

## Auditor's Report for the 2016 Financial Year: another great financial year for the Town!

The 2016 financial year ended with a surplus of \$2 654 819.

Once again, the Town's independent auditors *DCA Comptable Professionnel Agrée Inc.* found that our books were in order and that every item was accounted for.

They reiterated that Baie-D'Urfé is among the very rare municipalities whose assets exceed their debts.

This is the **5<sup>th</sup> year in a row** that we have reported a substantial surplus (over \$1.5 million). As indicated with previous years' surpluses, it is important to note that the Town's surplus is not a result of over-taxation but rather the result of a combination of increased revenues (\$1 294 942) arising from new development in our residential and industrial sectors (\$283 363), transfer taxes (\$910 483), permit and licence revenues (\$101 096) and reduced municipal spending of \$1 359 877.

### Expense reductions came mainly from:

Use of surplus funds to pay for 2016 projects	<b>\$500 000</b>
Salary and benefits (staff shortage in the general Administration, Clerk, Public Works and Urban planning Dept.)	<b>\$310 000</b>
Paving and drainage	<b>\$197 167</b>
Public ash tree maintenance	<b>\$185 000</b>
Building maintenance and repairs	<b>\$167 000</b>

The difference between the budgeted amounts and the expenditures for "building maintenance and repair" and "public ash tree maintenance" will be allocated to the appropriate reserve funds and used when required in future years. The unused 2016 paving and drainage funds will be spent this year along with the 2017 budgeted amount for this item.

In 2016 the Town's debt was reduced by \$590 000 leaving the Town with a debt of \$1 871 500 at the end of 2016. Of this amount, **only \$127 326** is for "debt at large" (all sector debt). The balance is local improvement debt (\$1 396 022) and Government debt to be paid entirely by the Government of Québec (\$348 152).

More details will come in the Mayor's report on the financial situation of the Town, later in the year.

Congratulations to our finance team of Julie MacDowell, Maritza Vilcherres, Maggy Bogetto and Darlene Ward for managing our financial records so very well and for delivering the information to the auditors in a very professional, complete and timely manner.

## The New Train to the West Island is getting closer to reality

The Government of Québec tabled *Bill 137*, on May 11 "to facilitate the construction and operation of a new shared transportation infrastructure publicly referred to as the *Réseau électrique métropolitain (REM)*" so that the construction of the REM can begin in the fall of this year and be completed by the end of 2020.

There was some very good news for Baie-D'Urfé and other municipalities who will be served by the REM.

The dreaded "land value capture" tax was removed, meaning that all taxation money from potential increased evaluations within a certain distance from a REM station, which may arise as a result of its arrival, will go 100% to the municipalities and not be shared with the *Caisse de dépôt*. The *Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain* will be responsible for paying the required funds in lieu of the REM municipal contribution resulting from the previous "land value capture" proposal.

The closest REM station to Baie-D'Urfé is to be located in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (bordered by Morgan Boulevard on the west, Chemin Sainte-Marie to the north and Highway 40 to the south).

The REM is expected to be operational 20 hours a day, 7 days a week and connect the West Island to downtown Montréal, to the airport and to North and South Shores via 67 km of electrified tracks and several subway stations.

## Hommage aux 20 Ans

Councilor **Charles Colomb** was honored at the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual UMQ Conference. At the May 5<sup>th</sup> Gala, twenty-five elected officials were inducted into the Québec's political world's Hall of Fame "**Hommage aux 20 Ans**". To be so honored, an



# Mayor's Message

»» Maria Tutino

elected official has to have served a minimum of 20 years and must still be in office at the time of inauguration.

Among this year's inductees were Edward Janiszewski, mayor of DDO, Aldo Iermieri, Councilor of Pointe-Claire and our very own Charles "Chuck" Colomb, who will have been a councillor for **27 years** at the end of 2017. Chuck has run for elected office six times, and he was acclaimed the last five times!



Congratulations, Chuck! I was very pleased and proud to be among your family, friends and fellow councillors to applaud you on your receiving the "Hommage aux 20 Ans" award!

## Town volunteers ... heroes during unprecedented May flooding

As of May 15, **146** cities in Québec were affected by the flood. **2426** houses were flooded in Québec.

Closer to home, three cities on the island were most affected: Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Senneville and Montréal (especially the boroughs of Pierrefonds-Roxboro, île Bizard, Ste-Genevieve & adjoining île-Mercier and Ahuntsic-Cartierville). A total of **400** houses were affected with more than **250** houses having to be evacuated.

Most of the other cities on the island, including Baie-D'Urfé, were fortunate. While we were all in emergency preparedness mode, there was little, if any, flooding in our areas. Some of our staff were badly affected with even one member and his family having to leave their home.



Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue

The long cleanup, the tremendous financial cost and having to cope with the stress and pain of dealing with this tragedy and the loss that came with it.



