

Mayor's Report

MAYOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE TOWN OF BAIE-D'URFÉ

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Although Bill 122, sanctioned on June 16, 2017 by the Québec Government "An Act mainly to recognize that municipalities are local governments and to increase their autonomy and powers" now abolishes the mayor's obligation to report on the financial situation of the municipality at least four weeks prior to the budget being deposited to Council for adoption, I chose to still submit my annual report for this year for the sake of transparency and in order to keep the citizens of Baie-D'Urfé informed. So I am proud to submit my annual report on the financial situation of the Town of Baie-d'Urfé for the year ended December 31st, 2016 and the projection for the year 2017.

2016 Year-End Results

The Town of Baie-D'Urfé's external auditors, *DCA Comptables Professionnel Agréés* inc. verified the Town's 2016 accounts and reported that the Town was in a solid financial position and that all our accounts were in order.

The 2016 audited financial statements were tabled at a meeting of Council held on May 9, 2017.

2016 Revenues

Total revenues for the Town of Baie-D'Urfé for 2016 were \$19 665 821, an increase of \$1 329 251 over budget. The main factors explaining the increased revenues are:

Property Tax Revenues (based on increased property values)	\$283 363
Property Transfer Taxes	\$910 483
Licences and Permits	\$35 682
Other Revenues	\$65 414

2016 Expenditures

Total expenditures for 2016 were \$17 892 086.

Regional expenses accounted for \$11 349 419:

- \$147 805 which was paid to the *Montreal Metropolitan Community* (MMC) in membership fees and \$11 201 614 which was paid to the City of Montreal as our aliquot share for island-wide services.

2016 Surplus

The Town recorded a surplus of \$2 654 819.

This surplus is attributable to increased revenues of \$1 329 251, to reduced expenses of \$197 167 for projects that were not carried out and to lower expenses of \$662 710 (largely due to a reduction in: administrative expenses in salaries and employee benefits, expenses in building maintenance and repairs and expenses related to measures against the Emerald Ash Borer). The difference between the budgeted amounts and the expenditures for "building maintenance and repair" will be allocated to the building reserve fund and used for major building renovation work when required in future years.

As of December 31, 2016, the total accumulated unaffected surplus of the Town of Baie-D'Urfé was \$6 887 478. The Working Fund balance was \$958 730 and the Parks and Playgrounds Fund was \$48 214.

2016 Long Term Debt

Our long-term debt amounted to \$1 871 500 (down \$590 000 from 2015). Of this amount, \$348 152 (18.6%) is reimbursed by the Québec Government, whereas the balance of \$1 523 348 (81.4%) is taxed to the residential and/or industrial sectors with \$1 396 022 taxed through local improvement taxes and \$127 326 taxed at large.



2017 Projected Financial Results

The 2017 budget for the Town of Baie-D'Urfé was adopted at a special council meeting on December 13, 2016.

For the fiscal year 2017, the Town of Baie-D'Urfé projects an approximate surplus of \$1 900 000 over the 2017 tabled budget.

The projected revenues for 2017 exceed the tabled budget by \$1 100 000. The additional revenues are mainly generated from new taxation arising from renovations and new construction of buildings in the non-residential sector (\$928 630) and revenues of \$170 860 from increased water usage billing for the Industrial sector and an adjustment of water billing from Montreal for decreased water usage in 2016.

The projected expenditures for the fiscal year 2017 are about \$845 000 less than budgeted mainly due to the lower than anticipated costs for Emerald Ash Borer measures on the public domain (\$121 000), savings for building maintenance and repairs (\$192 470), and an adjustment reduction of our aliquot share to the City of Montreal (\$322 147).

General orientation for the 2018 budget

Council is very respectful of the citizens' ability to pay and prides itself in maintaining its position as the Town with the lowest tax rates on the Island, 12 years in a row since the demerger and is fully intending to make 2018 its 13th in a row.

We will continue to finance select projects from the Town's surplus as we did in the past few years.

The Agglomeration continues to be a very important factor in our overall budget since **73%** of all the property taxes the Town collect go to the City of Montreal to pay for our share of island-wide services.

We will have to wait for the City of Montreal's budget and what the Town's share will be before Council can determine what the final 2018 tax increase will be.

We expect that disputes over property assessments will be resolved, and a contingency amount will be included in the 2018 financial statements to cover possible taxation losses as a result of successful challenges.

The operating budget for 2018 and the capital expenditures program for 2018-2019-2020 are currently in preparation and will be tabled at a special council meeting in January.

With respect to another aspect of the Mayor's Financial Report relative to "*Remuneration of elected municipal council members*", it will be detailed in my June 2018 column of the *News & Views* as part of the new reporting required by the new Bill 122. Contracts involving an expenditure exceeding \$25 000 will be posted on our website by January 31, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by

Maria Tutino | Mayor of Baie-D'Urfé





The elections are over and there are some new faces around the Council table. I want to welcome back Councillors Michel Beauchamp, Lynda Phelps and Janet Ryan and also welcome newcomers Kevin Doherty, Andrea Gilpin and

Wanda Lowensteyn. I look forward to working with Andrea, Janet, Kevin, Lynda, Michel, and Wanda over the next four years.



