

2015 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 19th, 122 citizens came to the **Municipality Children's Christmas Party**. It was a perfect day to enjoy a **nice sleigh ride pulled by beautiful horses, have a snack and meet Santa**. Once again, **Santa brought wonderful gifts, and put smiles on many faces**.

Magic was in the air. The morning went smoothly, thanks to our volunteers: thank you to Madison Dwyer, Cindy Parr, Laurent Thoin, Stephanie Dawson, Manon Laroche and Santa.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Brenda Dawson

Councillor in charge of Leisure and Culture



SINCERE THANKS, FIREFIGHTERS' DRIVE

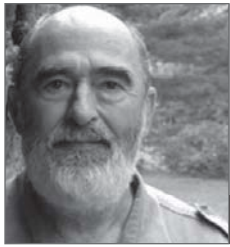
Thanking all of you for your **generosity**. Special thanks to all the volunteers for their involvement and their dedication during the **"Firefighters' Drive" on November 14, 2015**.

This year the **firefighters' drive will have an impact on many families in need** who will receive a Christmas basket full of flavors for the Holidays.

We hope to be able to count on your support for next year's drive, Happy Holidays.

Translation and revision by Sarah Channell and Dawn Charles





WORD from the MAYOR

December 2015 Edition

Dear Citizens of Mille-Isles,

As your elected Mayor, I have the privilege of addressing you to inform you of your council's objectives and the means by which it has been decided to achieve them in order to offer quality services that meet your needs.

From the beginning of its mandate, the council chose to give themselves the tools they needed to correctly and accurately assess the magnitude of its tasks and evaluate the resources available to undertake it, and this in a calm atmosphere.

As a first example, the council analyzed the organizational structure of the Municipality. They abolished the position of Assistant Director General, and created a new position for a clerk and assistant secretary-treasurer in order to divide the tasks and responsibilities more effectively.

They proceeded to hiring a Director of Public Works, as a part-time position for a period of 18 months. The Director of public work's mandate was to evaluate our infrastructure and do an inventory of our equipment in order to adequately assess our ability to perform the work required in relation to the current state of our infrastructure. We also asked him to evaluate these items while, keeping in mind our budget as well as our short and long term plan. His report was submitted to council. His report allowed us to achieve a better performance to cost ratio while accomplishing tasks that enabled us to meet our needs.

The council entrusted this mandate to Mr. Bernard Labelle who has over 35 years of experience in road maintenance and rehabilitation in the Laurentians. His contract ended on October 14, 2015. He met our expectations and we thank him for his excellent service. We wish all the best for the continuation of his retirement. His analysis and recommendations concerning the public works department were objective and will allow us to develop new ways to manage public works.

A first change with regards to the public works department will be the abolition of the foreman position and the hiring of a full time director of public works. We hope that the new director will take office in January 2016. The municipality is looking for a candidate that has the necessary experience and knowledge to undertake several additional duties such as the ability to establish a working calendar, develop and elaborate a variety of quote requests, read, follow and evaluate construction plans, supervise jobs given to contractors and lead the municipal team. These qualifications will allow us to increase the quality of the work performed by contractors, and save on engineering costs.

We will replace the foreman's position by a seasonal team leader's position. This employee will work under the supervision of the Director and help motivate and supervise the seasonal employees which will work from spring to winter. He will ensure the respect of the people and of goods, which reflects the values of the council and their objective to offer quality services to the community. In winter, a single employee will be employed by the Municipality with seasonal employees available on call.

It would be a mistake not to mention the hiring of Mrs. Sarah Channell as General Director and Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipality. Mrs. Channell is a devoted, professional who is bilingual and merits an introduction. She has replaced Mrs. Johanne Ringuette who left us after 8 years of service to the Municipality and to whom I wish great success in her new position.

