

MAYOR'S REPORT 2018

Dear citizens, it is my pleasure to inform you of our community accomplishments and improvements for the year 2018.

Contracts over \$25,000

Doug Zacharias	Snow plow contract	\$228,869.63	Walking trail preparation	\$28,358.58
H&H Construction	Crushing gravel	\$51,504.75		
Michel Lacroix	Walking Trail (paving)	\$32,193.00	Picanoc road (paving)	\$49,439.25
Larry Kluge	Gravel	\$31,254.07		

Salaries of elected officials: The mayor received an annual salary of \$19,620 and Councillors received an annual salary of \$6,540 in 2018.

TECQ 2014-2018 – Balance of \$154,280 was allocated toward engineering services and road improvements for the following roads: Farm, Palmer, Second, Fleury, Elsie, Rang A and Picanoc.

Provincial Government grant awarded from Mr. André Fortin's office: \$39,247 – These funds were used for road improvements on the following roads: Old Bridge, Ranch, Rang A, Bellmore and Polish Hills.

Starting in 2018 an additional \$73,055 was awarded to the Municipality from the Ministry of Transport (**Programme d'aide à la voirie locale**) to assist with the maintenance of our municipal roads. In 2018 we used these funds for crushing gravel.

Public Works: In 2018 the Municipality purchased a high brush cutter (EAE model DML / HY-100VT) from G.B. Equipment to improve the security of our municipal roads in the amount of \$21,000 plus taxes and shipping.

Fire Safety: The Municipality purchased a 2017 4x4 Dodge 3500 truck equipped with emergency supplies in the amount of \$39,700 to provide better first responder service to our community as well as easier road access.

- After 53 years of dedicated and devoted service to our community, Rodney Vadneau (previous fire chief) retired in September 2018. Thank you Rodney for leading your team in keeping our community safe.
- Denis Chaussé was named new fire chief for our municipality. I am confident that Denis will fulfill his role successfully.

Recreation: In 2018 the RA committee purchased 2 docks for installation at Farm Lake. This allows public access to the dock as well as a place to dock your boat.

- A dart league began in September 2018. They gather every Monday evening for the months of September through May. They currently accommodate 64 active players.
- The Dart boards and boxes built were purchased by the RA committee.
- The Recreation committee continues to organize community events to bring our community together.

The 50 Plus Club: The 50 Plus Club setup a New Facebook site called: **Otter Lake 50 Plus**

- The site contains the schedule of all their activities such as: Exercise (VieActive on Tuesday am), Euchre (Tuesday pm), Petanque (Wednesday's) and Darts (Thursday's).
- Petanque is new in 2018 – it is a game similar to bowling.
- A cell phone booster which allows cell phone usage within the Recreation Hall was installed and the cost was shared between the 50 Plus Club, the RA committee, the Otter Lake Fire Department and the Municipality;
- The 50 Plus Club continue organizing activities such as: Valentine's supper, summer BBQ and Christmas dinner to enhance our community spirit. The club has 109 active members!!
- Everyone 50 years of age and older is Welcome to join.

Environment: We continue to encourage all rate payers to recycle in order to improve our environment as well as reducing our waste residual cost. We are seeking available grants, budgeted funds and plan to implement a composting program in 2019. We need your support in making this project a success.

Realizations for 2018: Implementation of a Municipality Facebook Page – **Otter Lake municipalité – municipality.**

- A 0.5 km paved walking trail was built on the RA grounds along Farm Lake in 2018. The Municipality received financial assistance for this project from Les Fonds de développement du territoire (FDT) in the amount of \$37,800 as well as \$14,000 from Les Fonds Conjoncturel de Développement (FCM).
The trail includes benches, garbage containers and interpretative signs on the history of Otter Lake. It will provide fitness, cultural and economic/tourist benefits to the Municipality.
Official grand opening scheduled for 2019!!
- Naming of the Recreation Hall in honor of Raymond Johnson who served the Pontiac from 1948-1970 and was named Minister of Revenue from 1966-1970. (**Centre communautaire Raymond Johnson Community center**).
- Continued community beautification as well as property enhancements and improvements.
- Arrangements were made with local gravel pit owners (Jerry & Joanne Dubeau) for the Municipality to crush gravel on their property. This will result in continued cost savings for the maintenance of roads. 10,000 tons was crushed in 2018.
- Hiring of our new building inspector in June 2018 – Gabi Morin is available to assist you for all your building requirements.
Thank you to Sylvain Bégin for his expertise during our transition period & assistance with our new inspector.
- We received a grant from Canada Summer Jobs Federal Program that subsidized 50% of the cost of hiring 1 summer student. The Municipality also hired an additional student for a period of 8 weeks. The students worked at the municipal library, organized youth activities, assisted in all community events as well as support staff at the municipal office when required.
- During the winter of 2018 the recreation hall was used for an indoor walking club which helped residents stay active during the winter months. This will continue in 2019.
- Our municipal skating rink continues to operate successfully.
- 2 sections of asphalt on Picanoc road were completed.
- Continuing to accept gently used items in the St. Jude's bins located at the Municipal office.
- General maintenance at the recreational grounds.
- Continued administrative improvements to add value to our service.
- 3 season road improvement project still in progress.
- Continued negotiations with logging companies due to heavy traffic on our municipal roads.
- Our municipal Boat Wash is in full operation – we invite you to use this facility to ensure protection of our community lakes.
- We urge you to continue visiting our Web site for municipal updates: (www.otterlakequebec.ca)
- Continued collaboration with our community Groups & Associations.

Planning & Development: A 2 year mandate for the Advisory Planning Committee was renewed in 2018. Mandate of this committee is to revise existing municipal by-laws, make recommendations to council and propose an overall site planning and development for the municipality. The committee consists of: Councillors (Carlen Lafleur & Robin Zacharias), the municipal inspector (Gabi Morin) and 4 residents (Ken Kluge, Hélène Boulet, Ken Dubeau & Rick Lavigne). Future plans for 408 Tessier are being discussed. **Leslie Park** is continuing to operate successfully with ongoing improvements. 2018 was again another successful year for the park.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you, the citizens, for giving me the opportunity to represent our community with honor and pride. In the past year we were faced with challenges that were successfully resolved. I am very confident that our team will continue to work together in order to always find the best solution in the best interest of our municipality. Transparency, open communication and team work continue to be the key factors for the prosperity and continued success of our town. Our dedicated employees continue to be major players in our community success and progress. Their hard work and commitment never go unnoticed. We are very fortunate for the partnership we maintain with our groups and associations as well as our vast number of dedicated volunteers who all continue to make a difference.

We are a vibrant community – let us continue to grow together!! Thank you!

Your Mayor,

Kim Cartier-Villeneuve