



# MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER FROM TOWN HALL

## Mayor's Message



Maria Tutino

A new decade begins... many challenges still lie ahead. Baie-D'Urfé has come a long way since the beginning of the last decade.

I thought it would be interesting to review with you what our preoccupations were as we entered 2010 and what they are entering 2020. A comparison of the mayor's message for the two years follows:

### EXCERPTS FROM THE 2010 MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We started the year 2009 with an accumulated surplus of \$1.3 million, and finished with a surplus of approximately \$1.3 million. Our capital projects for the year 2010 include the construction of a pathway on Surrey from Morgan to Apple Hill, for a total cost of approximately \$1.3 million. This will be financed to the extent of about \$700,000 by a grant from the *Gas tax subsidy program*. Other projects are the continuation of the paving program... and the refurbishment of the Morgan entrance to Town, financed mainly out of the Parks Reserve.

The Agglomeration budget has increased significantly over last year, and Baie-D'Urfé's share has increased from \$8.9 million to just over \$10.0 million, an increase of 12.4%. Given that 71% of our general taxation revenues go to the Agglomeration, this alone causes an increase of 8.5% in the average tax bill. The impact of this increase for Baie d'Urfé is so serious that Council felt it had no choice but to freeze the local component of taxes. The Town's local budget for 2010 is \$6.4 million, leading to a total 2010 budget of \$16.4 million, including our Agglomeration share, compared to \$15.2 million in 2009.

The effect on your tax bill is an average increase of 8.5% over your 2009 tax bill in both the single-family and non-residential sectors (for those with the average valuation increases shown above).

### EXCERPTS FROM THE 2020 MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Baie-D'Urfé's operating budget will total \$21,236,290 which includes the Town's contribution to the Agglomeration in the amount of \$12,543,500. About 56.8 % of the residential properties will have a taxation increase of 2% or less; about 84.5% of the Town's non-residential properties will note a 1.97% tax increase or less. The Town has committed about \$26.3 million to its three-year capital projects program - about \$13.2 million of this amount is expected to be spent in 2020.

Only \$1.15 million of the proposed 2020 *Capital Expenditure Program* will be financed by taxation. About \$5.7 million will come from the Town's surplus and reserve funds; \$2.9 million from grants for the child care center and the berm (from Lakeview to Gray). The Town will borrow about \$3.5 million to pay for two of its projects - industrial sector paving (\$1.75 million) and the Town Hall (\$1.7 million). We anticipate receiving a grant for at least 65% of the cost of the Town Hall renovation project (expected

to be about \$2.5 million) and to receive a grant for the paving project from the Gas Tax Fund upon their completion.

At the end of 2020, assuming all projects are completed on time and on budget, we expect to have a combined "surplus & reserve fund" remaining balance of about \$2 million. An additional \$2.5 million of the Town's surplus has been reserved for pre-2020 unresolved valuation roll contestations.

### COMMENTARY

Entering 2010, the Town Council was very concerned about how we were going to meet the total budget needs for the year and future years given the continuous explosion in agglomeration taxes, limited accumulated Town surplus and the citizens' capacity to pay. We decided to keep local expenditures to the essentials in 2010 and to finance projects through surplus and grants.

This strategy has worked well for the Town. Citizens were taxed for the basic budget needs, Town projects were financed via grants and surplus funds (from 2010 to 2018 over \$16 M in surplus entered the Town coffers, most of which has come from new taxation arising from building improvements in all sectors, particularly in our non-residential sector).

Thus in 2020 the Town Council feels confident in proposing a very ambitious three year capital works program with an estimated cost of \$26.3 M, of which \$13.2 M is allotted for 2020 projects.

The ever increasing agglomeration expenditures, the unilateral Montreal decision-making in the composition of the agglomeration budget and the unjust, inequitable cost-sharing formula continue to be as concerning as they were in 2010. The Association of Suburban Municipalities have requested the Quebec Government's help to resolve these issues. Renewed talks to be held this year. Let's hope that in 2030, the mayor's column will not be dealing with the need for their resolution.