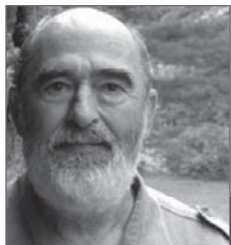
The Council is proud of the people who are employed by the Municipality, including our volunteer firefighters. We appreciate the work they do and their commitment is evident in their support of projects and their efforts to meet your needs. Like us, they are aware that they are working for you and with council.

I sincerely wish you a pleasant holiday season. The Council and the employees join me in extending our best wishes for a Happy New Year. May 2016 allow us to continue to achieve our goals in the collective interest.

Michel Boyer, mayor

Translation and revision by madam Sarah Channell and madam Dawn Charles





MAYOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION - November 2015

December 2015 Edition

FISCAL FORECAST 2014/2015

Dear fellow-citizens,
According to the provisions of section 955 of the Municipal Code of Québec:

"At least four weeks before the budget is filed before council for adoption, the Mayor reports on the Municipality's financial position during a council meeting. The Mayor deals with the latest financial statements, the latest report from the external auditor and the latest capital assets triennial program, with preliminary indications regarding the financial statements of the fiscal year preceding the one for which the budget will be done, and with the general direction of the next budget and next capital assets triennial program."

2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Prepared under the responsibility of the external auditor Dominique Toupin, CPA auditor, CA (s.e.n.c.r.l.) from the accounting firm Amyot Gélinas, the 2014 audited financial statements submitted in March 2015 show an accumulated surplus, representing the citizens' assets, of \$ 4 960 163. The 2014 fiscal year ended with a deficit of expenditures over revenues for the period in the amount of \$ 231 737. The allocated operating surplus (reserved for the 2015 budget) is at \$ 87 198. As for financial reserves and reserved funds, these amount to \$ 378 748 and are accounted for by a working capital of \$ 287 834, the fund for parks and playgrounds in the amount of \$ 83 262 and by the remaining balances from closed loan by-laws at \$ 7 652. The long-term liability on December 31, 2014 for all of the **Municipality of Mille-Isles** was in the amount of \$ 458 612.

The independent auditor's report indicates that the financial statements reflect, in all material respects, a true and fair view of the Municipality of Mille-Isles's financial position as of December 31, 2014, as well as its operating activities, of its variation of net financial assets (net debt) and of its cash flow for the fiscal year ending on that date, according to Canadian accounting standards for the public sector.

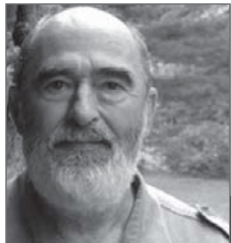
COMPENSATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Section 11 of the Act Respecting the Remuneration of Elected Municipal Officers (L.R.Q., chapter T-11.001) states that the mayor of a municipality in which a remuneration by-law is in force shall include in his annual report on the financial position of the municipality a list showing the remuneration and expense allowance each member of the council receives from the municipality:

FONCTION	Annual remuneration	Annuel allowance	Annuel total
Mayor	\$ 15 206.04	\$ 7 603.08	\$ 22 809.12
Mayor (MRC)	\$ 4426.33	\$ 2213.17	\$ 6639.50
Councillors	\$ 5 069.04	\$ 2 534.52	\$ 7 603.56

LIST OF CONTRACTS

In accordance to section 955 of Quebec Municipal Code, the Mayor submits a list of all contracts with an expenditure greater than \$ 2000 with the same enterprise during the period covering October 16, 2014 to October 15, 2015 when the total amount of these contracts equate an expenditure greater than \$ 25 000. For each contract, this list shows the name of the enterprise, the amount of the contract and the object of the contract. This document is available upon request at the municipal office.



MAYOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION - November 2015

December 2015 Edition

2015 FINANCIAL POSITION

The financial forecast for 2015 suggests that the revenue should be slightly higher than the budgetary forecast. As for expenditures, they should not be greater than the budgetary forecast. We anticipate a slight surplus for the current fiscal year.