Baie-D'Urfé reached out to its neighbors offering any help that we could give. From the start, our *Rescue Squad* was kept busy pumping basements in Sainte-de-Bellevue and Pierrefonds, patrolling the streets of Pierrefonds on night shifts from 8 p.m. to early morning. They were followed closely by the vCOPs who were also enlisted in Pierrefonds evening patrols and the Baie-D'Urfé unit of the *Coast Guard* were sent to Rigaud to help them maintain a 24 hour patrol on the *Ottawa River*.



Rigaud | Baie-D'Urfé Coast Guard crew member Chris Atack





Baie-D'Urfé Yacht Club

Our staff too got involved in helping others whenever and wherever they were needed.

If you would like to help Québec

flood victims in a financial way, donations can be made on the *Red Cross's* website at [redcross.ca](http://redcross.ca) or by calling 1 800 418-1111.

It is in times like this that it makes me proud to be the mayor of Baie-D'Urfé, a volunteer Town, a Town with a citizenry so involved and concerned for the well-being of others that they never hesitate to give a helping hand. They put in many hours and most of those hours were when many of us were sleeping peacefully in our dry homes.

A big thank you goes to these Baie-D'Urfé heroes (please note that among our heroes are residents from other municipalities, integral and active members of our security teams, who participated in the relief effort).

### **Rescue Squad:**

Director Wayne Belvedere, Captain George Motz, Captain Tony Brown, Squad members Kurt Brandt, Zachary Cameron, Andy Csisztu, Desiree Daller, Ken Forse, Dan Friedman, Guillermo Willie Grasso, Daniel Krga, Marie-France Marcotte, Adrian Popa Rosu, Deirdre Ware, Ayden Watt and Jia Yu.



Pierrefonds | Baie-D'Urfé Rescue Squad member Wayne Belvedere



Pierrefonds

### **Volunteer Citizens on Patrol (vCOP):**

Co-Director Peter Alves, Co-Director Brian Ross, vCOPs Ralph Allison, Cloudagh Bassermann, Gillian Bennett, Kevin Doherty, Erich Grimm, Algie Meiliunas and Walter Mueller.

### **Canadian Auxiliary Coast Guard Unit 05-08:**

Commander Stephen Gruber, Deputy Unit Commander Paul MacLean, Cox Bernie Peissel and crew members Chris Atack, Tony Evans and Ginette Travesty.

They made us proud and made others on the island and off-island aware of who we are and what we stand for!

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL!!!**



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.





Being born and raised in Baie-D'Urfé, I have witnessed the town's evolution and I think our small town could be a leader amongst communities in important areas such as the environment, heritage, culture, recreation and infrastructure. I am generally not a person who is shy to give an opinion and I'd like to offer my thoughts on a few of the important issues in town.

**Parks and Recreation:** The availability of activities for residents of all ages have lagged over the years and are now considerably behind what most of our neighbouring communities offer their residents. Now that the four parks and recreation public consultation meetings have concluded, citizens have told me they expect the town council to closely examine and debate resident's feedback and then propose a plan for significant recreational improvements. It should come as no surprise to anyone that I support the construction of a refrigerated skating surface with partial government funding, which will extend the skating season from mid-November to mid-April. I also support many suggestions brought forward by residents including, increased free access to the waterfront, free public tennis courts and the creation of additional biodiversity in the town's green spaces.

On the issue of the noise pollution emanating from the *Autoroute du Souvenir*, both railways and the industrial park: Two public consultation meetings have been held, where residents clearly stated their wish that the town bring forward an effective and long term solution to reduce noise pollution levels to below 55 dBA. Following these public consultation meetings the town council has decided to undertake a \$45,000 feasibility study in regard to the construction of a 4.5 meter high barrier between *Lakeview Rd.* and *Gray Crescent*. The two million dollar plus cost for this section is to be paid entirely by citizens. In my opinion, some serious cost sharing negotiations between the Town of Baie-D'Urfé and the MTQ (*Ministère des Transports*) need to take place. In my opinion, sound barrier construction

costs should be, at least partially borne by the MTQ as they are solely responsible for the drastic increase in noise pollution levels, with their decision to raise the elevation of *Autoroute du Souvenir* by approximately 30", the elimination of the *Morgan Rd.* traffic lights and the increased speed limit from 70 kph to 100 kph. Beaconsfield was successful in negotiating an increased funding of 25% from the MTQ for their sound barrier for the same reasons that affect Baie-D'Urfé.

**Site Planning and Architectural Program By-law n° 1047** has affected hundreds of Baie-D'Urfé citizens by imposing restrictive land use regulations. This came as a surprise to many residents as can be seen by the recent *Sunny Acres* zoning fiasco, which I believe, has yet to be satisfactorily resolved. In my opinion, the Town failed to adequately inform residents of this new by-law. Increased transparency and better communications between the town and its citizens should always be the goal of a municipality, especially of concern when your town council makes decisions that will affect your rights as property owners. Part of the same by-law states "*The provisions of chapter 6 are intended to protect and showcase Baie-D'Urfé's archeological heritage, a collective treasure which has been witness to successive occupations of the land since the Amerindian presence and through its urbanization and industrialization phases*". Recent constructions at *Pointe Caron* and *Fritz Farm*, I feel, have demonstrated that this Town council does not take sections of By-law n° 1047 seriously enough.

