



Word from the Mayor News from your Municipality

November 2018

The achievements of the new political team one year on

Already a year has passed since I was elected Mayor of our beautiful Municipality and I am highly confident that the new political and administrative team always places citizens at the heart of its decision-making. Our primary objective is the well-being of fellow citizens, closely followed by thoroughness in the internal management of regulations. It is important for us to treat all residents fairly and equally while ensuring that municipal regulations and by-laws are respected. Moreover, the approach we advocate is always closely aligned with the preservation and conservation of our territory in its most natural state possible. Here then are some of the past year's achievements:

▪ Appointment of a new municipal administration

Right from the beginning of our mandate, hiring a new administrative team was a priority. The new team in place has been able to pick up the files and progressed brilliantly. They quickly came to own files and, with the support of the political team, put the citizens at the heart of their concerns.



As Dave Williams-Roy is no longer with the Municipality, we are pleased to introduce the new inspector who will be known as "Manager of urban planning, roads and the environment". Guillaume Fortier holds a master's degree in urban planning as well as much experience in urban planning in the municipal sector, more specifically in the issuance of permits where he worked in recent years as a planning assistant for the Municipality of Val-David. In addition, in this capacity, he acquired a solid base in the application of regulations as well as customer service. Guillaume will officially begin his new functions on December 3rd.

At the same time, we take advantage of this opportunity to introduce Johanne Serafin, who came on board this summer as administrative assistant. In addition to assisting the head of urban planning, roads and the environment she will work closely with the director general on various files. Previously, she worked for several years at the BBC in London as head of accommodations, as an assistant to a Lord and as a Commercial Attaché with the Québec Government Office in London where autonomy and resourcefulness were an asset. Customer service was also a key attribute. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and moved to the Laurentians for a career in a more pleasant environment where she can fully enjoy life after work!

It must be said that our director general, who knows how to surround herself with highly competent staff, has great planning and organisational skills. We would be remiss not to mention Nancy Perreault, who works at the front desk and deals with all aspects of accounting. She also works closely with the director general. Previously, Ms. Perreault worked for 30 years at the Montreal Transit Corporation where she held a number of administrative positions. We can be proud of this great team!

▪ Document management

The new administrative team quickly realized that archive management was a priority. Municipal Council members mandated an archivist to undertake an extensive review not only all of the Municipality of Ivry-sur-le-

Lac's archives, but all of the physical documents. He also updated the classification system used to code files and established a formal retention schedule. You can be assured. This was really needed!



▪ **Collection of organic materials**

With respect to waste management, it was important to take further steps to protect the environment. To achieve this, la Municipalité d'Ivry-sur-le-Lac implemented the collection of organic waste materials. This turned out to be a good decision. Out of 20 towns and municipalities in la MRC des Laurentides who participated in this program, we are the Municipality with the best organic waste collection rates. The Municipal council believed in the importance of reducing the amount of waste going into landfill sites and act more responsibly for the protection of our planet. We take this opportunity to thank you all for so quickly taking up the collection of organic materials. Congratulations to everybody!

▪ **Our Youth : a Municipal Priority**

It was important for us to prioritize physical activity among our youth. Considering the fact that we do not have a recreation, sports or day camp service and that our young people are called upon to use the services of the City of Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts and pay higher non-resident fees, the board decided to reimburse these additional non-resident fees. This represents close to \$10,000 that the Municipality reimbursed for this purpose over the course of the summer. For the next few years, the Council is proud to extend this offer, which only came into play in the spring as it believes in the value of physical and social activities for the Municipality's young people.



▪ **Rental of municipal garage benefits Municipality on different levels**

During the months of August, September and October, la Municipalité d'Ivry-sur-le-Lac rented out the use of the municipal garage and surrounding land to a production company who was making a film on the territory. This provided a perfect opportunity to undertake an in-depth cleaning of the site. An agreement was signed with the tenant who agreed to restore the site of the garage, which meant having to remove the piles of sand that had been accumulating for the past several years. As we do not have a public works service as such, after sweeping the streets the piles of sand deposited on the site of the garage just accumulated there with no clear method of removing it when needed. So, the more than \$7,000 costs borne by the filming company were used to remove the excess material thus allowing them to store all their filming equipment. The company also paid a further \$3,000 to launch their boats. This win-win situation meant that the filming company could count on the garage rental to be used as a base for their filming location and the Municipality benefited from a complete cleaning of the garage site while recovering an additional income of \$3,000 for the boat launch. This agreement definitely favoured both parties!

▪ **Grant proposal submitted jointly with AALM**

The Municipality of Ivry-sur-le-Lac and l'Association pour l'amélioration du Lac Manitou (AALM) teamed up to jointly submit an application for a grant from the Federal government's Boating Safety Contribution Program. This proposal presents various actions linked to signage, improved communications, a nautical patrol, better adapted lake maps, installation of more safety equipment on the lake, presentation of information sessions and a redesign of the Municipality's



website which would include a section dedicated to boating safety. To improve our chances of being selected for funding, no energies were spared to present a request that is as complete as possible. We will let you know as soon as we hear from the federal government.

- **Much work done to reduce the number of overdue tax accounts**

Soon after her arrival, the Director General informed the Municipal Council about a particularly high number of municipal tax accounts in arrears. The new administration worked tirelessly to recover several accounts in arrears and normalize the situation as much as possible. Considering the fact that there are still several accounts to be settled, the Council has agreed to proceed to ensure full repayment of outstanding accounts, otherwise unfortunately, some properties will be targeted at the Agglomeration's next sale for non-payment of taxes. The Director General, who also points out that the interest rate for late payment of taxes is particularly high, invites concerned citizens to quickly deal with the situation before the beginning of official legal procedures to recover unpaid taxes.