A Quebec Ministry of Transport's grant of \$ 31 000, recommended by our member of the National Assembly, Mr. Yves St Denis, as well as a \$ 262 748 subsidy from the Gas Tax and Quebec Contribution (TECQ) program aided in the reconstruction of various roads along the municipal network.

As of September 30, 2015, the construction of 3 dwellings with a total value of work approximated at \$ 800 000, 3 stand-alone garages with a value of \$ 27 000 and 23 enlargements and/or renovation permits on existing buildings have been issued. This indicates an increase in value for the municipality of \$ 435 000. It is important to specify that the declared value of projects usually differs from the value attributed by the appraiser once these are finished.

It is also important to mention that in its second year, the assessment roll will not impose an increase in the taxable values of the municipality. Taxation values 2016 amounted to \$ 268 701 200 as compared to \$ 268 179 400 for 2015, an increase of \$ 521 800 which is mainly caused by the evaluation of renovations.

COMMENTS ON THE YEAR 2015

We are now at the mid-point of our mandate. 2015 is a continuation of the orientations and the measures we have put into place in 2014. Major changes have taken place of the last year especially in regards to human resources. The council hired Mrs. Josée Hébert as Town Clerk and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer and Mrs. Sarah Channell as Director-General and Secretary-Treasurer to replace Mrs. Johanne Ringuette. Mr. Labelle's contract as part-time Director of Public Works ended in mid-October.

Mr. Labelle's work enabled council to acquire the necessary elements to decide on a new way of managing the Public Works department.

In 2015, I had the opportunity to meet with the Minister, Mr. Pierre Moreau and to receive from him a favorable reception of our project for the reconstruction of the municipal garage and fire station. The work on this project will commence as soon as the definitive amount of the subsidy is confirmed. We will also receive from the Pacte-Rural program and amount of \$ 20 000 to put towards the "Maple Grove" building. We are also finalising the plans to restore the Town Hall.

We are elaborating the 2016 budget with the objective of not only maintaining the tax rate under the consumer index rate but also to do the same for the global tax bill with the exception of the properties that have been newly build or renovated. We have taken into account the government cuts imposed last year and that also have an impact on the next years.

I reiterate that it is a pleasure for the council to witness the continued participation of citizens in activities and their use of infrastructures provided to them.

Do not be surprised if, as early as 2016, you are questioned on the management of material waste: garbage, recycling and composting. This is not only an environmental issue but a way of life.

Michel Boyer, mayor
November 4, 2015

Notice to the readers: this report was presented at council's regular meeting of November 4, 2015





FIRE DEPARTMENT

December 2015 Edition

A PILE OF PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

It's almost Christmas. Grandma bought virtually all the gifts on her list. All family members will be happy! Even Ruby, the dog of the family, will have a present. But let's look closer at her purchases.

Grandma bought several gifts for her grandchildren, Elise and Louis. Some of these gifts, are battery operated toys. To avoid someone having the unfortunate idea to remove the battery from the smoke alarm to operate a toy, Grandma bought batteries and attached them to the gifts. This way, there is no danger of forgetting to replace the battery in the smoke detector.

Also, this fall, she found that the power cord from Grandpa Yves electrical drill was worn. This is dangerous! Grandpa could set a fire using an appliance with a damaged cord. When the envelope of the power cord dries and cracks, an electrical arc might be formed. Then, as it is an old tool, Grandma Lise decided to buy Grandpa a new drill.

She offers her daughter Léa a beautiful chandelier. She chose well: it is made of a fire resistant material, and its base is stable. Many fires are caused by candles that people have forgotten to watch. A candle that burns completely can set the candle holder on fire or cause it to explode when it is made of wood or non-heat resistant glass. Browsing the Internet, Grandma learned that candles should be extinguished when they are at 5 cm (2 inches) of the chandelier base and that they need to be constantly monitored, especially if there are children or pets around. Grandma Lise prints these valuable safety tips and puts them in the gift box.

