



# MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

## Mayor's Message



Maria Tutino

July and August were extremely busy months for the Town Council and Administration.

Several significant initiatives from the provincial government required a response from the Town within a very tight timeline.

### SPECIAL PLANNING ZONE (SPZ)

The Québec government tabled a draft Order on June 17 establishing a Special Planning Zone in order to promote the better management of flood zones related to the spring floods of 2017 and 2019. A prohibition of any new construction, transformation, addition or installation came into force for Baie-D'Urfé and the other 812 municipalities covered by the draft Order.

All the mayors of the island of Montreal whose territory, in part or in whole, were included in the SPZ were invited to a debriefing meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup> with the *Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing* regarding the implications of inclusion in the SPZ and, more importantly, regarding the information the municipalities would be required to provide to get certain territories excluded.

In quick order, Baie-D'Urfé provided the requisite information to the Minister, including having about 90 residents whose property was in the SPZ send emails indicating that their building had not flooded in either 2017 or 2019 (80% did so).

The Town was delighted and relieved when the revised SPZ map was revealed on **July 15**. All the Town's public and private buildings had been removed, making Baie-D'Urfé the only municipality on the island with a 100% success rate!

A meeting of myself and several other West Island mayors with Minister Andrée Laforest, on **August 2<sup>nd</sup>** in Québec City resulted in further reductions of the SPZ map. Moreover, the Minister agreed to address in her department's year-end recommendations regarding "**how to better manage flood zones**" two important concerns identified by the owners of the Town's waterfront properties:

- **Allowable pro-active solutions to protect properties;**
- **Financial aid to help with the cost of solutions.**

### SECOND CHILDCARE CENTER (CPE) IN PLACE BY MAY 2021

Prior to 2012, it was extremely difficult for Baie-D'Urfé residents to obtain a daycare spot for their children at the *Whiteside Taylor* CPE location in Town.

Town residents' children did not have priority placement and therefore Town children found themselves in a pool of about 900 children with limited chance of getting in at the local CPE.

Fast forward to 2019 and the story is different today and is expected to improve dramatically with the decision by Council to support WT CPE in exercising the option granted them by the provincial government in 2013 to have a second CPE installation in Town.

Thanks to a previous Council's support in 2011 to accompany the WT CPE application for a second installation, priority status for Town residents' children was obtained in 2012.

Today, the local CPE has **65 daycare spots** for children aged 18 months to five years old; **60** of which are occupied by Town children. At present, there are **53** other Baie-D'Urfé children on the waiting list for the current CPE. If the new CPE was already built, over 65% of the places would be for Town children.

With an estimated need of 58,000 daycare spots by 2023 as determined by the Québec government, the Minister of Families reached out in late February of this year with a "**Use it**" or "**Lose it**" proposition to those organizations who were lucky enough to have received permission, in either 2011 or 2013, to build a new CPE (Québec government subsidized 80 spot childcare center, with 10 spots available for children under 18 months).

In April, Council voted in favour of proceeding with the new subsidized Town-owned childcare installation.

Planning meetings followed among the Town administration, WTCW CPE staff and government representatives to review the general criteria - timelines, project finances (government construction aid and annually indexed rent payments) and government expectations.

The focus then shifted to the location for the new CPE.

While the Government of Québec allows municipalities to establish childcare facilities without having to modify its zoning by-law beforehand, Council nevertheless chose to canvas its residents to determine where, among four possible Town-owned locations, the new CPE should be located.

Thanks to a strong resident participation (with about 42% of the Town's households responding) and to a clear preference indicated by respondents (with 66% indicating that the Lakeshore site was a possible site and with 59% selecting it as the preferred site among the 4 possible sites), Council was able to vote at the August meeting with a majority of Council in favour of proceeding with the project at the Lakeshore site.

For more details on the results of the survey, please check the Town website.

You'll also be able to follow the progress of the construction of the new CPE on the Town website.

*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.*



### PROPOSED DAYCARE

I feel that it would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to write about the proposed new daycare.

