



I have just returned from a three day *Union of Québec Municipalities* conference in Québec City. About 1500 mayors and councillors from across Québec were in attendance.

This was the 95<sup>th</sup> annual session and council members in attendance take the opportunity to discuss best practices in the municipal world, learn what new legislation and municipal projects/subsidies are on the horizon and also hear from the leaders from the three major Québec parties and certain ministers from the provincial and federal governments.

This year about a dozen mayors spoke about some exciting new projects in their cities. They were each given a maximum of five minutes to speak with the microphone cut off at the five-minute mark. To get their message across, they relied heavily on pictures and charts.

In listening to the mayors pitching their cities' projects and also in visiting about a dozen kiosks highlighting other cities' innovations, what dawned on me was how many of the innovations/projects were already being done in our little Town and that maybe, some day when we have the luxury of time, we too will be sharing our highlights with the rest of the 1200 municipalities in Québec and introducing Quebecers to the beautiful Town of Baie-D'Urfé, the little Town with the big wonderful community!

Following are pictures of some recent activities initiated by citizens that showcase our special Baie-D'Urfé community.



**Eric Winn** started in 2016 the first ever annual Town-wide spring cleanup weekend with the help of the Boys Scouts Group and the Junior Council. Picture shows clean up done at Balsam Park by a

Junior Council group. Thanks, Eric for this great new community initiative!

The Lakeshore District of **Girl Guides** applied for and received a grant to plant trees and shrubs for their communities. Here is a picture of some of the 60 plus guides and parents, who along with Environment Coordinator Sarah Mailhot, helped do the planting on the grounds of the *Red Barn* and at the *Fritz Farm Butterfly Garden*.



Thanks also goes to the Public Works team who prepared the beds for the plantings.

Volunteer artist **Ralph Allison**, volunteer photographer **Peter Alves**, volunteer parent and art teacher **Wanda Riordon** and ten members of the Junior Council, aged from ten to seventeen years old, got together over a three week period to produce colourful banners in honour of the Town's tenth year of demerger.



It was quite the experience to watch how Ralph with Wanda's assistance got youth from varying ages and artistic backgrounds to come together in a short period of time to work on a joint project as a single team. The bonding was such that after the first three-hour session, the youth already referred to themselves as the



# Mayor's Message

...continued

**Kay-O-Tik X-Plo-Shun of Awesomeness.**  
Great name... great youth artists... great adult mentors!



The second **Mother's Day Breakfast** at the Fritz Farm was another huge success. Many thanks to Ada Colomb, Suzanne Dutoy and the members of the *Baie-D'Urfé Citizens' Association* Executive.

The **Fritz Farm Youth Gardening Program** group has been hard at work in establishing another successful vegetable-rich producing garden at the Fritz Farm. These wonderful volunteers give of their time generously so that local food banks and charities in the West Island will have access to a variety of fresh vegetables. This is their third year and they welcome volunteers at every phase of the garden activity – from bed preparation & planting to harvesting & distribution.



## The Train de L'Ouest: a reality by 2020

Exciting announcement by the *Caisse de Dépôt* on April 22: The *Train de L'Ouest* could be up and running by the end of 2020!!!



Clifford Lincoln, leader of the *Coalition of the Train de l'Ouest*, and I were privileged to have a pre-announcement meeting with Mr. Michael Sabia, President and CEO of the Caisse, and Mr. Macky Tall, President and CEO of CDPQ Infra, the morning of the announcement and were overjoyed with what we heard.



They presented their vision for an integrated, fully automated, electrified light-rail transit system,

67 km in length, linking the West Island, downtown, the airport, the north shore and the south shore.

It will be the largest public transportation infrastructure since the Montréal metro (inaugurated October, 1966). It will be the third largest automated transportation system in the world, after Dubai (70 km) and Vancouver (68km).