To her son-in-law Michel, she offers a fondue set. Did you know that improper handling of fondue pots is the leading cause of accidents among burn victims in Quebec? Many people pour fuel into the burner while it is still hot. Which is a great danger! The heat can ignite the alcohol remaining in the burner, as well as the clothes the person holding the burner is wearing. It is best to have a second burner at hand. Grandma Lise knows this, so she thought of adding an extra burner to the gift.

There! Not bad. Prevention and prudence will be a part of Christmas this year, especially since Grandma replaced the used extension cord used to connect the Christmas tree. She also asked Grandpa Yves to buy an outdoor extension cord to connect the decorations that are installed outside. In addition, this year, she made crafts. She painted and decorated in the colors of the living room an old elevated metal can. Grandpa will be able to deposit the ashes from the fireplace. It will be practical, esthetic and safe.

Now, she must finish her shopping, since she still has two or three little things to buy to make people happy.

And you?

Will you have a safe Christmas? If you want firefighters over for Christmas Eve, it is better to invited them. Is it not?



Source : <http://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/securite-incendie/prevenir-incendie/histoires-prevention-incendies/587/temps-des-fetes.html>



Contains FSC certified 100% post-consumer fibre

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DON'T FORGET

December 2015 Edition

SNOW SHOVELLING

Throwing or depositing snow or ice originating from a private property onto public roads constitutes a nuisance and is prohibited. Any person violating this provision commits an offence and is liable for a fine, for hampering snow removal operations and fire department interventions.

Help us keep the road clear!

NO PARKING ALLOWED ALONG STREETS

From October 15 to April 15, your vehicle must be parked within the boundaries of your property, in an area designed for parking. Avoid being fined or towed by respecting this regulation.

Furthermore, all parking spaces must observe a setback in order to avoid encroaching on public roads. We are not responsible for damages caused to your vehicle if you do not respect the parking prohibitions set for this time frame.

URBANISM

Usage permit: Did you know that you must inform the Planning and Environment Department before opening a business within the Municipality? Whatever the type of additional use, be aware that there are specific provisions in the regulations. The Planning and Environment Department is available to assist you in your property planning process.

Renovations: You are planning to renovate your home after the winter? Do not hesitate to visit the Department of Planning and Environmental to know standards you must respect and what procedures you need to follow in advance! Informing yourself is the best way to prevent surprises!

Did you know that trashes can be profitable?

At the end of each year, the municipalities within the Argenteuil RCM are given a subsidy based on the amount of household waste that was either recycled or interred. We have the responsibility to ensure that there is no recyclable (these go in the blue bin) in our trash. It's never too late to start composting! Since brown bins are not currently available to our residents, citizens can compost by using a domestic compost maker. If you find that your compost container has a bad odor add some ground coffee beans or dried leaves. These components will deteriorate the smell.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

TRAILS, HIKE, SNOWSHOE, NORDIC SKI — TAMARACOUTA SCOUT RESERVE - WINTER SEASON - FROM 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Did you know that as Mille-Isles residents you can use the **Tamaracouta Scout Reserve snowshoe trails during the winter season for the same price as scouts?** Come and enjoy our trails at a cost of only \$5 per person per day between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm seven days a week. Enjoy many amazing views by hiking through the chapel and sites, heading around the lake to some natural falls or stopping for a break in the various Adirondack shelters. We have many kilometers of trails available to you which include the blue, yellow, red and orange. Each trail has its own unique and amazing scenery. Please ensure that you register at the camps office prior to heading out on the trails and check out prior to your departure from camp, this is a safety requirement. Please leave your pets at home and respect our leave no trace philosophy.



If you require any further information or have questions please feel free to contact us either by telephone 450 438-4096 or by email at: reservations@tamaracouta.com.

Hope to see you all there!

