



# MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

## Mayor's Message



◆◆◆◆ Maria Tutino

Since the June *News & Views* came out, I have been approached by residents enquiring how the Town's Covid numbers of 15 confirmed cases and 0 deaths on May 14 could have doubled by May 25. On June 30, the *Santé Montréal* website showed that Baie-D'Urfé had 31 Covid confirmed cases and less than 5 deaths since the onset of the pandemic.

The *Global TV* news report of May 31<sup>st</sup> explains what happened: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7009311/coronavirus-baie-durfe-senior-home-outbreak/>.

On May 6, *Maxwell Residence* was one of the very few senior residences on the Island of Montreal that had zero Covid cases. On May 7, a resident on the assisted living floor showed symptoms... test results confirmed that he had the coronavirus. Shortly after, there was an outbreak on the assisted living floor. A few days later there was a case confirmed in the autonomous wing of the building. Finally there was 23 confirmed cases in the Residence.

It is heartbreaking to see friends, neighbors and loved ones cope with Covid-19... it is especially painful when they live in a senior residence and that the only way to keep them safe is to confine everyone to their rooms until everyone tests negative.

It appears that the older individuals are, the longer the incubation period may be in both displaying the symptoms and in testing negative (even if the symptoms have disappeared). Subsequently, the *WI CIUSSS* advised *Maxwell Residence* to impose a minimum of 21 days lockdown as of May 25.

*Maxwell* owner, **Farzad Shodjai**, has responded admirably in the face of this pandemic by putting in place all the necessary measures for the safety of the residents and in doing everything humanly possible to keep the residents' spirits up by initiating activities like the Balcony Workout. I had the pleasure to be at the Residence when **Paulette Challenger** was leading a workout and happily participated on the grounds while the residents followed along on their balconies.

When word of the lockdown got around the community, some initiatives were suggested to improve the morale of the residents.

A couple of citizen groups were formed to help make the lives of the residents more pleasant (beautiful floral gardens to see from their windows & balconies, tasty things to eat when they could once again enjoy their outdoor surroundings, and music to listen to, dance to and sing along to).

### I WANT TO THANK ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME OUT TO HELP.

I want to particularly thank the dynamic duo of **Gillian Bennett** and **Sandra Davies** who, not only helped in the planting, but also were intricately involved in the selection and purchase of the plants and the designs of the flower beds AND also a huge thank you to the indefatigable **Ralph Allison** for organizing the rotating concerts and to the talented musicians for their wonderful performances: **Mike Bernath, Michelle Bibey, Sylvia Bruns, Pamela Putnam.**

A special thank you also goes to the seven youngsters who worked side by side with their parents and the other volunteers. They showed us all that Baie-D'Urfé is in good hands today and tomorrow, should a crisis occur, because the community cares and residents are bringing up their children to care and get involved. The youngsters' names are highlighted in the list below (Liam Bruce lives in Senneville and he came out to help because his great grandma lives at *Maxwell*).

Floral & Vegetable Gardens & Lawn Care: **Michelle Banham & Aislinn Duffield, Wayne Belvedere, Gillian Bennett, Robert Brown, Tony Brown, James & Liam Bruce, Jane Cibola & Nick, Caelen, Chloe and Liam McBoyle, Sandra Davies, Kathleen Donovan, Cindy Giroux & Nick, Natasha and Vanessa Drouin, Greg Kelley, Dominic Ryan and Maria Tutino.**

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## Mayor's Message (Continued)

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Maria Tutino

### GREAT NEWS ABOUT MAXWELL RESIDENCE

By June 24, all of the confirmed cases had tested negative twice and there aren't any positive cases left at Maxwell... Confinement period declared over!

### OUR MNA GREGORY KELLEY AT WORK

A big thank you goes to our **MNA Greg Kelley** for his work on behalf of the Town and also for the recent grants he provided the Town to help during the Covid pandemic. We see him here in the gardens at *Maxwell Residence* and at the *National Assembly* wearing a mask made by the *Baie-D'Urfé Masketeers*.



### GARDEN AT FRITZ - SHARING SURPLUS GARDEN PRODUCE

In my walks throughout the Town, I stop frequently to admire the beautiful gardens. This year, among the flowerbeds, I see many vegetable gardens gracing people's properties. Some are new vegetable gardens, like mine, and others have been expanded because of the pandemic.

Come harvest time, if the rabbits have not eaten most of my plantings, I will have more produce than my family and I can enjoy and have therefore decided to respond to the *Garden at Fritz's* appeal to share the surplus with them... they donate **100%** of their vegetable produce to local food banks... and this year the need for fresh produce is expected to be even greater than ever before.