From budget 2010 to budget 2020 the Town increased taxation by about \$3.5 M, 72% of which was needed to pay for the agglomeration tax bill (\$2,510,000) and about \$945,000 for local needs.

Wishing you all a happy new decade... may it be rich in health, joyous times and success in whatever projects and adventures you pursue!



*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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## Communiqué du Conseil

Janet Ryan



As I write, Sunday January 12, we seem to have had a narrow escape from another ice storm. We did however have a deluge of rain yesterday, with over 40 mm falling over the course of the day. Our Public Works Department was kept busy unblocking drains at various points in the Town to allow the water to drain off the streets.

We are certainly seeing climate change in action, with more ice and less snow in our winters, and hotter summers. Around the world, we are seeing more extreme weather events such as hurricanes, forest fires, super-storms, and extreme temperatures. The devastating fires still going on in south-eastern Australia are just the most recent example. I'm sure the residents of that area would have been happy to exchange weather with us yesterday, and have our 5° C and over 40 mm of rain.



We are all aware of the impending climate crisis and the need to act as more environmentally responsible citizens of the world, but sometimes it feels like there is very little that we, as individuals, can do. For instance, I recently wanted to donate a hide-a-bed to an organization that would be able to pass it on to a person or family who could use it. I was unable to find anybody who would pick it up, and in the end had no choice but to put it out for the garbage pickup. Judging by the number of couches and mattresses that I have seen put out for garbage around the Town from time to time, perhaps a lot of other people have had the same experience.

There is however one young citizen of Baie-D'Urfé who has his own ideas on what to do with trash. **Lucas Hygate** is the founder of a non-profit organization called *TrashTalk*, whose mission is to

bridge the current gap between environmentalism and popular culture. *TrashTalk* has hosted garbage clean-ups in many locations around Montreal, including *Angell Woods*. They have received extensive coverage in the local media and have



recently received a **\$15,000** grant from the *Fondation du Grand Montreal* which will enable them to greatly expand their work. Congratulations Lucas and keep up the good work!



Finally, I also wanted to express **my condolences to the Iranian Canadian members of the Baie-D'Urfé community**

on the senseless and tragic loss of life caused by the shooting down of Flight 752 in Iran. One of the victims was **Negar Borghei**, a Masters student at the *McGill* School of Nutrition, based in the *Macdonald* campus. She died along with several members of her family.

It is good that Iran has now acknowledged its responsibility for the event. However I have yet to see a word of condolence to the families of the Canadian victims from the President of the United States, let alone any recognition that his actions might have contributed in any way to this tragedy. I hope that by the time you read this, the current tensions in the Middle East will have eased.

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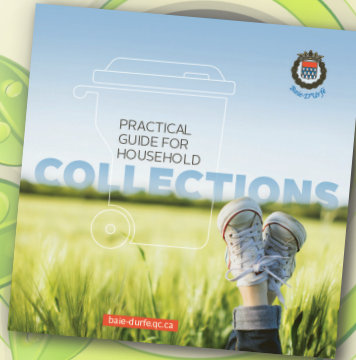
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## Environmental Review

Irina Sambueva



In order to pursue the objective of reducing residual materials that is generated, it is important to best refer to the quality of household waste we place in our recycling bin. Although recycling is now a way of life, it still remains difficult for some people to determine **what can and cannot be recycled**. In order to facilitate the sorting at home and increase performance of this practice, it is important to consider these **4 CATEGORIES** of items that can be placed in your blue bin. You can always refer to your *PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR HOUSEHOLD COLLECTIONS*!



1

### PAPER BAGS AND CARDBOARD: MOST OF THEM

**PRECISIONS:** To avoid contamination of other materials, all paper and cardboard that are soiled or greasy should be placed in your compost bin.

