



As I was writing this column on *Valentine's Day*, my son Michael, age 22 was home for a one week study break from *Queen's University*. Fifteen years ago because of him and my other son Robert, now 29, I made a decision to get involved in the anti-merger movement. As a parent, I wanted my children to have the same opportunity to live in a municipality where they felt they could get involved and effect change, where a citizen, regardless of age, could feel that he or she could approach the Town Council and be heard, where a citizen, regardless of age, could volunteer and help make the municipality a community and not a bureaucracy. That was what the Town of **Baie d'Urfé** (as it was known then) meant to me and why I and many others fought so hard to not lose our Town and then, when we did with the forced merger of 2002, why we fought so hard to get it back.

These feelings all came back to me at the February Council meeting when **Vincent Boisvert**, a little 8 year old boy, came to make a request to Council regarding improving snow conditions at *Allan's Hill* given this year's pitiful weather conditions for tobogganing.

Here was a child who felt comfortable enough to approach his Council publicly (and this after he had written to the staff with the same request a couple of weeks earlier). At the Council meeting, Council mandated the Town's DG to look into the situation and see what was involved, if a solution was possible and what the costs would be. While the conditions and costs were such that Council was not able to make this request possible and Vincent was quickly made aware of the decision by writing, it emphasized to me that while the decision to demerge was the right one from a financial perspective (see my column in the February 2016 *News & Views*), the real benefits from the demerger are Citizen **Empowerment**, Citizen Town **Ownership** and Citizen **Involvement**.

For me, Vincent Boisvert has become the face of the Town's ten Year demerger Anniversary. Thus I have asked Vincent to be the mayor's special assistant

for 2016, my eyes and ears among the young ones in Town, and report anything he sees or hears that the youth would like to see happen. I have worked side by side with Vincent during the *Scouts' food drive* last year and was amazed at how diligent, hardworking and persistent he is.

Thank you, Vincent for making a parent's dream come true! Thank you for accepting the role of the mayor's special youth assistant for 2016!

## Baie-D'Urfé Rescue Squad

The *Canadian Red Cross* requested the *Association Québécoise des Bénévoles en Recherche et Sauvetage* (AQBRS)'s assistance to help with the arrival of Syrians wishing to settle in Canada.



The role is to welcome people, to accompany them to the reception center, provide them with clothes and if necessary, accompany them to the hospital – similar to the *Haitian Operation*, when the Town's *Rescue Squad* contributed close to 1000 volunteer hours.

*Baie-D'Urfé Rescue Squad* members were contacted and our Team has been able to send approximately five volunteers per night to the various locations as determined by the *Red Cross*.

The exercise started February 8 and is expected to go on until mid-March.

We are so proud of our *Rescue Squad* members who generously have given of their time to assist Baie-D'Urfé citizens in time of need ever since their beginning in 2006. We are even more proud that they generously give their time to assist others in time of need and through them, Baie-D'Urfé exists beyond our borders. Thank you, *Baie-D'Urfé Rescue*, for being among the adult faces of the Town's 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of Demerger!



# Mayor's Message

...continued

## Walk under the Sports Dome in the Baie-D'Urfé Industrial Park



An initiative suggested by Councillor Michel Beauchamp for the Town's citizens, age 55 plus, is now in effect.

Come and join your neighbours on **Wednesdays until April 13 from 10 a.m. to 11: 30 a.m.** for a friendly "Walk, Coffee and Chat".

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



Electronic products are part of our daily lives: computers, cameras, printers, tablets, audio/video systems, the list goes on and our consumption is not slowing down over time. More than 80%

of Canadians report having electronics that have reached their useful life. No one wishes to have old appliances end up in landfills or be exported illegally, thus shifting environmental issues elsewhere and falling into careless hands. To prevent this situation, the Town of Baie-D'Urfé offers citizens the option to drop off their electronic waste during office hours at the Public Works building. You can also drop them off along with specific collections every second Monday of the month from April to November.

Electronic wastes drop-off are then managed by the electronics recycling association called ARPE, which ensures that products are handled safely and environmentally friendly. This association coordinates recycling programs regulated in Canada. Thereafter, they are sent



to specialized recyclers, audited and approved. They collect raw materials: glass, plastic, precious metals (e.g.: gold and copper). Toxic matters such as mercury and lead are also treated responsibly to protect, not only the environment, but also the health and safety of workers.

These valuable resources are recuperated, recycled and integrated back into the production line.

For a complete listing of recyclable electronics, please consult the [recyclermeselectroniques.ca](http://recyclermeselectroniques.ca)

It's *not* trash.  
Recycle it.

**Sarah Mailhot**  
Environmental Coordinator  
514 457-7604 | [smailhot@baie-durfe.qc.ca](mailto:smailhot@baie-durfe.qc.ca)





Many residents are concerned about a lack of recreational facilities offered in Baie-D'Urfé that several neighbouring communities offer their residents, often free of charge, such as volleyball, tennis and lighted basketball courts,

lawn bowling, skateboarding, BMX biking, public docking facilities for canoes, fishing or kayaks and a public boat ramp. Our community offers some of the activities mentioned above however, access is often limited to those who are paid members of the clubs and in some cases non-resident members outnumber Baie-D'Urfé citizens. Residents who contacted me understand that it may be difficult to offer all of the activities above, however; serious recreational improvements to principally benefit Baie-D'Urfé residents are required.