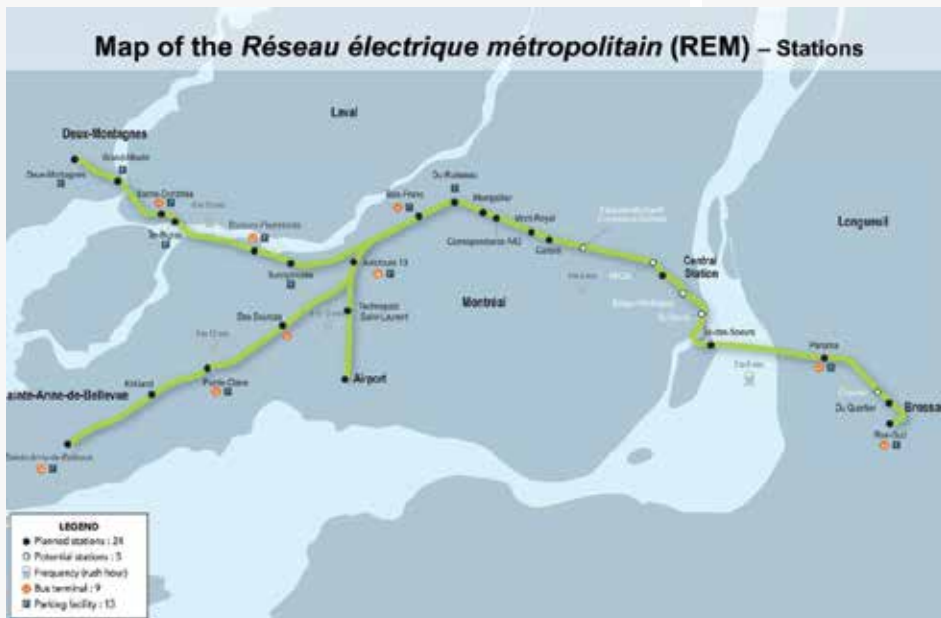
It will operate 20 hours a day from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., every day with trains leaving every 6 to 12 minutes. Wi-Fi available throughout the network. All stations will be covered, climate-controlled, equipped with elevators.

Once operational, it will remove 16,800 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

The project is expected to cost about \$5.5 billion with the Caisse contributing \$3 billion and looking to the federal and provincial governments to pick up the remaining \$2.5 billion. Recent announcements indicate that both governments are looking at the investment in a very favourable light.



You will find below a map of the proposed route and approximate location of stations (map as of April 22<sup>nd</sup>).



It is important to note that our surpluses are not a result of over-taxation but rather they result from a combination of new taxation arising from increased development in our residential and industrial sectors, increased government grants and reduced municipal spending.

The Town's enviable surplus in 2015 is attributable to increased transfer taxes of \$395 523; new taxation revenues of \$352 000, Government grants received in the amount of \$681 306 (Gas Tax, Municipal Climate Program and a retroactive funding "in lieu of taxes" for certain schools in our territory dating back to 2013) and lower expenses of \$122 512 (mostly due to a

The mayors have a meeting scheduled with the Caisse on May 19<sup>th</sup>. We expect to receive more details (locations of stations, parking lots, citizen traffic flow to and from stations etc). I will provide more information in future columns as it becomes available.

## Auditor's Report for the 2015 Financial Year: another great financial year for the Town!

The 2015 financial year ended with a surplus of \$1 568 615.

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 rare municipalities whose assets exceed their debts. They further indicated that our Town was a municipal leader in acquiring its share of the 2014-2018 Gas Tax subsidy from the Government, with about \$500 000 or 45% of the maximum potential funds allocated to the Town already collected.

saving in "building maintenance and repair" costs). 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. These increased transfer tax revenues, new taxation revenues, increased government funding and lower expenditures than budgeted explain most of the 2015 surplus.

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, Guylaine Giroux 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 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

## White Grub problems?



They hide just beneath the soil surface, feed on roots and cause significant damage to the lawn. Despite the fact that skunks and raccoons love them, they can destroy your entire yard!

### But what are they?

White grubs are beetle larvae such as June beetles and chafers. Eggs are laid in the grass in July. Larvae feed on grass roots the following spring, undergo metamorphosis to become adult beetles and fly away to undergo another cycle.

## Prevention rather than cure!

### Diversity

White grubs feed on grass roots: add a mixture of various seeds such as clover, fescue, ryegrass (weeds) and bluegrass.

### Lighting

be careful, June bugs are attracted to light therefore they can lay their eggs where the grass is lit.

### Water your lawn deeply and infrequently

It encourages root development.

### Grass height to maintain: 8-10 cm

This creates a barrier for egg laying which promotes root development especially from mid-June to late July. Mow the lawn when it's dry and allow grass clippings to stimulate biological activity. Do the same with leaves in the fall.

### 100% natural fertilizer

Chemical fertilizers with high nitrogen content attract grubs and certain diseases.

### Attract natural predators

Install bird houses and banish any chemical pesticides.

# NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL PARK

## BROMELIN PEOPLE PRACTICES



Founded in 2007, *Bromelin People Practices* has a team of 12 highly skilled Human Resources professionals that provide full cycle HR support – recruitment, onboarding, payroll, benefits, performance management, talent management, policies/employment standards, leadership assessment and development and culture/employee engagement.

With over 25 years of expertise *Bromelin* helps organizations identify areas of vulnerability and opportunities for growth and develop comprehensive Human Resources strategies that support the achievement of their business goals.

*Bromelin* is very excited to introduce the Helping Hands Project in Canada. Helping Hands is a unique opportunity for organizations to get involved with a worthwhile cause at the same time as super-charging employee engagement. Helping Hands is about changing lives. It is more than just a team building or training activity. It's about accessing the potential of hands, heads and hearts to build a better team, better organizations and a better world.





