



MUNICIPALITY OF LITCHFIELD - COUNCIL REPORT 2017

We would like to take this opportunity to update the taxpayers of the Municipality of Litchfield on the challenges and achievements of 2016 and our goals and expectations for 2017.

FINANCE

The municipal budget was adopted on December 14, 2016. We are pleased to announce that the Tax Rate for 2017 **has remained the same, at \$0.87 per \$100 evaluation** and the Waste Management at \$100 per unit. We have infused \$185 637 of the \$621 073 of accumulated surplus into our 2017 budget, thus, maintaining the tax rate for the 3rd consecutive year, as well as injecting dollars into the operational aspects of the budget.

The projected total remaining accumulated surplus at the end as of December 31, 2016, is \$435,436.

EQUIPMENT

Council has authorized the purchase of a new pickup truck. The present truck is a 1998 and it needs to be replaced as soon as possible. This expense will be absorbed by the budgetary infusion from the accumulated surplus.

SECURITY

The Campbell's Bay/Litchfield fire department has purchased a new tanker pumper truck to replace the existing 1979 truck. The cost of the new fire truck is \$380 546.64 and it will be financed over a 5 year period and Litchfield's share for 2017 is included in the budgetary infusion from the accumulated surplus. The new Fire Cover Safety Plan has been approved and will be in force for the next 5 years. Council has ensured that the municipality and the Fire Department adheres to the regulations and strives to continuously improve the fire services to taxpayers. The safety of our taxpayers remains, as always, of the utmost importance. You will also find enclosed a self-inspection form for smoke detectors for your residence. If you wish to have the Fire Chief do an inspection please contact him at 819-648-5642 to schedule an appointment or perform the self-inspection and mail the completed form in to the municipality.

ROADS

In 2016 major resurfacing was done on Bank and Lawless Lake road as well as general upkeep on other roads. A total amount of \$57 273 was spent on gravel. This amount includes an amount of \$20,000 from a grant received from the provincial government, which we will once again be asking for to help in major resurfacing for 2017. 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 PLANNING

By-law 2017-023 regarding brushing and maintenance of road sides and right of ways was adopted on January 9th, 2017. The purpose of this by-law is to ensure that the Municipality can continue to maintain the said road sides and right of ways. Taxpayers who use these road sides and right of ways can maintain them in accordance with the provisions of the by-law. Please be informed that it is also forbidden to allow trees or vegetation from private property to impede, obstruct, encumber, or encroach on a public roadway or public space. In the event that any such obstruction, encumbrance or encroachment is present, by-law 2017-023 ensures that the Municipality can exercise its right to proceed with maintenance without any other notification. Therefore, the present message is a formal preventive notification to all concerned landlord or occupant.

MUNICIPAL HALTE (located on Hwy 148)

In 2016 additional repairs were made to the interior washroom facilities and the picnic huts at the municipal Halte. The municipality has partnered with the Litchfield Leisure Committee on the project of a "Splash Pad" which will be installed at the Halte. The partnership included the Municipality paying for the initial "kit" and a formal commitment from the Litchfield Leisure Committee to provide the additional materials and all the labor required to install the pad. The Litchfield Leisure Committee will be planning fundraising events throughout the next months and we encourage everyone to support these events that will raise funds for the additional materials required to complete the installation of the splash pad. Both the Municipality and the Litchfield Leisure Committee plan to move forward with improvements and additions to provide a sense of community for taxpayers.

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

The municipality continues to recognize taxpayers celebrating their 80th birthday by presenting them with a plaque of recognition. We do not want to miss such a milestone and would appreciate it if taxpayers, family members or friends could advise us of such monumental dates.

COUNCILLOR KEN O'LEARY

We would like to take this time to express our deepest condolences to the family on the passing of Councillor Ken O'Leary. Since November 4, 2001, Ken has been an integral part of the Municipal Council of Litchfield. Ken's candor, fairness, experience and wealth of knowledge will be missed beyond words. Ken was devoted and provided a grounding influence for all who were blessed to know him and he participated as a councillor to his very last days.

CONTACT US

The office is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Contact us at 819-648-5511, fax 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. Information is available 24/7 on the municipal website www.litchfield-qc.ca.

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

Colleen Larivière, Mayor