones and we wanted them to have a platform where they too could participate in their community and have a great time doing it. We walked and picked up litter. The little ones explained to us, and each other, what the signs they had made meant to them and how they were contributing to caring for Mother Earth.

*We ended by sitting in a circle. The elders who joined us shared stories about when they were young and there was no plastic *at all* and how they lived without it. The little ones listened. We held hands and gave a cheer for Mother Earth. There we all were, young and old and in between, canines too. We were one. This is what it is all about. This is our Baie-D'Urfé."*

Thank you Oana for this very special initiative. I heard very positive reviews from those who attended.

SEPTEMBER 28 EDIBLE ORCHARD PLANTED AT FRITZ FARM

With the grant that the Town received from *Trees Canada* and *Telus*, we are able to create an impressive edible orchard... an

orchard that boasts **41 fruit trees... with enough variety to please everyone: apple (12), pear (6), plum (6), cherry (6), serviceberry (6), apricot (3) and peach (2).**



Many thanks go to some fifty volunteers who helped plant the orchard. Special thanks go to **Irina Sambueva, Valérie Fortin** and **Richard Gregson** for the excellent organization leading up to the planting, to **MP Francis Scarpaleggia** and **MNA Greg Kelley** who honored us with their presence, to **Francis Deroo** of *Provigo* for donating colorful baskets of edible fruit and of course to *Trees Canada* and *Telus* for their generous grant. Another special thanks go to **Frans Lecluse** for capturing memorable moments of this event.

We can all do our part for the environment by planting trees on our properties and by volunteering to nurture the Town's new edible tree forest. You will enjoy the benefit of fresh fruit, and also help to reduce greenhouse gases. According to **TreePeople.org**, one acre of mature fruit trees will absorb as much CO² as would be produced by driving 42,000 kilometers.

GARDEN AT FRITZ

Baie-D'Urfé's Fritz Farm is home to a wonderful garden operated by very hard-working and generous volunteers who, for the sixth year now, have worked tirelessly to support several West Island food banks.

I would like to acknowledge the core group of volunteers who make up the *Fritz Farm Youth Gardening Program Association* (FFYGPA): **Richard Gregson, Robert Brown, Brian Manning, Françoise Girard, Claudia** and **Stefan Thierry, Mercedes Bisailon, Pamela** and **David Marlowe, Larry Trottier** and **Bill Wexler.**

The 2019 growing season in the Garden at Fritz was the most successful season yet.

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MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

Mayor's Message (continued)

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Maria Tutino

This year, the volunteers:

- › Delivered fresh, organic produce to three West Island food banks for the support of families in need;
- › Harvested **3345 lbs of produce** with an estimated retail value of about **\$8500**. Crops harvested included: **2000 lbs of tomatoes, 375 lbs of zucchinis, 465 lbs of cucumbers, 175 lbs of beans, 60 lbs of eggplants plus green peppers, squash and peas.**
- › Oversaw the creation of the Town's edible orchard

The FFYGPA offers opportunities to both youth and adult residents to gain hands-on experience and knowledge of food gardening.

There is always a need for more volunteers and I encourage all those excited by the creation of the edible orchard and the presence of the existing vegetable garden to come forward and offer your assistance. For these essential environment friendly projects to be successful and sustainable



for the years to come, it is important that the community gets involved. An hour or two of hands-on help on a Saturday morning will ensure continued success of these important initiatives.

I especially encourage those with young families to consider making this a family project. To volunteer, people can email the FFYGPA at gardenatfritz@gmail.com or contact **Richard Gregson** at **514 457-4172**.

BAIE-D'URFÉ YACHT CLUB AND ITS JUNIOR SQUADRON (BDJS)

Congratulations go to the *Baie-D'Urfé Yacht Club* (BDYC) on celebrating this year the **60th anniversary** of its foundation by **Mr. Frank Booth** and **Mr. Miles Wisenthal**. The two gentlemen were instrumental in forming the Club in order to develop a harbour for sailing boats in the Bertold Park area. 60 years later and the BDYC has established itself as one of the best yacht clubs on the island with a waiting list to get in and with a Junior Sailing Program that was recently recognized as the Best Sailing School in Québec by the *Fédération de voile de Québec*.