As the 2016 summer fast approaches Baie-D'Urfé Town Council is now considering some critical issues which I believe will determine quality of life in Baie-D'Urfé for future generations.

For me, there is no bigger issue for your attention than the potential berm (sound barrier) project along Highway 20. Its primary purpose is to reduce the level of noise pollution impacting our residents. A public consultation was held at the *Whiteside Taylor* auditorium on the evening of May 4. It was well attended, with approximately 160 residents representing all parts of Town; east, west, north and south.

Preliminary estimate for the total cost of this project, stretching from the Beaconsfield border to Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue border is approximately \$7.5 million, dependent on final design and logistics.

The good news is that the *Ministère des Transports du Québec* (MTQ) may help fund a portion of the cost of this project. An approved MTQ process must be followed by the Town in order to gain any funding participation, including a MTQ approved study on the road traffic noise from Highway 20 and the potential noise pollution reduction from construction of any berm.

The bad news is that any MTQ noise pollution study will only address road traffic from Highway 20. No train noise pollution will be considered or specifically addressed. Train noise pollution is simply not part of the MTQ's mandate. So, in short, based solely on an MTQ study, the Town could build a berm but our overall noise pollution may not be reduced in total noise decibel count. We must avoid this potential outcome.

In my opinion, the only solution is for the Town to spend the extra money on a second study, additional and complimentary to the MTQ required study. This second study could address total noise pollution (both traffic and train). This way we can at least have some comfort that the design and construction of the berm will be effective in achieving a total noise reduction, a lower total decibel count. Any resulting berm design must

still be approved by the MTQ in order to get potential funding.

In other matters, many residents have recently been asking me about the skating rink in Bertold Park. The most frequent question I get is; will this location be used each winter going forward? Personally, I hope not. I consider this location a bad choice. Bertold Park provides an unobstructed majestic view of Lac St-Louis for anyone driving or walking along the Lakeshore. This view should not be blocked by the walls of a skating rink, a *Dickie Moore* trailer or portable toilets. Worse still, due to mild winter temperatures, it's often just a sea of mud that simply looks like an abandoned construction site. I will continue to vote against this location for the skating rink. For me, the obvious choice for location of any skating rink is on top of our Town's tennis courts. I hope the rest of Council will eventually agree with me.

On the issue of using wood burning fireplaces in our homes, I am in favor of continuing to permit their use in Baie-D'Urfé. My opinion; wood burning fireplaces are part of the charm of living in Baie-D'Urfé and their use should be protected for all homeowners.

With any issue, my goal is to keep Baie-D'Urfé a desirable place to live that attracts new residents and keeps our quality of living as high as possible. Please let me know your thoughts and opinions. My email is; [pfletcher@baie-durfe.qc.ca](mailto:pfletcher@baie-durfe.qc.ca)

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# What's New

## SUMMER CONCERTS 2016



The warm weather always announces the start of our annual summer concerts! Most of these free concerts take place at the **Fritz Community Centre** bandstand gazebo **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.** The **2016 Summer Concerts program** is now available at Town Hall as well as on our website under the Recreation and Culture tab for schedule time. Happy musical season!

**June 17** Ensemble Big Swing Band

**June 23** Bob Jazz Band

**June 30** Lachine Concert Band

**July 7** Blue Monkey Project Band

**July 14** 306 Wing Concert Band with  
Black Watch Pipe Band

**July 21** Jazz Knights Dixieland Band

**July 28** Kirkland Concert Band

**August 4** Big Band Club

### CLASSICAL CONCERTS SUNDAYS AT 2 P.M.

**August 14** Lakeshore Concert Band

**August 21** West Island Brass Ensemble

**August 28** 438 Squadron Concert Band

Please note that as part of *Baie-D'Urfé Days*, a concert will be held on **Friday June 17 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).

## INAUGURATION OF RHIAN WILKINSON PARK



**June 11 at 11 a.m.**

Citizens of Baie-D'Urfé are invited to the official unveiling of the new **Rhian Wilkinson** Park, formerly known as Dorset Park, to honour our Olympic Soccer medallist.

Come greet Rhian in person, respected athlete of Baie-D'Urfé and role model for

Canadian youth, to wish her good luck in the upcoming **Rio Olympic Games** in August.

Of course, soccer players, families, friends, Guides and Scouts, are all invited to celebrate this great event!

## SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

### FAMILY SUMMER THEATER PRESENTS

*The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*  
by the Repercussion Theater

Wednesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. at Fritz Park

(bring your own chair)

In case of rain the performance will take place at the Red Barn

## LA FÊTE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC AND CANADA DAY



Town Hall and the Public Works building will both be closed on **Friday June 24<sup>th</sup>** for *La Fête Nationale du Québec* and **Friday July 1<sup>st</sup>** for *Canada Day*.