As I'm sure most of you are aware, there is a plan to build a new publicly-funded daycare in the Town with the capacity for **80 children** including **10 babies**. This was approved by a narrow majority of Council in two votes at the April and June public meetings. The intention is to follow a process laid down by provincial law, which allows the town to build a daycare without going through the normal rezoning process.

As I write (August 11), the location has not yet been determined. A CROP opinion poll, seeking citizens' views on four possible locations, has just closed. The results of the poll are presently being compiled and Council will be made aware of them on August 12 or 13. There will be a very limited time for Council to absorb and reflect on this information before the vote on the final location, scheduled for the August 13 public meeting.

Council has received a large amount of correspondence on the subject of the daycare. While some letters have been received from residents who are in favour of its construction, far more residents have written to question the decision and to express disappointment. The concerns that have been raised include: the green space that will be lost; the monetary cost; the questionable need for a second daycare; the rushed timeline; and particularly the process that is being followed.

I share these concerns, and have voted in the minority of Council against the daycare proposal in both formal votes. It is worth noting also that the *Town Planning Advisory Committee* recommended against the construction of the daycare, on the grounds of the cost to the town, and the lack of convincing evidence of a need.

We live in a democracy, and the majority vote on Council must determine the course of action that is taken. However I believe that citizens must be allowed to have their say and that we should follow the normal rezoning process in this instance. This would allow citizens to register their opposition

to the proposed change, and if there is enough opposition, Council would then have the choice to proceed to a referendum or to drop the proposal. That way the voice of the citizens can be heard and the will of the majority respected.

### DEMOLITIONS

We have seen an increasing number of demolitions over the last couple of years. For every application for a demolition permit, there is a public hearing of the Demolition Committee. Hearings are publicized through the Town website and **The Gazette**, as well as by means of a sign in front of the house to be demolished.

The owner of the property is asked to provide a number of documents. In addition to detailed plans of the proposed new house, a report from an arborist is required, indicating the health of every tree on the property, which trees must be taken down, and the preservation measures required for the protection of other trees. A drainage plan is also required, showing how the water runoff from the house and the septic system will be directed. Other documents required include a construction management document, which would include a timeline for construction. All of these latter documents are relatively new requirements, intended to ensure that the new house will not cause problems for its neighbours, either during or after the construction period.

At the public hearing, the plans for the new house are presented, and there is an opportunity for the committee, as well as the citizens present, to ask questions of the owners or their representative. The committee takes account of all the information and comments given, and makes a decision on whether the demolition should be allowed, usually imposing a number of conditions. The committee's decision is subject to appeal to Council by any person within 30 days.

**I encourage you to attend a demolition hearing if you are interested. The committee is always happy to see citizens in attendance.**

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## Sélection dons d'arbres | AUTOMNE 2019 FALL | Tree Selection