I thank you for your confidence, once again, to serve as mayor of this incredible Town for another four years. I and the new Council are fully committed to working together for our community and our fellow citizens.

The voter turnout for our Town was quite impressive... 61.2% when most other cities on the island saw turnouts in the low 40's and 50's with one even as low as 35.1%!

During the election each member of Council did a lot of door to door visits and heard first hand from many, many citizens. We heard a lot about the growing concern over the construction of houses, popularly referred to as McMansions. People fear the character of the town is being changed by inappropriate development. We understand and will definitely respond to this concern.

We also heard about other issues – just to name a few – a need for improved communications, increased spending for Town infrastructure, better enforcement of Town by-laws, speeding concerns, and more access to recreational facilities. We completely agree that these are important issues, and we will be addressing them as we move forward.

We also heard that citizens would like us to stay the course on financial management – “pay as you go philosophy”, low debt and low taxes – and to continue to use the Town's surplus to pay for large ticket items like the berm and Town infrastructure repair

(buildings, drainage, lighting).

But one other thing came across loud and clear, both in our conversations with our fellow citizens and in the voting itself: Baie-D'Urfé residents have overwhelmingly rejected the politics of accusation and division. They have voted for a democratic government – one that listens respectfully to all points of view, makes a decision based on majority vote and moves to get things done.

At the heart of democracy is compromise. If some people reject compromise, if each decision of the majority triggers endless acrimony, finger pointing and second-guessing, the system breaks down. It is impossible to please everyone all the time, because people have different priorities and points of view.

We will listen to and respect all opinions. And after weighing every option, we will do what the citizens of Baie-D'Urfé have elected us to do. We will make decisions based on what we believe is best for our town. Our decisions may not always satisfy everyone. But that is democracy. Everyone has a right to input and a right to vote. But in the end, a democracy must be guided by the will of the majority. You – our friends and neighbors – have voted for civil, democratic government. That is what we will give you.

Some of you have indicated an interest to participate in a more active way in the Town's democratic life by becoming committee members. In the next month, I will be visiting with councillors to determine the makeup of Council Portfolios and Town Committees and will be in a position in my February *News & Views* column to identify those committees that will have citizen volunteers as members. You will be asked to submit your candidacy for any committee that you would like to serve on.

Dear friends, we have the Council, the Administration, the financial resources, the passion and energy to move forward in a constructive and positive fashion to deal with the issues dear to you. The next four years look very promising.

Wishing you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful 2018!

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.





Hello everyone,

I wish to thank all who have given me the honor of being Councillor once again.

I would like to assure you that I will work very hard on all our on-going and future plans such as the Berm, the Parks and Recreation Vision, the preservation of our shoreline and other projects which will improve our town.

The new Council has been chosen: three veterans and three rookies... what a perfect mix! By the time you read this article, we will have been together for about a month and the new Councillors will have been busy learning about many things: details about Town projects, Council meeting procedures, code of ethics, laws and by-laws, portfolios and the different committees. Good luck to them.

It is interesting to see all that is going on in our Town. We have three (3) projects which might be completed by the time you receive your December copy of the *News & Views*. Work will have been done to modernize the street lighting network.



The new Baie-D'Urfé street signs will have been put up and finally the new semi-buried containers for the collection of Organic materials, Recycling and Garbage will have been installed at the *Whiteside Taylor Centre*.

Our "Walk under the Dome" has had a bit of a setback in the last few days and we are now

looking for a new venue as the price to rent space at the Dome has skyrocketed (from \$100 to \$250/hour). We will inform you when we have found a new place to gather for a walk and talk morning.

The rinks should be up and running as long as the weather cooperates. I hope everyone has a great skating season at our three parks (*Picardy, Balsam and Bertold*).

Happy Holidays to all and I hope you will come out to meet the Council at the New Year's Levee at the *Fritz Community Centre*.

Should you have any questions, it would be my pleasure to help you obtain any information you may need or refer you to the person responsible. I can be reached at 514 457-1847 or by email at mbeauchamp@baie-durfe.qc.ca.

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IMPORTANT REMINDER - FINAL NOTICE -

Returning Water Meter Cards, It's your responsibility!

It is the responsibility of each resident to take a reading of their water meter and to return the pre-paid, pre-addressed card to Town Hall. **The deadline to return water meter cards was November 3, 2017.**

To avoid an extra \$50 charge to your account, you must submit your water meter reading in person to the Town Hall, by phone at 514 457-5324 or by email at compteurs@baie-durfe.qc.ca no later than December 4, 2017.