If you have any comments or suggestions on any town related topics please contact me at 514-457-5367 or by e-mail at [bmanning@baie-durfe.qc.ca](mailto:bmanning@baie-durfe.qc.ca)



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# Environmental Review

## Do you think May's rainfall is exceptional?

Think again!



According to the *National Institute of Public Health Québec\** (INSPQ), all of Québec will be affected by climate change.

The climate has already begun to change in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Overall, winters will be milder and summers a bit warmer. There will also be more hot days and hot

nights, and fewer days of frost and cold nights. There will be more **precipitation (rain and snow)** on average.

There will therefore be more heat overall in the atmosphere. This will mean more days of **heat waves** and increased thaw periods during the winter.

This also means more evaporation, creating more moisture and more energy in the air. The risk of **severe weather** events will then be greater, such as strong winds, thunderstorms and more torrential rains.

Think about these events when it comes to building or renovating, making landscapes or any other type of work on your property. Rainwater harvesting, tree planting, perennial landscaping and permeable ground coverings, for example, are excellent allies for the future!

\*Source:

<http://www.monclimatmasante.qc.ca/public/situation-au-qu%C3%A9bec.aspx>



## 2017 Summer Concerts



The warm weather always announces the start of our annual summer concerts! Most of these free concerts take place at the **Fritz Community Center** bandstand gazebo **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.** The **2017 Summer Concerts program** is now available at Town Hall as well as on our website under *The Town | Community Services* tab for schedule times. Happy musical season!



Thursday	June 8	7:30 p.m.	Swing Tonique
Friday	June 16	7:30 p.m.	Ensemble Big Swing Band
Thursday	June 22	7:30 p.m.	306 Maple Leaf Wing Concert Band with Pipes and Drums
Thursday	June 29	7:30 p.m.	Bob Jazz Band
Thursday	July 6	7:30 p.m.	Big Band Club
Thursday	July 20	7:30 p.m.	Jazz Knights Dixieland Band
Thursday	July 27	7:30 p.m.	Kirkland Concert Band
Thursday	August 3	7:30 p.m.	Blue Monkey Project
Thursday	August 10	7:30 p.m.	Lachine Concert Band
<b>SUNDAYS AT 2 P.M.</b>			
Sunday	August 13	2 p.m.	West Island Brass Ensemble
Sunday	August 20	2 p.m.	Lakeshore Concert Band
Sunday	August 27	2 p.m.	CAF 438 Squadron Band

Please note that as part of *Baie-D'Urfé Days*, a concert will be held on **Friday June 16 at 7:30 p.m.** at the *Fritz Community Center* bandstand performed by the **Ensemble Big Swing Band**. So bring your chair and join us! You can also follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ConcertsBdU](http://www.facebook.com/ConcertsBdU).



# What's New



## Signing up for YOUR safety!

The Town of Baie-D'Urfé now uses **CodeRED**, an automated call system to quickly deliver messages to the population in any emergency situation. The flood waters of the last months that has shaken a part of the population located along the riverbanks is a good example.

Signing up is easy and quick.

### 3 ways to subscribe:

#### 1. Online

by clicking on the **CodeRED** logo of our homepage website at [www.baie-durfe.qc.ca](http://www.baie-durfe.qc.ca);

#### 2. In writing

Fill out the hard copy form and bring it to Town Hall;

#### 3. By phone

Call **1 866 939-0911** to provide your contact information or to update your coordinates to the management personnel of **CodeRED**.

## LIST OF MOBILITY-IMPAIRED PERSONS

The Town invites all **mobility-impaired persons** to register promptly with the Town thus allowing rescue teams to provide them with assistance in emergency situations. You can fill out the form in person at Town Hall or online through our website.

To sign up online, refer to the **CITIZEN SERVICES** tab of our website at [www.baie-durfe.qc.ca](http://www.baie-durfe.qc.ca) under *Emergency Services*.

## FÊTE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC & CANADA DAY



Town Hall and the Public Works building will both be closed on

**Monday June 26<sup>th</sup>** for the Fête Nationale du Québec and **Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup>** for Canada Day.

## YOU WISH TO STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY?

### Receiving news by email in a nutshell from Baie-D'Urfé, is easy and efficient!

To subscribe, you need only to:

1. Register on the Town's website home page at [www.baie-durfe.qc.ca](http://www.baie-durfe.qc.ca);
2. Click on the **Updates from Baie-D'Urfé** button;



3. Index your name and email;
4. Confirm your inscription.

The newsletter is an additional service to our many communication tools such as our website, electronic billboard, municipal newsletters in the *News & Views* publication, brochures and various direct mailings.

Town information will be sent to your email address as registered. A simple and effective way to stay connected with YOUR community at all times!

Looking forward to count you amongst our subscribers!

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Town Hall

Adoption of **by-law n° 877-10** amending Building By-law n° 877 permitting the modification of provisions of wood-burning appliances.

## SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

### Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Fritz Park

*Much Ado About Nothing*  
by the *Repercussion Theater*

Bring your own chair! In case of rain the performance will take place at the *Red Barn*.