You have a great amount of cardboard boxes to dispose, call Public Works at **514 457-2877**. It is important that they are not soiled or soggy.

2

### PLASTICS: IDENTIFIED BY THE NUMBER 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 AND 7. EXCEPT NO 6. ALL PLASTIC BAGS.

**PRECISIONS:** Bags of food, wrapping, bread, baking or food products (clean and non-greasy) are recyclable. Make a bag of bags, meaning group them in a single bag (transparent if possible, bread bag style), tied, to facilitate sorting. **Food bags must be clean to avoid contamination of other materials during collection.**

3

### GLASS: BOTTLES AND CONTAINERS USED FOR FOOD

**PRECISIONS:** All bottles and containers must be **clean and free from any liquid inside and not broken.**

4

### METAL : CLEAN STEEL AND ALUMINUM CONTAINERS OR PACKAGING WITH NO PRODUCT INSIDE.

**PRECISIONS :** All aerosol containers, paints and solvents, propane tanks, hazardous products, batteries and light bulbs must be dropped off at the Mobile Ecocentre at Public Works on **May 23<sup>rd</sup>** and **September 6** in 2020.

**Fluo-compact bulbs and fluorescent tubes are not accepted in this collection.**

They contain a certain amount of mercury, which requires safe and ecological treatment. Several places accept light bulbs at the end of their life, to find the drop-off points, visit <https://www.recycfluo.ca/en/>

100% of the refundable cans and bottles that are returned are recycled. Look for the " *Consignée Québec*" refund.

**REMINDER!** Drop off your Electronics at Public Works during business hours. All electronic waste brought to our drop-off point is managed by the *ARPE QUEBEC Association* and treated in a safe, responsible and ecological manner.

## CONGRATULATION TO ALL BAIE-D'URFÉ CITIZENS FOR THEIR CONTINUED EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTION!

**764,79 TONS** were diverted from landfills to make compost.  
**5,600 KILOS** of electronic devices in 2019 were recovered in Baie-D'Urfé.

**FEBRUARY  
12**

**BETWEEN 10:00 AM AND 1:00 PM:** The Town of Baie-D'Urfé invite its citizens to a distribution event of reusable and compostable shopping bags. **Come to our booth on February 12** at *PROVIGO*, located at 90 Morgan, with a proof of residence and you will receive for **FREE** a nice **100% cotton** bag treated with no harmful chemicals.

We wish to thank **M. Deroo** and the entire *PROVIGO* team for their precious collaboration at this event.

**Let us bring positive changes to make Baie-D'Urfé a GREENER Town!**



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES

For reasons of public safety and to avoid any potential risk of serious injuries, it is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** to leave any containers of aerosol, paint, propane tanks, flammable and toxic items at the Public Works building.



Several examples of **UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS** were found piled up at the main entrance of the Public Works building in 2019 and at the start of this new year.

Due to the toxicity of these products, hazardous wastes must be brought in a safe and responsible way to an Ecocentre near you or dropped off at the Baie-D'Urfé Public Works Mobile Ecocentre **ONLY** on the dates listed in your *Collection Calendar*:

**Saturday May 23, 2020 - Sunday September 6, 2020**

For a complete list of hazardous wastes, refer to our website in the **Household Hazardous** page of the *Waste Collection* section.

### 2020 WINTERFEST

*A unique event not to be missed!*

**Tons of activities to entertain the whole family!**

Consult all details in this issue of the *News & Views*

**Saturday, February 15 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

At the Red Barn



### BAIE-D'URFÉ NEWSLETTER



The popularity index for our *Updates from Baie-D'Urfé Newsletter* is always growing. More than **603 subscriptions** since it's beginning! An intuitive and practical platform to complement our many communication tools.

*Thanks to all of our subscribers!*

### 2020 MUNICIPAL TAXES

**Due Dates:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> INSTALMENT: February 24**

**2<sup>ND</sup> INSTALMENT: May 25**

