



I cannot believe it is 2016 already and that it has been ten years since the demerger! I still remember the great emotions the Administration and Council had on January 1, 2006 as we got ready to open the doors of the Town Hall.

We were excited, for sure, but we were also very nervous as we didn't know how we would fare both financially and from a service perspective under the new rules of the agglomeration structure. We were hopeful at the time that the horror scenarios being cited by opponents of the demerger would not come to be and that our citizens would not come to regret the decision to take back their Town.



Property owners will have by now received their tax bill and will have found that Council was able to **freeze their taxes for a second year in a row**. Not only that but the 2016 residential mill rate for our Town, set at 0.5950 per \$100 of valuation, is by far the lowest on the Montreal island and even lower than those off-island regions to the West.

Following are 10 financial facts you might be interested to know about our Town as we enter our next decade of demerger.

1. With the 2016 budget, our "lowest tax rates on the island" streak grows to eleven years in a row.

2. For the past couple of years, most of the Town's projects have been financed from surplus.

3. Five year Town taxation increase history as compared to the inflation rate for the Island of Montreal

	Year	Town	Inflation
a.	2012	0.4%	2.0%
b.	2013	0.8%	0.8%
c.	2014	0.7%	1.5%
d.	2015	0.0%	2.2%
e.	2016	0.0%	2.3%

4. The Town has only two at-large loans outstanding. These are coming to term in March of this year. Balance at renewal is \$101 000. Council has decided to pay off these loans which may make our Town the only municipality in Quebec with zero at-large loan by-laws.

5. Rare among Québec municipalities in that Town total assets are greater than total debts.

6. Our Town is also one of the few municipalities that has a "pay as you go" philosophy.

7. Since 2006 the Town has issued construction permits with a value of over \$155 million, with 2015 being one of the top years for investment.

8. The value of our single family homes (SFH) have gone up higher than some others on the island. An average single family home is valued at \$647 443, the fifth highest in property valuation among the sixteen Island municipalities. Prior to the demerger, the Town's average SFH was sixth highest among the sixteen municipalities.

9. Thanks to the efforts made in 2008 to get back some of Montreal's taxation powers, the Town has come out a big winner. Since 2009, with the one tax bill, all new taxation revenues go to the local city. Baie-D'Urfé sends 72% of its taxes to Montréal. The Town has had more than \$1.7 million in new



Mayor's Message

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taxation since 2009. Prior to 2009, we would have had to give Montreal 72% of that amount (about \$1.2 million).

10. The *Union of Québec's Municipalities (UMQ)* report entitled "*Portrait de la situation financière et fiscale 2009 à 2013*" provided cities' financial statistics and their evolution from 2009 to 2013 and compared each city's information to both the Québec average and to the average in its particular agglomeration body.

Not surprising, based on our financial philosophy, results showed that:

- a. Town expenses have increased much less than others over the 2009-2013 period;
- b. In 2012 « Service de la dette à la charge de la ville » was 3.2% (Town) 14.1% (Québec) 14.2% (Island);

c. In 2013 "endettement total net à long terme/habitant" was \$768 as compared to \$2450 (Québec) and \$2766 (Island);

d. In 2013 "surplus/habitant" was \$1784 (Town) \$486 (Québec) \$519 (Island);

e. The Town's surplus has grown significantly more than most cities. While the Town's "surplus as a % of expenses" at 16% in 2009 was below both the (19.6%) averages of Québec municipalities and those of the Island (17.4%), things were dramatically different in 2013: Baie-D'Urfé (43.6%), Québec (24.9%) Island (22.4%).

One can only hope that the next decade will be as promising and the future only better for our citizens!

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.

Environmental Review

NATIONAL SWEATER DAY

February 4th, 2016



Since 2010, over a million Canadians have participated in *National Sweater Day*.

National Sweater Day is a fun way to learn about the importance of

saving energy and inspire you to use less heat all winter. Heating accounts for 80% of residential energy use in Canada, and is a significant source of emissions. If all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just 2 degrees Celsius this winter, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 4 megatons – equivalent to shutting down a 600 mega watt coal-fired power station.

On February 4th, put on your most cozy sweater and lower your thermostat during *National Sweater Day* to demonstrate our commitment to reduce energy use on climate change!

What is the relationship between my woollen sweater and global warming?

This is precisely the aim of *Sweater Day*, making us aware of our energy consumption and the responsibility that each and



everyone of us can play for the **battle against global warming in Canada**. A small gesture such as – turning down the heat and wearing a warm sweater – in support of global change. Just imagine the cumulative impact of millions of small gestures this would have!

