



## **Dear Citizens of Harrington**

**I am pleased to provide you with an update on some important initiatives your Council has undertaken since I was elected in March. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer in our beautiful Harrington municipality! It was a very busy summer season as we continue to see continued growth with new residents joining our community as well as increased permits for renovations and new constructions. The more extreme weather also created challenges for some of our residents as well as our public works employees, as they had to deal with the impacts of the torrential rains and variable other weather conditions.**

**Director General: Our Director General is no longer employed in Harrington and we are currently recruiting to fill the position. You will be advised once the Council has completed this process. In the interim, we are thankful to be assisted by Mathieu Dessureault as interim Director General.**

**Waste Collection: After further review, the project to change our waste management system was put on hold and we have also suspended any hiring or capital expenditures related to this project. We will not deploy multiple bins per household for a door-to-door collection, our goal will be to meet the requirement of adding a composting option to our current offering of services. This concept would involve making available one small compost-bin per household, while centralizing several sites where we will provide the large containers where taxpayers can deposit their composting as they do for recycling and garbage.**

**This slight modification to our current service will allow us to maintain the grants that are currently offered to municipalities who are providing a composting solution and it will allow us to meet environmental guidelines with a minimal modification to our budget as compared to converting the entire territory to a door-to-door collection of individual bins. This option is currently being offered in Gore, Wentworth, and Milles Isles. We believe that any successful waste collection project requires the collaboration and participation from citizens, and we will ensure to provide the public consultation needed to arrive at these ends.**

**2023 Budget changes: The 2023 budget approved in December 2022 had provided for a substantial increase in capital expenditures and the hiring of several new employees. After consulting with staff and council, we have decided to revisit these initiatives. We recognize that it is important to have a highly qualified and well-staffed municipal workforce, but we want to ensure that we use our financial resources wisely to ensure that our taxes are spent in the most efficient way possible. You will be updated on our strategy after our budget planning for 2024 to be presented in December.**

**AirBnB By-law: We will be providing the consultation process on this by-law within the next few weeks; please monitor our website for more news on this file.**

**Projects and public works: This summer, our public works department has been under considerable strain between June and September dealing with the unprecedented number of torrential rains requiring substantial additional service associated with basic road maintenance. Notwithstanding this situation, we have still been able to proceed to the major culvert installation on the Rivière Rouge Road, as well as proceed with the upcoming major project of reloading and reprofiling on some of our non-asphalted roads, major repairs to Harrington Road and Lac des Esclaves Road.**

**Security:** We are actively working with all levels of government to meet the commitment of increasing the number of cell towers in our territory. The MRC has indeed submitted a resolution to both the Québec and federal governments and your Council has met this month with our Québec MLA, Mme. Agnès Grondin, who is committed to pursuing this file vis-à-vis the Ministers.

**Private roads grants:** We are also currently reviewing this by-law and validating feasibility of improving the offering to Associations for the improvement of their private roads, for the sake of security and emergency response time. We expect to have this evaluation completed for our budget planning for 2024.

**Lac MacDonald:** The amount of rain that we have had this summer has aggravated the situation as to water levels on Lac MacDonald, as for all the lakes on our territory. In investigating the situation, we have discovered that Harrington has never formalized a plan on how to properly manage this important resource (the dam). Council is working with LAMAC (the waterfront cottagers association) and consultants to develop, implement and formulate a water level management process associated with the MacDonald Dam. The goal will be to alleviate the current situation, provide guidance as to environmental and public security concerns and allow future administrations to meet the implemented standards.

**I look forward to receiving your input to assist Council in delivering the services you need.**

**Sincerely,  
Gabrielle Parr  
Your mayor**