

Potton in brief, February 2011

In 2011, J.P. Cadrin et associés, evaluators, will balance the values of the municipal assessment roll. The new values will be established for fiscal years 2012, 2013 and 2014. The purpose of this exercise is to rebalance the values in order to lessen the gap that has arisen between the different sectors of the municipality and / or different classes of buildings.

Support was given to the Missisquoi North Development project for an application for financial assistance from the MRC's "Pacte rural" program. Eastman, Bolton East, St-Étienne de Bolton and Potton are all involved.

Support was also given to the Potton Heritage Association for an application for financial assistance from the MRC's cultural consolidation program.

Mr. Hughes Thivierge, an urban planner with fifteen years of experience was hired. He fills a position vacant since the end of 2009. He will be asked to revise all of our land planning bylaws to simplify matters and to better reflect our land use preoccupations.

A call for tenders to purchase a grader has been issued. This will allow us to provide more effective road maintenance.

An agreement was signed with the City of Magog to provide Potton with the compulsory prevention services required in the Risk Coverage Plan. These include the inspection of higher risk buildings and the search for fire causes. The City of Magog has the specialized human resources to provide these. The five year agreement represents an annual indexed expenditure of \$25000.

Annual tenders for road maintenance needs have been issued.

The annual report for the septic tanks measurement, the shore control and swimming pool program was tabled. This program was created five years ago and led to the correction of many defective septic systems. However, defective systems still exist and the council will take measures to ensure that the remaining non-compliant septic systems are corrected.

A professional services contract was awarded to Mrs. Karine Cantin, a specialist in waste management, to analyze our situation in Potton and to propose solutions enabling us to meet the new government requirements regarding the management our waste. The contract for our waste collection will end early in 2012 and we will, in the invitation to tender, include requirements that will substantially reduce our landfill needs.

- Adoption of a resolution allowing our non-profit organizations to benefit from greatly reduced insurance premiums through the "Union des municipalités du Québec"; the information is available at the Town Hall.

- Acceptance of the filing of recommendations by the Environmental Advisory Committee regarding an environmental policy, the management of our waste and the concept of sustainable development.

- Adoption of a bylaw to borrow \$125 000 for the Fire Department to meet imposed requirements in the Risk Coverage Program.

- Notices of motion were presented for:

 - minor changes to the bylaw regarding the septic systems control program;

 - a program of reimbursable financial assistance for the upgrading of septic systems;

 - adoption of a bylaw regarding the allowed uses in the former LPA Plastics building.

We thank all those who contributed to the Festive Heart Festival and, more particularly, the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre and the Youth Centre for the Winterfest and Career Day. If you would like to take computer courses, please see Chelsea at the Legion Memorial Library.

Jacques Marcoux