Source: http://www.wwf.ca/events/sweater_day

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We often hear about how lucky our town is to have so many volunteers that offer their time to give service to our citizens. But who are they? We know their names, but not much about their lives, interests, past or present careers. So that's the subject I will devote this column to and to future ones. The information will be rather sparse because of the space constraints but hopefully you will find them interesting.

When I asked **Philip Cumyn** to be the first in my series, he laughed, and asked "Why me? There are so many others to choose from." For once I was able to think of a reply quickly, "because I am doing this in alphabetical order."

Upon graduating from High School, he and his father discussed a career in priesthood (I didn't ask why) or bird watching (may not lead to gainful employment). Their third option was that Philip would study Mechanical Engineering and he successfully completed his studies in that field. His career led him to managing some very interesting major projects in his field.

One of two major projects was the *Varenes Tokamak Fusion Research* device in which Philip led the team responsible for the engineering of all aspects of the installation except the diagnostics and control system. The other project, (one in which Canadian Arthur McDonald received the 2015 *Nobel Prize* as co-winner for Physics) was the *Sudbury Neutrino Observatory* for which Philip was involved in the design of one of the key components. Although one may feel there is prestige in being associated with the winner of a *Nobel Prize*, Philip's heart belongs to the work he is responsible for at the *Varenes Tokamak*.

He, and his wife Anne have both told me that the reason they moved to Baie-D'Urfé in 1973 was because they found a house that could fit their 12x16 carpet in a living room (a carpet that was purchased in Taiwan, where they had lived for

eighteen months). The carpet is still in their home today, but then, the spectacular view of the lake from their kitchen and living room windows gives more reason that they did make a great choice.

Philip started volunteering for the Town in the 80's. First, as chair of the *Citizens' Association*, then three terms as councilor (1986-98). He was also chair of the *Town Planning Committee*. To this day Philip's strong sense of duty has him still serving his town, as the President of the Baie-D'Urfé Library.

I asked him what accomplishment he felt most proud of as councilor... it was placing the bandstand at *Fritz Farm*. Also that he started the practice of having council plant a tree at the end of its mandates (a practice I am sad to say has been lost).

His flute, which he learned to play at 33 years old, and his involvement with the Library are his main pastimes. When he has time, he loves reading histories and biographies.

Finally, I asked Philip what his favorite expression is. "*Not bloody likely*" was his answer. Philip, I have a feeling that is what you really wanted to say to me when I suggested this article. Thanks for sharing and thanks for volunteering. You are a valuable citizen.

Before concluding, have you noticed our new Town signs at the limits of Baie-D'Urfé and in front of Town Hall? They are beautiful and were designed by **Valérie Fortin**, Communications Agent for the Town.



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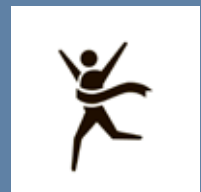
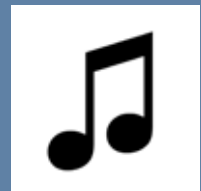
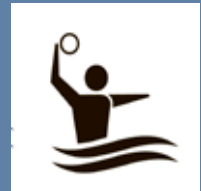


What's New

EXCELLENCE SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Town has implemented an Excellence Support Program to recognize and encourage Baie-D'Urfé citizens who distinguish themselves by representing their community at provincial, national or international competitions. The following individuals have submitted their applications for the **year 2015** and satisfied the criteria set out in the Policy. Congratulations to all the winners!

Candidates	Category	Participation
Stefan Aebi	Ultimate Frisbee	1 competition
Sebastien Boucley	Squash	4 competitions
Juliana Classen	Hockey	2 competitions
Anna Guest	Swimming	1 competition
James Guest	Swimming	4 competitions
Patrick Guest	Swimming	1 competition
Carmen Hojabri	Swimming	1 competition
Adam James	Curling	1 competition
Kyle James	Curling	1 competition
Isabelle Lemay	Ultimate Frisbee	3 competitions
Spencer Lum	Music	1 competition
Alexis Ornavka	Ringette	3 competitions
Eric Pelletier	Swimming	5 competitions
Sarah Isabelle Radziszewski	Gymnastics	1 competition
Teague Riordon	Swimming	2 competitions
Taylor Vjih	Waterpolo	2 competitions



2016 MUNICIPAL TAXES PAYMENT DUE DATES

1st instalment: February 24th | 2nd instalment: May 25th