If you too want to participate and share some of your produce, please send your name, address and email contact to [gardenatfritz@gmail.com](mailto:gardenatfritz@gmail.com). The *Garden at Fritz* will add your name to their mailing list and let you know the arrangements for sharing produce once they are starting their own harvest in a few weeks' time. There will also be information about this on their *Facebook* page at <https://www.facebook.com/gardenatfritz/>

I understand that the residents of *Maxwell Residence* have agreed to share the produce

from the vegetable garden planted for them by Town volunteers.

In closing, we are all in this together and we will each have an opportunity to help. This virus will be here for some time yet and we need to take care of each other to make sure that we all survive it physically, emotionally and psychologically.

Don't be shy to accept help. Don't be shy to help.

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



*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.*

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# MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

## Mayor's Message (Continued)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ Maria Tutino

Dear citizens of Baie-D'Urfé,

The murder of **George Floyd** in Minneapolis on May 25 has set off a global string of protests aimed at addressing racial inequality and injustice in every corner of the world.

It has been made clear in recent weeks that on the Island of Montreal, including in Baie-D'Urfé, many of us share in the view that things need to change, structurally and socially, around the world.

I say us because, as an individual, I too strongly share that view.

However, irrespective of the views of a person or even the views of a large group of people, the Town's elected officials have historically not taken positions on political and social issues unrelated to local governance.

The Town has also been very clear on what messaging is permitted on its communication channels. The billboard policy, in place since 2012, reads as follows :

*"The electronic billboard is destined exclusively for informative non-commercial messages Solicitation is forbidden on the territory of the municipality according to By-law no. 969. Any political, partisan, religious, sexual or racial message will be refused. No discrimination will be tolerated..."*

In the past, personal views have been kept out of the public domain. Volunteer teams are apolitical as they unify in common goals to work for the betterment of the Town. This has never been as obvious as with the volunteer efforts that have started during the pandemic for residents to help their fellow neighbors... "admission to help" was open to all and "admission to be helped" was equally open to all.

Baie-D'Urfé has a multinational, multilingual, globally diversified community and in these times, divisiveness and discord can quickly undo years of goodwill between friends and neighbors. While almost 70% of Town residents were born

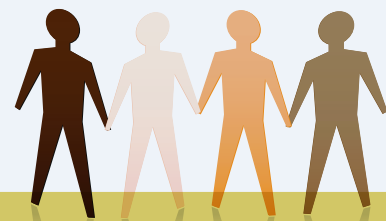
in Canada, many others originated from all over the world: **the Americas (6%), Europe (17%), Africa (2%), Asia (5%) and Oceania (less than 1%)** - 2016 Census

The Town's Council and Administration respect the liberties of every citizen, of every race, nationality and sexual orientation, and we must remember that one's beliefs and associated actions could cause division and prejudice in the eyes of another.

The citizens of Baie-D'Urfé have always been able to respectfully be heard during the monthly Council meetings, regardless of their opinion, their gender, their origin, their language, their age or their orientation.

Since municipalities are getting back to a "new normal", the Town has also decided to remove the three-month old "Field of thank yous" that was dedicated to healthcare and essential workers for their heroic efforts during the pandemic, along with other signage that has been springing up all over the town since the start of the pandemic, in respect of our nuisance by-law that states: "No person shall use or place a flag, placard, banner or sign across, above, in or on any public property within the Town without having previously obtained the written authorization of the Town".

Thank you for your understanding.



**Any unapproved signage in any public park or on any public property will be removed.**

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♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ [baie-durfe.qc.ca](http://baie-durfe.qc.ca)





# MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

## Council Communiqué



Heidi Ektvedt

Life forced a "pause" with Covid-19 and we are all faced with finding new ways to adapt. Council along with administration through his time has been highly engaged and thanks to technology we remain in close contact, reacting quickly to the issues at hand.

This has not come without challenge. Toward the end of March the Quebec government ordered the suspension of all non-priority services including those within the municipal world. Most notably, our residents would notice a reduction and/or delays in some services as a direct result. The Urban Planning department welcomes two technicians to help increase the service level and Public Works remains committed to operational functions all the while balancing a safe work environment for employees.

Town Hall & Public Works have re-opened to the public and are equipped with hand washing stations, plexiglass partitions, buzzer entries and sanitizing protocols. **Happy and eager to safely welcome residents back; please be sure to call ahead to book your appointment, and follow protocols displayed at the entrances.**

We were in the midst of a heat wave leading into Father's Day weekend and our town safely opened up the *Curling Club* as of the Friday residents in need of relief. Thank you to **Nicholas Mavrias** (Director Public Works), **Ronald Smith** (Supervisor Public Works), **Valérie Fortin** (Director Communications) along with Public Works employees, **Marc Morel** and **Frédéric Lemieux**, who both remained on hand to operate the facility.

