



At our November general meeting, the Council's first year anniversary, Claude La Roque presented a recap of the year's activities and achievements which we think bear repeating here.

Office Procedures

For the convenience of citizens a toll free line (1-877-787-2122) was put into service and all calls during office hours are answered by the office personnel other than by the automated service.

Also installed was Interac service which is particularly handy during tax time and for payment of various building permits.

With these two services, and the fax machine, there have been times when our outdated telephone system has become overloaded resulting in the occasional deployment of the automated system and/or a busy signal. Our Director General is looking into adding more lines which Bell has assured us our system can handle.

High speed internet service is available for citizens either in the hall (when it is open) or in the parking lots and the alcove in front of the building.

A communication system for the roads and fire departments was installed vastly increasing communication ranges.

A bilingual newsletter was created.

Legal costs have been reduced considerably when compared to \$55,000 in 2008, \$34,000 in 2009 and \$28,000 in 2010 of which \$20,000 was expended contesting a frivolous action taken against the Municipality. A major legal victory was achieved in our favour setting a precedent which will be beneficial to other municipalities who, with the co-operation of the MRC, may help defray our costs.

The long frustrating issue of the dam at Lake McDonald has finally been resolved to the satisfaction of all ministries and at a cost of more or less one quarter of the initial proposal. The new and final plan has been reclassified as a low containment dam thereby saving a \$40,000 tri-annual cost which would have been involved with the previous proposal.

Our Director of Town Planning and Environment, Yohann DaSylva was instrumental in preventing the destruction of our and Grenville sur la Rouge's wet lands and arranging for the distribution of 3,000 shore line protecting trees.

The Eco-Centre under Yohann's leadership has been completed and will be in full service in the Spring.

He has also undertaken and essentially completed the revamping of our municipal by-laws bringing us up to date for future development.

The hiring of our Public Works Director/Fire Chief, Neil Swail has proven to be a step in the right direction as evidenced by the following:

Civic numbering program in place and to be deployed over the next 12 months.

Great deal managed by the Mayor Keith Robson and Neil Swail, on the purchase of the small pumper truck for the Fire Department.

Roads and Fire Department personnel receiving ongoing training.

Garbage box replacement program underway
New recycling boxes

Three new defibrillators purchased which as reported earlier will be distributed amongst the two community centres and the Fire Department and which coincidentally makes us the first municipality in the Argenteuil MRC and perhaps in Quebec to have such state of the art emergency life saving pieces of equipment. Training in their use will be increased in the coming year.

Roads

There has been more road work done this year than there had been in the past few years.

Four kilometres of chemin Maskinongé as well as 300 meters of chemin Harrington were pulverized and loaded (gravel spread). Calcium was applied on many of our gravel roads thereby reducing dust and stabilizing the roads.

Our pilot private roads project initiated by Councillor Richard Francoeur was offered to lake associations, a first for Harrington, and was utilized by three associations involving grading, ditching, branching and installation of a culvert.

Continued....





MRC

New co-operation with the MRC has been beneficial to Harrington in many ways including increased QPP presence in our territory and quicker incident response time due in part to the Mayor's work on the Public Security Committee at the MRC.

It has been good for us monetarily as well as evidenced by \$60,000 of new money from the Revedance des Sabiliere program and \$16,000 of new money from the Hydro Quebec program. \$35,000 was received from Quebec for the damages sustained during the 2009 heavy rain events which caused washouts.

Next year \$250,000 will flow into Harrington from the Pac Rurale program and the taxe d'accise program. And, while we're talking about money (not connected directly with the MRC) the Mayor and the Director General's efforts at creating new communications with Mr Whissell's office resulted in a discretionary grant of \$20,000.

And these are the *highlights* of our year in review.

GARBAGE BOX REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

As reported in our last issue the nine five yard containers and the two eight yard containers which were ordered have arrived and have been distributed as follows:

- 2 x 8 yd. Containers – chemin Campbells's Bay
- 2 x 5 yd. Containers at chemin White Acres
- 1 each at chemin Gros Rocher, chemin Mill Pond, Golden Age Harrington Valley, chemin Godin, chemin Bouleaux aux Blancs, chemin Lac Rond and chemin Burns.

While on the subject of new garbage containers there is one bonus that I personally am most grateful for – I will no longer feel like a wimp trying to lift the covers of the existing containers while juggling a bag of garbage – the new containers are outfitted with a lightweight cover that even I can lift with ease.

Continued....

RELOCATION OF GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CANS AT THE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX IN LOST RIVER

In an effort to reduce the risk of collisions between our roads department vehicles and our citizens' vehicles the above mentioned containers have been moved to the end of the park. The mailboxes have also been moved to that location which is easily accessible. We are also looking at installing a street light in that area for the safety and convenience of those using the facility.

ROADS DEPARTMENT

The Harrington Golden Age Valley parking lot was loaded with gravel and graded. Mill Pond Road was also reloaded with gravel and ditched. The shoulders of chemin Harrington between the 327 and Kilmar Road have been re profiled. (rebuilt and ditched). The installation of civic number posts is underway.

All trucks are ready for whatever winter has in mind to throw at us.

A supersized tempo has been erected to house our snow removal equipment. This will enable our workers to get on the road after storms much quicker since they will no longer have to dig out the equipment before getting out there.

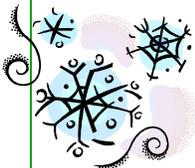
We realize that in the process of installing the tempo we have reduced our parking lot considerably however we are looking into alternatives that would give us back the space we need.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Under our mutual aid agreement with Grenville-sur-la-Rouge we were pleased to welcome that Municipality's new tanker truck in late November.

Two sites were approved for the installation of dry hydrants, one at Lac Mont Oeler and the other at Pèpinière Harrington. These will be installed in June of next year.

Fire prevention visits for high risk buildings have begun.2



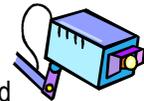


LOST RIVER ICE RINK

Congratulations to the volunteers who stepped up to the plate and built and installed the necessary boards. The rink is now ready for business or Winter whichever comes first – Great job Guys!

SECURITY CAMERAS

Given the rash of break-ins we have experienced we hope that the cameras installed at various locations within the complex will deter these incidents.



WINTER CARNIVALS

Harrington Valley Community Centre will be holding their annual carnival on January 28th and 29th.
Lost River Community Centre's carnival is scheduled for February 5th.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR !**



HARRINGTON WEBSITE

YOU CAN FIND A COPY OF THE
HARRINGTON HERALD ON THE
MUNICIPAL WEBSITE.

www.harrington.ca