We thank you for your cooperation.



Environmental Review

Innovation at the CPE Whiteside Taylor

Last November, the Town proceeded with the installation of three (3) semi-buried containers at the *CPE Whiteside Taylor*. **One for garbage, one for recycling and one for organic materials** which will be reserved exclusively for the use of the CPE. Waste collection as a whole is an important element for the CPE staff as well as for the education of the children. What a beautiful example! Selected for their practicality, safety, robustness and aesthetic, these bins offer a solution to all problems related to vermin, health and safety.

Come experience the difference!



Strategy Against the Emerald Ash Borer Follow-up

Citizens involvement for 2017 are summarized as followed:

- 5 citizens made a first treatment to their 27 ash trees and received **\$4800** in grants;
- 12 citizens made a second treatment for their 82 ash trees and received **\$11,000** in grants;
- According to the number of trees already treated, these 12 citizens shared a total amount of **\$4150** following a *TreeAzin* donation in 2016 made to the Town by *Tree Canada* in collaboration with *Bioforest technologies inc.*;
- Out of 25 ash tree felling permits, 6 citizens actually applied for a grant for a total amount of **\$1470**.



News from the Industrial Park

"News Update"

The Town of Baie-D'Urfé undertook during the month of October major repair work over a 400-meter portion of the service road in the Industrial Park which created traffic delays due to the closure of the entrance to the southbound service road and the required detours.

We want to thank all industrial park companies for their patience and understanding during these important repairs.

Furthermore, the project to modernize the street lighting network is well under way and by **December 15th** all of the lights in the Industrial Park will be converted to light-emitting diode (LED) technology and controlled by an intelligent management system. For detailed information on the project, we invite you to visit the Town Website.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

In 2014 a search into a part of our Town's history which began with only the name of resident and **chief of police Lunt**, brought together a memory and a lost family member. Once again history is calling.



The Support Team for the 1974 *Valcartier* Grenade Incident Program is looking for the families of two of the cadets who died following a grenade explosion in 1974, namely cadets **Pierre Trudel** and **Ian Ross Anderson**

(Cadet Corp 1620 - son of M. W.R. Anderson). It would seem that both would have been Baie-D'Urfé residents at the time.

If you have any details or information which could help locate these families, please contact **Captain Clément Bédard, Canadian Armed Forces:**

National Cadet & Junior Canadian Rangers Support Group | Canadian Armed Forces

Clement.Bedard@forces.gc.ca

Tel: (613) 992-0558 or 1-844-800-8566 option 2

www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/programs/1974-valcartier-grenade-incident

What's New

REMINDER - SMOG DAYS

The use of fireplaces and wood-burning stoves are prohibited during smog advisories.



SECTION 14.1

The use of a solid-fuel-burning heating device is prohibited when a smog warning issued by Info-Smog is in effect for the Montreal region, except when an electrical power outage affecting the Town has lasted for three hours or more.

SMOG WARNINGS

Smog warnings are issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Info-Smog program at canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/airquality. You can always consult our Baie-D'Urfé website to check the local air quality index through the *Citizen Services* tab.

SEASONAL REMINDERS

TEMPORARY CAR SHELTERS

We remind you that installing temporary car shelters such as "tempos" are **prohibited** in Baie-D'Urfé.

WINTER PARKING

Winter is fast approaching, and with it, the first snow storms! We remind you that **it is prohibited to park any motor vehicle on public roadways during any snowfall of 2.5 cm or more as well as 6 hours following a snowfall**. It is also prohibited, at all times, to park in the streets for a period exceeding 4 hours.

SNOW CLEARING SERVICE

The Town offers a driveway entrance snow clearing service to **residents aged 65 and over at the cost of \$60**. This service is offered free of charge to seniors who receive the federal income supplement and to the handicapped (proof required). For further information, please call Town Hall at **514 457-5324**.



HOLIDAY HOURS

Town Hall and the Public Works building will be **closed** for the holidays from **December 22nd, 2017 to January 2nd, 2018 inclusively**.



Please contact **514 630-1234** for all municipal emergencies.

COLLECTION CALENDAR

Lookout for your Collection calendar in your mailbox mid-December!

WINTER SCHEDULE FOR THE COLLECTION OF ORGANIC MATERIALS

Every two (2) weeks from December to March.



December 2017: Collection on **Tuesdays** (5th and 19th)

January 2018: Collection on **Tuesdays** (2nd, 16th and 30th)

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

January 8, 2018 from 7 a.m.: leave your tree, decoration-free, by the roadside with trunk facing the road.

ELECTRONICS

Since there is no more pick-up collection until April, please note that you can drop off your electronics at the **Public Works** building during business hours.

NEW YEAR'S LEVEE



Council invites you to come and ring in the New Year at the *Fritz Community Centre* on **January 1st, 2018 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** at our annual New Year's Levy.

Hope to see you there!

