

January, 15th, 2024



Hello!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy New Year 2024. The following is a review of the activities accomplished by your Municipality in 2023.

In addition to the 12 regular meetings and 7 extraordinary meetings provided by your Council, we were also present at the MRC for 11 regular meetings and 4 extraordinary meetings, it should be noted that each of these meetings are preceded by a full day of analysis and review, whereas the budget presentation generally takes 3 to 4 days of planning for both the Municipality and the MRC.

What have we accomplished during these meetings?

**By-Laws:**

Two by-laws met the challenges of all the necessary steps to become law, one on the demolition of buildings and the other associated to tax rates. Additionally, we have worked on three by-laws, two of which were presented as Notice at our January 2024 meetings and one of which is the Airbnb by-law which will be presented in February. Finally, a consultation process is planned for our Private Road Construction by-law at our February meeting.

**Resolutions:**

We have concluded 276 resolutions over the course of 2023. Every one of these resolutions involved analysis and study on behalf of your Council and the administration.

### **Public Works:**

Notwithstanding that we had managed the flood situation in April and suffered through torrential rains from June through to the end of August which kept our department doing double duty, we still managed to complete the roads projects that we had tabled for 2023, as well as several projects that were added throughout the year:

- The installation of culverts on the Rivière Rouge, the Maskinonge, Johnson, Lac des Esclaves;

- The reloading and profiling of a number of unpaved roads and additions of guard rails (MacLeod, Madden, Mill Pond, Mont Oelier, White Acres, Lac des Esclaves).

- The planning of the 2024 major Rivière Rouge project was also completed, whereby we closed the year with the confirmation received from the MRC of the grants that will allow us to move forward on this major project planned for 2024.

### **Urbanism:**

We provided 213 permits in 2023 (\$ 9 626 014); of these, 16 permits were issued for new homes on our territory for a total value of \$6 740 000. We are very proud of the performance provided by this new team throughout 2023, particularly considering they started the year with a great backlog of applications to process yet leaving us with only 1 file to complete at year-end.



**Fire department:**

We had 52 interventions throughout 2023, excluding rounds and training.

**Finance and administration:**

We completed our 2022 audit in March and presented the annual report in June 2023. We re-evaluated our long-term planning that was provided in 2022 to remove from the triennial planning the modification to our garbage process valued at \$ 595k, the purchase of a grader at \$ 300k, the purchase of snow clearing equipment valued at \$ 375k, the construction of a shelter for abrasives \$ 125k, removing a total of \$ 1,395,000. While we maintained in the three-year planning the capital expenditures of an excavator, a trailer for this equipment, two pick-up trucks for 2024, as well as the firetruck for 2025.

As for the modification to our offer of service for garbage, and, specifically composting, we will have the financial figures available for this transition within 60 days.

Council has resolved that prior to proceeding to the modification of our operations as to snow clearing and grading being contracted or done in-house, that this will only take place after a detailed financial analysis comparison where the benefits can clearly be identified in favor of one process or the other, as we have done in the past. At the current time, it is in Harrington's benefit to continue proceeding by contract.



Notwithstanding certain important changes in staffing, our administration has been exemplary in keeping Harrington running smoothly throughout the year. We met all of the target dates for reporting to achieve the benefits of the grants that have been accorded. The same for our financial reporting. As for hiring, we had posted several key positions throughout the year including: the student applications, where we hired two; a part time public works position, where we completed a hire. We also renewed two director contracts and added our inspector to a permanent position. We abandoned our consideration of an Assistant Director of Public Works but are in favor and have budgeted adding an additional employee to our public works team in 2024 should the need arise.

In addition to this, Harrington also had an election in the month of March; a major modification for Council and a major demand on the administration for the process of election, as well as the integration.

To have achieved so much in the last 12 months, we must admit that it required considerable teamwork. Teamwork which requires tolerance, patience, respect and civility. Teamwork on behalf of our Council. Teamwork on behalf of the administration. Teamwork on behalf of all our staff. Our goal will be to maintain this momentum and continuity throughout the New year. A big shout-out goes to our DGA, Mathieu Dessureault who had his mandate double over the course of the last 6 months; we thank him for his perseverance and commitment towards Harrington. Finally, we welcome our new DG, Steve Deschênes who has joined our team.

Your mayor

Gabrielle Parr