- **Establishment of a monthly "Word from the Mayor"**

The municipal team believes in the importance of informing its population about its current affairs throughout the Municipality and its territory. To this end, a monthly "Word from the Mayor" is being sent out. The administrative team regularly receives several messages of thanks and appreciation for these communications, which leads us to believe that they are highly appreciated by all. At the same time, we invite citizens to send us topics of interest they wish to see addressed in future communications and we will be pleased to add them to the following "Word from the Mayor". This correspondence exists for you and it is important that you are aware of the news and decisions of the board!

- **Awareness – protecting our shorelines**



At the request of the Municipal Council, one of the missions of the administrative team was to increase awareness of the issues and the significance of respecting rules around an environmentally friendly shoreline. Indeed, when we understand the significant consequences of mowing grass to the edge of our waterways, we quickly change our habits since indeed this practice is really very harmful to the lakes and its fauna. Therefore, since the beginning of spring, continuing during the whole summer, we published articles in the "Word from the Mayor" to sensitize citizens about this issue and make sure everyone understands the impact on the environment and

consequently, the importance of protecting shorelines. Municipal Council decided that 2018 would be a year during which awareness would be the word of the day. We will continue over the winter months to inform you on the subject, but starting in the spring 2019, the manager of urban planning, roads and the environment will be less tolerant with infringements to regulations respecting shorelines. Of course, increasing awareness will continue to be a priority, but in 2019 we hope to begin to see changes in the willingness of citizens to better protect the lakes' shorelines. It is often said that, in Ivry-sur-le-Lac, citizens are respectful of the environment and it's time to work with us and prove that this reputation is real and widespread! Many thanks in advance for your cooperation in keeping our lakes healthy!

- **Emergency measures plan**

The municipal team has already begun work on the development of an emergency preparedness plan. Over the next few months, Ivry-sur-le-Lac should have its own emergency plan, one that will be adapted to the reality of its environment. This plan will be thoroughly thought out to anticipate all possible scenarios in case of natural disasters thereby ensuring the safety of the population.

New property assessment roll

In October, la Municipalité régionale de comté (MRC) des Laurentides submitted the new property assessment roll for Ivry-sur-le-Lac. Overall, evaluations increased slightly, by 0.73%. We remind you that it is actually the MRC des Laurentides that is responsible for establishing property assessment values and these are sent to us in order to plan our fiscal year and determine municipal tax rates.

In a nutshell, the property assessment roll is the inventory of all immovable property (buildings and land) located on our territory. The assessment shows the real market value according to the different neighborhoods and reflects the conditions of the real estate market.

CAUTION! Your home and your neighbour's home may be similar, but factors such as the quality and complexity of the construction, finished basement, building age, garage, outdoor amenities, lot size, and its topography can influence the result of your evaluation. Two seemingly identical houses can therefore be assigned different property values if they are located in different sectors.

Revision of an evaluation: inquire first!

If you do not agree with your assessment, find out how to avoid unnecessary steps. Individual or group information sessions may be held following the introduction of a new roll, during which an evaluator from the Evaluation Department of la MRC will answer your questions. So, if necessary, do contact us so that we can hold such a meeting at the Municipality.

Before challenging your evaluation, do your homework! Serious reasons are needed to justify an application for review. You must have significant evidence if your arguments are to be approved. It is not a question of checking the increase in values with the old valuation or the differences with those of your neighbours. Instead, ask yourself: does the valuation reflect my property's value as of July 1, 2017, the reference date for the triennium 2019-2020-2021? If your answer is yes, then it will be very difficult to make representations to have your evaluation changed. Remember, the burden of proof is yours to make!

Respect delays: the request for a revision must be made before May 1 following the entry into force of the new evaluation roll (e.g. for the triennial roll 2019-2020-2021, you have until April 30, 2019 to make representations).

In addition, if you request an administrative review following the issuance of a notice of amendment or an ex-officio correction by the MRC appraiser, you must apply before the 61st day following the dispatch of the notice informing you of the change.

Hoping that this information is useful! For any additional questions, please refer to the following website where all the detailed information is located: <https://mrclaurentides.qc.ca/evaluation-fonciere/>. Should you have additional queries, do contact the Municipality.

Applying for a renovation permit is essential!

If you plan on doing any work on your property next year, do use the months ahead to submit your permit application and consider that the Ivry-sur-le-Lac Municipal team is rather modest. **Most importantly, please do not venture to undertake any renovations without a permit. Instead, work upstream with the members of the municipal team. It's always better that way!**



SQ Community-based activity offering gifts to underprivileged children

Sûreté du Québec police officers invite the public to participate in a community wide activity aimed at offering Christmas gifts to children from less fortunate families. To do so, just go to la MRC des Laurentides, located at 501, rue Léonard in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, to pick a box in the Christmas tree on which is identified the name of the child. Also included with the name are suggestions for this child's gifts. After purchasing, packing and identifying the gift worth \$25-30, just bring it back to the police station and place it under the tree no later than December 6, 2018. On Saturday, December 15, 2018, police officers will use their patrol cars to distribute packages. This wonderful project will make many children happy this Christmas 2018! This is a small gesture that means a lot for some children on the territory.

Other subjects of interest

Should you have any other topics you would like us to address in a future Word from the Mayor, just let us know and it will be our pleasure to publish an article.

For any questions, do not hesitate to ask. The municipal team is there for you!

Once again, thank you for the confidence you have shown in me. It has been a real pleasure representing you.



Mayor

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