SKATING RINK SCHEDULE

ANYTIME

	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	1 to 3 p.m.	3 to 5 p.m.	5 to 7 p.m.	7 to 9 p.m.
THURSDAY	Closed	Closed	Closed	Hockey	Free Skating
FRIDAY	Closed	Closed	Closed	Free Skating	Hockey
SATURDAY	Free Skating	Hockey	Free Skating	Hockey	Free Skating
SUNDAY	Hockey	Free Skating	Hockey	Closed	Closed

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND HOLIDAY TIME

	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	1 to 3 p.m.	3 to 5 p.m.	5 to 7 p.m.	7 to 9 p.m.
MONDAY	Hockey	Free Skating	Hockey	Free Skating	Hockey
TUESDAY	Free Skating	Hockey	Free Skating	Hockey	Free Skating
WEDNESDAY	Hockey	Free Skating	Hockey	Free Skating	Hockey
THURSDAY	Free Skating	Hockey	Free Skating	Hockey	Free Skating
FRIDAY	Hockey	Free Skating	Hockey	Free Skating	Hockey

TRIBUTE TO OUR PIONEERS

Early history of maple grove

The building known as "**Maple Grove**" was built around 1860, and at that time, was one of the three existing primary schools on the territory of the Municipality. It was called Mille-Isles school number 2. The other two schools were called: Cambria and Hayel Land. There is nothing left of those.

The "**Maple Grove**" building is a wood construction made of hewn logs commonly known as part on part. It was built on land donated by Mr. Frederick Rodgers. In the early 1900s, citizens covered it with planed wooden planks. Several years later, when the school closed its doors it was acquired by the Reverend Cannon Horace Baugh, the existing exterior finish was added.

The citizens of the Municipality have been told tales from their parents, of the difficulties to get to the school on foot or in winter sleighs pulled by horses or dogs. They also recall that the first boy that arrived at the school brought in the wood and lit the fire to warm the building and allow the classes to be held. Among our seniors, are some that went to this school for their primary education.

The school closed when, in the late 1940s, school transportation was put in place to bring the children of Mille-Isles to a more modern and larger school in Morin-Heights.

Since then, the **Maple Grove** building has had several vocations: a general store in 1980 that was run by Mr. Clinton Donald Vipond, who then sold it to the Municipality in 2003. Thereafter, the Municipality rented out the building and it served as a restaurant and as a place for occasional meetings. In 2005, it was used for the exhibition on the history of the Municipality during the **commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Mille-Isles**. It was then sold to the promoter "Domaine La Source" who planned to turn it into a restaurant.

In 2014, the current council repossessed the building. They consider that this is a **heritage property that belongs to the Municipality** and that it reflects a part of its history. From 1860-1950, this building allowed generations of **Mille-Isles** children to learn to read, write, count and **develop a community of which we can be proud of today**.



Maple Grove (photo: Mille-Isles Pioneer, July 1981, Bunny McCullough)



Maple Grove (photo: Sandra Stock)

Source: Sandra Stock (Reproduced with permission from Quebec Heritage News, July and August, 2005)
Source: Shirley Dey Captain, Milles-Isles Historical Society, Morin-Heights Historical Association archives.



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INFORMATION

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2016 schedule for council's regular meetings

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| • January 13 | • June 1 st | • November 2 nd |
| • February 3 rd | • July 6 | • December 7 |
| • March 2 nd | • August 3 rd | |
| • April 6 | • September 7 | |
| • May 4 | • October 5 | |

Town Hall

7:45 am to 4:30 pm • 5 days a week • Without interruption

On the following holidays, municipal services aren't available:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • New Year's Day | • Labour Day |
| • January 2 | • Thanksgiving |
| • Easter Friday | • December 24 |
| • Easter Monday | • Christmas |
| • Victoria Day | • December 26 |
| • Quebec Day | • December 31 st |
| • Canada Day (Monday) | |

MILLE-ISLES MUNICIPALITY'S PUBLIC INTEREST MESSAGE MAILING LIST – HOW TO ENROLL?

You wish to be part of the public interest message mailing list coming from the Mille-Isles municipality?

Simple; enroll online by clicking on the icon at the right of the screen.



**MAILING LIST
REGISTRATION**

You will receive a greeting message confirming that you have been added to the mailing list.