**Épinette du Colorado**  
**Colorado Blue Spruce**  
*"Glauca"*



H : 20m | L : 8m



**Pommier décoratif** | **Crab apple**  
*"Robinson"*



H : 8m | L : 8m



**Févier d'Amérique inerme**  
**Honey-Locust**  
*"Shademaster"*



H : 15m | L : 11m



**Phellodendron de l'Amur**  
**Amur Corktree**



H : 12m | L : 10m



**Pin noir d'Autriche** | **Austrian Pine**



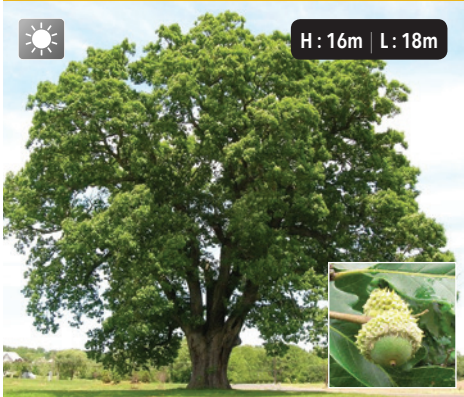
H : 18m | L : 6m



**Chêne bicoloré** | **Swamp White Oak**



H : 16m | L : 18m



**Lilas de Manchourie** | **Manchurian Lilac**  
*"Miss Kim"*



H : 2m | L : 1,5m



**Orme** | **Elm**  
*"New Horizon"*



H : 17m | L : 12m



**Poirier** | **Pear Tree**  
*"Beauté Flamande"* | *"Flemish Beauty"*



H : 6m | L : 5m



**Tilleul argenté** | **Silver Linden**



H : 15m | L : 9m





# MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

## What's New!

Coordination : Valérie Fortin | Director of Communications



### BRANCH PICK-UP - Fall 2019

Le The spring branch pick-up has resumed service since August 19 for the fall period **until November 11**. Branches should be placed by the roadside the night before pick-up day or the day of the collection before 7 a.m. They will be picked-up during the week.

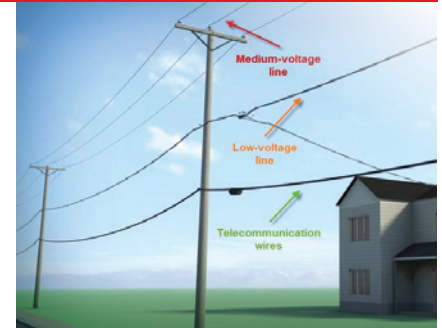
## BE CAREFUL OF POWER LINES WHEN DOING OUTDOOR WORK

### BASIC SAFETY RULES

- › Don't let anyone or anything get near power lines.
- › Be especially aware of the danger when working at heights and using long or tall equipment.

### BEFORE CLIMBING UP SOMEWHERE OR USING LONG OR TALL EQUIPMENT (ladder, long-handled skimmer, etc.)

1. Look for power lines nearby.
2. Keep everyone and everything at least 3 m away from a medium-voltage line.
3. Be sure that nothing touches the low-voltage lines (including the lines connected to the service entrance of your home).
4. Identify dangerous lines.
5. Never go near medium-voltage lines. These lines are located at the top of poles and are often confused with surge arresters. They are thin metal wires without an insulated sheath. These lines may look harmless, but they are **extremely dangerous!**



## GREEN WASTE COLLECTION

### My brown bin

#### Fall season is at our door!

It is important **NOT TO OVERLOAD** your organic bin of evergreen branches and grass clippings on pick-up day and to properly **CLOSE** the lid to ensure it will be properly emptied.

**Should you have much green waste to dispose of, use paper bags or any container to complete the cleaning of your lot and place it next to your bin on pick-up day!**



## BAIE-D'URFÉ SHARED TAXIBUS SERVICE

The shared taxibus service in Baie-D'Urfé is available **Monday to Friday**, except on legal holidays. When boarding your taxi, you only need to show the driver your OPUS card or a valid STM magnetic strip fare card.

Make sure you reserve your seat **40 minutes** in advance by calling **514 636-6666**.



For further information, consult our Town website under the **Transportation** section of the **Citizen Services** tab. Please note that Shared Taxibus Schedules are also available at Town Hall.



### HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Designated date for the next pick-up is **Sunday September 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 a.m.** at the Public Works building.

## REPLACEMENT TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATION

We are pleased to welcome **Mr. Ronald Smith** as *Supervisor of Public Works* and **Mrs. Irina Sambueva** as *Supervisor, Greens Spaces and Environment*. Both has joined the Public Works team last July.

We wish them a warm **Welcome** to our Town!

## BY-LAW NO. 911 - TRAFFIC

Please note that the by-law **prohibits parking for more than 4 consecutive hours at all times on Town streets**. A municipal inspector has recently been surveying the territory to ensure that this regulation is applied. **Please note that a \$15 fine applies for any breach of the regulation**. For any particular situation or event, please notify the Urban Planning Department in advance at **514 457-3773**

### 6.3 LIMITED PARKING

Trucks shall not be parked on a public highway in the Town unless they are being continuously loaded and unloaded. No other vehicle may be parked for more than four hours.