Traditional Public Council meetings & consultations, both involving gatherings, have been suspended as per the Quebec government. Guidelines have been issued and we continue to hold Council meetings remotely by Webcast. Residents can choose to watch these monthly meetings live or shortly thereafter, as the recordings are posted on the Town website. Our Director General, **Nicolas Bouchard**, works on alternate methods of consultation for residents on the new daycare project and Town Hall renovations. The planned

meeting with the *Bertold Canine Recreational Area* users is still on hold and we hope to find a suitable meeting solution.

Rest assured everyone is working smartly with a mindfulness to ensure democratic processes and that our town employees have the best interests at heart for our community.




**WELCOME TO THE PUBLIC WORKS & URBAN PLANNING DPT.**

Visits are by appointment only

Public Works: 514 457-2877  
Urban Planning: 514 457-5339

New Reopening Protocol - COVID-19



**baie-durfe.qc.ca**  
Outside business hours:  
info@baie-durfe.qc.ca

**PROTECT ONE ANOTHER:**  
A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY.  
Thank you for your cooperation!

 baie-durfe.qc.ca



# MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

*Council Communiqué (Continued)*

Heidi Ektvedt

As “physical distancing” & “social bubbles” become commonplace words in our daily life, recent tragic and senseless events have brought to light those of words of “**systemic racism**” and “**Black Lives Matter**”. While the headlines may seem far from our little town, we do not live in a bubble nor are we immune to the effects.

There are endless ways to contribute to awareness and show support for change. Here are some small ideas to spark the conversation however I fully respect that ultimately they remain personal choices.

### ARE YOU OUTGOING AND DRAWN TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

Attend an existing event or create your own within your small circle. Are you a conversationalist? Bring the topic to your family dinner table or book club. Are you computer savvy? Google the terms you might not be familiar with and educate yourself. Is writing your passion? Send an email to local **MP Francis Scarpaleggia** or **MNA Greg Kelley**.

Baie-D’Urfé is a welcoming community and through continued dialogue in our homes; with our partners, children & grandchildren, our schools, our community at large and how we each treat one another I hope we learn to be aware of our own unconscious biases, embrace diversity and inspire inclusivity.



On another note, historically *Father’s Day* weekend marks the official kickoff to “Baie-

*D’Urfé Days*”. Filled with multiple activities for all residents, led by the *Citizens Association* in conjunction with many other local groups, there is always something fun for everyone to enjoy including the grand finale of fireworks & fun on the grounds of the *Fritz Community Center*. This year, for families and fathers alike, the weekend was quieter and I look forward to times when we can resume activities safely and bring the town together again.

For those on *Facebook* I invite you to follow me at **Heidi Ektvedt councillor/baie-d’urfé seat 4**.



### CALL FOR TWO ADDITIONAL CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS

#### Traffic Committee

The Town is seeking **2 citizen volunteers** to serve on the Traffic Committee. The Committee will include two members of Council, one member of the Administration and three citizen volunteers. This Committee is responsible for making recommendations to Council on specific mandates given to them.

Meetings are scheduled **on a monthly basis during business hours, however they are held based on mandated topics**. Appointments are generally for a **one-year term (1)**, and may be renewed.

The comments, opinions and any consensus views of the committee are not binding upon the Town or the Administration. The Town and its Administration are only bound by decisions that are authorized by the Municipal Council in the course of a public meeting by way of a resolution or a by-law.

If you are interested to help by serving on this committee, please send an email to [info@baie-durfe.qc.ca](mailto:info@baie-durfe.qc.ca) by **Thursday July 24, 2020** giving some information about your skills, your experience and why you are interested in this particular committee.

Please indicate “**Traffic Committee**” in the subject line.

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**WARNING ! Under By-law no. 958, it is prohibited to use or spread chemical pesticides on the Baie-D'Urfé territory.**



### PENALTIES

Without prejudice to any other recourse by the Town, anyone who contravenes this By-law is liable to a fine, with or without cost, of at least one hundred dollars (\$100) but not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) for a first offense and at least five hundred dollars (\$500) but not more than a thousand dollars (\$1000) for any subsequent offense.

Pesticides are designed to kill "pests," but some pesticides can also have harmful effects on human health. The probability of experiencing adverse health effects depends on the type of pesticide and other chemicals it contains, the quantity you are exposed to, the duration and frequency of exposure.

More often, pesticides affect the nervous system (the system in our body that controls nerves and muscles).

Therefore, as pesticides present health risks, the advantage of practices resulting from ecological gardening makes sense. **Please note that even the application of products named "organic pesticides" is prohibited in the Town and are not part of ecological choices.**

Take the soil into account when choosing your plants. Choose them based on greater resistance to pest and disease attacks. Learn more about biodiversity to make the right choices when selecting species offered to you in nurseries.

If you would like more information about organic maintenance of your property, visit our Town's website, in the Environment section, Gardening tips.

**NOTE:** The term "pesticide" refers to a wide variety of chemicals or pest control products. It is always important to get specific explanations about the particular product you are using.