A lively debate is taking place concerning the potential construction of a refrigerated concrete base for a full size hockey rink and pleasure skating trail ([teamiceequipeglace.org](http://teamiceequipeglace.org)) that would generally extend the skating season from late November until at least mid-March, very pertinent with the temperatures we are experiencing these past winters. This same concrete base could be used efficiently during the other three seasons for some of the recreational activities mentioned in the first paragraph. The considerable interest shown on this topic will help ensure that a refrigerated rink is figured prominently among the recreational facilities identified for potential construction.

Baie-D'Urfé is well above the average in percentage of residents between the ages of **5 to 24** among the eight West Island municipalities, from Senneville to Dorval. Our percentage is the third highest right behind Kirkland and Beaconsfield. Ideally, for their health and well-being, this age group should have increased opportunities available in town to exercise and have fun. There are a high percentage of residents in the **over sixty (60)** age group as well in our community. We share this distinction with Senneville and Pointe-Claire. This age group deserves to have access to recreational facilities appropriate for their age. Citizens of **both** age groups and between are entitled to improved recreational activities.

Residents of Baie-D'Urfé are generally well off and average property valuations are the highest among the eight West Island municipalities. Our town has an exceptionally enviable surplus so there is nothing to suggest that Baie-D'Urfé cannot afford improved facilities.

Why do none of our public parks, except for *Fritz Farm*, have toilet facilities or why do the various skating rinks not offer permanent, if any, changing rooms? Why do citizens have to change their skates sitting on a snowbank at *Picardy* or *Balsam* Parks? Most, if not all, West Island cities offer toilet and changing room facilities at all their major parks.

A frank public discussion needs to take place between citizens, recreational organizations and schools at Town Hall style meetings, to give their input to the Town Council on how recreational facilities could be improved to better serve the entire population of Baie-D'Urfé.

Citizens need to tell their Town Council where **excess** surplus funds should be spent and I am not, by any means, suggesting it all be spent on recreational facilities.

Personally, I feel it may be time for the town to hire a recreation coordinator to oversee and coordinate our recreational organizations and ensure that all citizens are well represented. The professional coordinator would have the task of managing the public consultation process. As well, a qualified recreation coordinator would be of great help in organizing citizens input and identifying activities and facilities the town should invest in.

I welcome any comments or suggestions on any topics of concern. I can be contacted at 457-5367 or [bmanning@baie-durfe.qc.ca](mailto:bmanning@baie-durfe.qc.ca).

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.



# What's New

## WELCOME WAGON PACKAGE

Each year, the Town of Baie-D'Urfé has the pleasure of welcoming new residents, with more than 50 new families who choose to make Baie-D'Urfé their home, a town known for its charm and beauty. To help them get acquainted with their new environment, the Town provides each homeowner with a **Welcome Wagon package** containing a wealth of practical information, municipal services available and the municipal newsletter that is inserted in the *News & Views* monthly magazine. Feel free to send us your comments or suggestions by calling 514 457-5324 or by email at [communications@baie-durfe.qc.ca](mailto:communications@baie-durfe.qc.ca).

Congratulations and welcome home!



## MAILING FROM THE TOWN



If you have a sticker on your mailbox stating that you do not wish to receive from *Canada Post* any “junk mail”, chances are you will not receive any unaddressed mailing from

the Town either. If such is the case, we invite you to pick-up a copy of any undelivered communications or notices to our residents directly at Town Hall or call **514 457-5324** for more information.

Please note that any new information tools to be addressed to our residents are regularly announced by means of our *News & Views*, billboard and website.

## SUMMER STUDENT | PUBLIC WORKS

### ONE POSITION TO FILL

Interested candidates are requested to submit their resume to the Town Hall or by e-mail before **Friday March 18, 2016**.

[ressourceshumaines@baie-durfe.qc.ca](mailto:ressourceshumaines@baie-durfe.qc.ca)

Details are available on our website at <http://baie-durfe.qc.ca/contact/careers/>

## MULTI-SPORT DOME COMPLEX

### COME WALK UNDER THE DOME!

**For the 55+ | FREE ENTRANCE**

Every Wednesdays until April 13<sup>th</sup>

**10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

570 Morgan Blvd. (North of the 20)

## EARTH HOUR



**MARCH 19, 2016 FROM 8:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M.**

For the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Baie-D'Urfé is proud to be one of the many cities across the world participating in this event. The Town will therefore turn off all non-essential lighting for one hour on **March 19, 2016 between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.** We invite all Baie-D'Urfé merchants and residents to do the same!

## EASTER HOLIDAY

Town Hall and the Public Works building will be closed from **March 25<sup>th</sup> to March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016** inclusively for the Easter Holiday.

