

MUNICIPALITY OF LITCHFIELD

COUNCIL REPORT - FEBRUARY 2016

We would like to take this opportunity to update the taxpayers of the Municipality of Litchfield on the challenges and achievements of 2015 and our goals and expectations for 2016.

FINANCE

The municipal budget was adopted on December 17, 2015. We are pleased to announce that the Tax Rate for 2016 has remained the same, at \$0.87 per \$100 evaluation and the Waste Management at \$100 per unit. Once again, we have a projected annual surplus of \$83,227 for 2015. Therefore, we have infused \$40,000 of that surplus into our 2016 budget, thus, maintaining the tax rate as well as injecting dollars into the operational aspects of the budget.

The projected total accumulated surplus at the end as of December 31, 2015, was \$288,049.

NEW OFFICE BUILDING

We are very pleased to advise our taxpayers that construction of the new building is projected to start at the end of February 2016 with an expected completion date of early to mid summer of 2016. The new building will be situated on the site where the rental trailer has been for the past 12 years.

We are also very pleased to announce that the cost to the municipality will be less than \$2500 per year. We are currently paying \$6000/year for the rental of the trailer.

The total projected cost of the project is \$471,200. This amount includes paving the parking lot and landscaping around the building. We have received confirmation that the grant money of which we will be receiving from the Provincial Government is in the amount of \$306,280. We will also be receiving \$141,360 from the gas tax transfers. Therefore, leaving approximately \$23,560. to be assumed by the taxpayer over 10 years.

An open house will be held this summer welcoming one and all to see and celebrate our new municipal office!

EQUIPMENT

We are expecting the delivery of a new plow truck at the beginning of March 2016. The municipality has a large network of roads to plow which is divided into 3 sectors. For years now, we have been operating with 2 trucks and a grader. The 1998 truck has seen better days and was in need of replacement. Therefore the council authorized the purchase of a new truck with plow equipment and a 4 season box. The cost of the new truck is \$225,410 plus taxes. The 2010 plow truck was paid in full in 2015; the funds from those payments will now be transferred to pay the payments on the new truck.

ROADS

In 2015 major resurfacing was done on several roads; Crawford, Payette and Belanger, as well as general upkeep on other roads. A total amount of \$46,532.89 was spent on gravel. This amount includes an amount of \$20,000 from a grant received from the provincial government. In 2016 we have added an extra \$10,000 for gravel, allowing for a total budget for gravel in 2016 of \$37,500.00. Of course, we will once again be asking for provincial grant money (the amount we will receive is to be determined) to help with the cost of major resurfacing needed on Bank, Lawless, Mountain and Hayes roads.

We are also continuing to work with the Ministry of Transport on a consensus of an acceptable and safe plan for restructuring of the entrance/exit off the Laforet road and Rte 148; all this based on a possible grant of 80% to 90% from the Provincial Government to cover the costs of the restructured exit.

URBAN PLAN

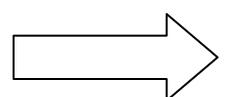
The municipal council has hired a **new municipal inspector**. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Robert Carle to the team; he will be at your disposal for 2 days each week.

Due to several discrepancies in our municipal urban planning by-laws dating back 15 years to 2001, council has hired an urban planning engineer, to update and rewrite the Urbanism plan and zoning, subdivision, construction and permit/licence by-laws. In order for the municipality to operate efficiently and in conformity with the Regional and Provincial laws it is absolutely essential that this be done. The estimated cost of this expense is \$22,000 which has also been provided for in the 2016 budget.

SECURITY

THE FIRE COVER SAFETY PLAN (a 5 year plan) is in the last year and we are now preparing for the next 5 year plan.

The councils of Litchfield and Campbell's Bay are working to find solutions to nonconformity issues, in regards to the number of on call personnel required on weekdays. We are exploring different avenues, which may include a study to evaluate the possibility of working with other municipalities. There have been no decisions made as of yet, we are still in the early stages of evaluation. It is the safety of taxpayers that is the motivation behind ensuring the conformity of the fire services.



HUNTING, SNARING AND TRAPPING

The municipality receives numerous complaints in regards to hunting, trapping and snaring in fences and along municipal roads. If a person finds snares or traps in the fences or on their private property, we strongly suggest that you contact the Protection de la Faune and the Surêté du Quebec. However, the municipal by-law 2014-006 does allow us to control snaring and trapping activities on municipal property and the discharge of firearms and crossbows within 60 feet of the municipal roads. If the municipality finds an individual in contradiction of the By-law, we will pursue the matter to the fullest extent of the law. The safety of our residents is our main priority at all times. In respect of your neighbour and fellow taxpayers please ensure when you are hunting, trapping or snaring that you have permission from the property owner. You may obtain permission forms and signs at the municipal office for a small fee.

MUNICIPAL HALTE (located on Hwy 148)

In 2015 repairs were made to the washroom facilities at the municipal Halte. We have provided an additional \$7500 in the 2016 budget to continue with repairs and additions to the Halte with the intention of creating a sense of community and making it more attractive for taxpayers and tourists. Although an application for a grant to aid in the improvements was not awarded, the project continues. Look for improvements this summer!

LIBRARY

In addition to contributing to operational costs of the Campbells Bay Library, the municipality of Litchfield has also partnered with the Réseau Biblio de l'Outaouais. This partnership will create an influx of tools, products and services for residents. Please take a moment to stop in and see what it at your disposal and become a member. You can also access FREE passes to several museums in the Outaouais as a member of the library. You will also have access to the mobile app BOOKMYNE and many eBooks, movies, Wi-Fi and magazines. We will continue to provide our residents with services and products in the future.

TRANSFER CENTRE PASS

You will find enclosed your 2016 transfer centre pass. It has a new look this year, there are 2 passes in 1, just cut on the dotted line and you will have one to hang up in your vehicle and one for your wallet or your second vehicle. The transfer site technician has a list of taxpayers who have the right of access and will continue to monitor those who enter the site. The municipality received congratulations from the government on "a job well done" for reducing our domestic waste in 2014 and we will continue to make positive changes in the future.

Bravo for your co-operation!

CONTACT US

The office is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Please do not hesitate to contact us for information or assistance. Call us at 819-648-5511, fax us at 819-648-5575 or email us at litchfield@mrcpontiac.qc.ca or send a written request to 1362 rte148, Campbell's Bay, Quebec J0X 1K0.

On behalf of the municipal council I would like to thank you for your continued support!

Colleen Larivière , Mayor