The *Junior Sailing Program* began in 1962 using a small fleet of *Flying Junior's*, a class which forms part of the present Squadron

Fleet. This sailing school has trained a large number of local sailors through the years, some of whom have become serious competitors.

The BDYC offers four two-week sessions starting the last week of June until mid-August with a program based on the *Canadian Yachting Association CAN Sail* program standards. The program provides safe, standardized instruction for recreation and competition in sailing dinghies. Students are instructed in sailing theory, sailing technique and care and maintenance of the boats. Priority is given to on-water practice of these skills. Once fundamentals have been mastered, the more advanced students are introduced to small boat racing.

The BDYC is proud to host the *Junior Squadron Race Team*. These young sailors race Optimist and 420 fleets all across Canada, participating in National and Provincial Races on the sailing circuit.

This year the race teams participated in 6 regattas and performed exceptionally well in all of them. In some regattas, they were up against **120 boats!** In all 6 regattas, the BDJS had sailors place in the **TOP 10!** Impressive finishes in the 420's by **Ben Hogg & Brendan Haines** (5th, 9th, 3rd); **Remi Tran & Anthony Biello** (4th, 9th, 1st, 7th); **Alex Côté & Ishan Soni** (9th); in the *Opti Green Fleet* competitions, **Vincent Boisvert** shined (4th, 2nd, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd)!

About 100 Baie-D'Urfé youngsters took advantage of the BDJS program in 2019. I have been told that many of the youth walked from the Town pool (morning swimming lessons) to the *Yacht Club* for their afternoon sailing session. What a way to spend your summer! Something to think about for your children or grandchildren in 2020!



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

Kevin M. Doherty



Hello,

As I prepare to write this column I pondered what I would write about. The sun is shining the temperature is comfortable and lots and lots of leaves are still to fall. This column will focus on the *Coast Guard*, the *Rescue Squad* as well as the *Vcops* and finally the Baie-D'Urfé Public Works. With the exception of Public Works 3 out of 4 are volunteers and they are but a few of the many volunteer organizations.



The Coast Guard, for example, has had, up until the end of October, a rather busy summer season. Regular weekend patrols, **28 emergency calls** answered, **69 souls** brought safely to shore, **150 hours** of volunteer crews dealing with emergencies. Each call had 3 crewmembers on board, a stellar response time for crews to leave of less than **10 minutes** from time of call. Combined estimated value of boats rescued approximately 462,000 dollars. Truly an impressive record, well done.

The Rescue Squad, again a volunteer organization of well trained professionals, in September alone, provided **180 hours** of support to several organizations. On September 6, 11, 24, 25, 27, the squad provided first aid support for several schools in Baie-D'Urfé. The squad hosted a reception for *Nova West Island* and the *On Rock Community Services Organization*. August saw the squad organize the *Vintage Auto Show* at Fritz and donated funds from this event to the two preceding organizations.

These are but a sample of the many things that rescue is involved in on a yearly basis besides doing their search and rescue operations. A, "**Well Done**" to this organization also.

The Volunteer Citizens on Patrol (Vcops), which most of Baie-D'Urfé is familiar with, have also had a busy time of it. The Vcops patrol the town with two volunteers to a patrol on a daily basis and have a stellar record of doing so for many years now. They are the eyes and ears of the town when on patrol and are of great assistance when required. These volunteers are present at the various functions of the town. Some examples of this are the swimming meets, the *Car show*, *Baie-D'Urfé Days*, school openings and assisting in traffic directing when required. These are but a few of functions that this volunteer organization contributes to the town. Well done VCOPS!

And last, but certainly not least, is our own **Public Works department**. I wanted to mention them because they ensure

from an operational and repair function that the town runs smoothly. They often go unnoticed but without this well managed and professional department, Baie-D'Urfé would be no different from other towns. This department has had a certain amount of flux this past year with several key people moving elsewhere and retiring. Nonetheless they have been very busy with many projects. For example, *Bertold Park*, a drinking fountain, benches and picnic tables are to be installed in the spring, the wooded area was cleaned and trimmed, fence installation was done as well as the new signage. In *John Weir Park*, new playground equipment was installed, replacing decrepit parts of existing structures, large amounts of buckthorn was removed and cleaned of debris as well as removing poison ivy. At the *Lakeshore* property (the bottom of *Apple Hill*) a large metal barge was moved, the pathway was cleared of debris, the surface was leveled and dead trees removed. Surrey will see the unintended speed bumps removed as a result of repairs to some piping. On *Lakeshore Road*, the north side curb lane and bike lane asphalt in a westerly direction is almost completed and weather permitting, the south side may begin soon. If not, this work will start next spring.

These are but a few of what our Public Works department does besides the general maintenance of water services, branch pick-up, line painting, wood chip delivery, park container garbage collection, tree trimming and the list goes on.

The PW have also been preparing for winter. They have a new sidewalk plow and a new saltbox on the 5ton truck. This salt spreader scatters the product from a centre point rather than the side



thus covering more of the surface in one pass. They are also involved in various projects in the Industrial Park. Again, a "**Well Done**" to this very important department of Baie-D'Urfé.

In closing, it has been a pleasant summer and fall and with the PW department planning for winter, let it snow, let it snow. Enjoy winter everyone and for those who enjoy cross-country skiing, remember the *Morgan Arboretum*.

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ENVIRONMENT DAY AND TREE DONATION, ALWAYS APPRECIATED BY OUR CITIZENS!

Environment Day, held on October 5th, was again a great success and all the trees that were ordered found a home. Thanks to **Irina Sambueva**, Supervisor of the Environment and Green spaces and the Public Works team for the coordination of this day!



PLASTIC POLLUTION FACTS

We now know that plastic pollution has become a global crisis.

Made of petroleum products, disposable plastic bags take only one minute to produce; they are used for approximately **20 minutes** and finally they end up ultimately in our oceans where they will decompose in **several hundred years**. Furthermore, this type of plastic, made of cheap quality, find no buyers on the recycling market.

Small daily gestures are crucial because they are a sign of a collective awareness of the growing effects of environmental pollution. One may recall that the recent discovery of the "7th **plastic continent**" has shocked our collective imagination. This huge plastic patch resembles some kind of "**plastic soup**" made of solid waste, but mostly of



micro-particles in suspension that can reach **30 meters deep** into the ocean. It contains **six times more plastic than plankton!**

This pollution, invisible to the eye, is spread across 5 main oceans in the North Pacific, but also in the South Pacific, North and South Atlantic, and Indian Ocean.

Small gestures can potentially have great impact! The Town of Baie-D'Urfé is proud to adopt a by-law to ban the distribution of **single-use shopping bags** in retail stores on its territory.

Let us contribute to a greener future for our present and future generations!



1 SECOND
TO PRODUCE ONE BAG



20 MINUTES
OF USE



UP TO 1000 YEARS
TO DECOMPOSE



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

What's New!

Coordination : Valérie Fortin | Director of Communications



LAST Bulky Items and Branch PICK-UPS

Monday, November 11



Please note that electronic waste can be dropped off at all time at the Public Works building during business hours.

As for the branch collection, it will resume in the spring.

PREVENTING WATER INFILTRATIONS

Be proactive and ensure that your sump pump works properly before winter arrival. Other risk factors may contribute to water infiltrations in your basement such as soil conditions, the slope of your lot, lack of proper gutters or foundation cracks.

Better be prepared to limit any damages and costs!



DEPARTURE OF THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN PLANNING

PHILIP IACOVONE

After more than 30 years of Urban planning services in the municipal world with 9 years at the Town of Baie-D'Urfé, Mr. Philip Iacovone left for a well-deserved retirement at the end of October. We wish him the best of luck in all future projects, health and happiness.

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE AND FOOD DRIVE

NOVEMBER 17

Donation of NEW TOYS, gift cards or non-perishable food on behalf of West Island Assistance Fund. Organized by the Citizens' Association and Baie-D'Urfé Scouts.

At the Red Barn
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm



JUNIOR COUNCIL

Hear ye, hear ye!

NEXT MEETING IS ON:

› Tuesday, November 19
from 7 pm to 8:30 pm

At the Fritz Farm



REMINDER

Water Meter Cards

The deadline for completing and returning Water meter cards was November 1st. You can also complete the online form on the Town website. Please contact Town Hall at 514 457 5206 should you have any questions.