

MAYOR'S REPORT 2019

Dear citizens, it is my pleasure to inform you of our community accomplishments and improvements for the year 2019.

Provincial Government grant awarded from Mr. André Fortin's office:

\$30,000.00 – Gravelled and raised Yates Road to prevent any future flooding problems.

Public Works – Equipment purchased

- 2 wings for the F550's (\$12,600), 1 sander and plow F550 (\$17,603), 1 sander F350 (\$6,366)
- 2019 Ford F550 with steel box (\$68,525), 2001 & 2006 International trucks (\$77,000)

In 2019, the snow plowing of municipal roads became the responsibility of the municipality. It has been a challenge that we were faced with however, I can proudly say that our road crew has adapted very well and is doing an outstanding job ensuring the road safety for our citizens. We ask that all citizens respect the **NO WINTER PARKING** signs allowing us to complete our work efficiently. Citizens are also asked not to leave any trace of snow on our municipal roads when cleaning their yards; this could cause unnecessary safety issues for both our citizens and our road crew.

Road work:

- 10,000 tons of gravel \$55,000 and Hauling (Doug Zacharias \$18,060.67, Blue Heron \$6,890.20, Kelly Brothers \$9,498.96) used to gravel Leslie, Clark, Stephens and Milliken East roads.
- Ditching Milliken Road East - \$26,537.75
- Sortir du Bois - \$12,500 Brushing of Picanoc Road
- Jason Hynes - Paved the corner of Picanoc road (\$23,492) and end of Palmer (\$3,480)
- \$3000 was allocated toward road maintenance on Mayhew and Rang A roads
- CRS – Shovel rental (\$4,675) used to ditch Hughes, Old Bridge and Desjardins roads

Fire Safety:

3 firemen successfully completed their Firefighter One course and 3 new recruits were hired in 2019. The Municipality purchased a 1997 Freightliner in the amount **\$27,300** to provide better service to our community as well as easier access to certain roads.

Recreation: Moved outdoor stage to a better location on the recreation grounds and permanently installed dartboards on the wall of the Raymond Johnston Community Center.

The 50 Plus Club: Over the past year the following weekly activities were provided: cards, darts, petanque atout, indoor walking club (winter only) and exercise classes. Several dinner and dance events were arranged. The overall attendance at all events over the past year has grown by approximately 4% (from 4,433 participants to 4601 participants). A grant of \$2,300 was received to support the activities including new coffee/tea pots, Petanque boards, exercise bands and administrative supplies.

Environment: The composting project was implemented in 2019 and has proven to be a success. There will be an additional composter purchased in 2020 to better service the citizens. We thank those who are participating and encourage everyone to compost and recycle. Remember the more participation from our citizens could reduce the municipal environment contribution.

Realizations for 2019:

- Official opening of the .5 km walking trail as well as the naming of the Raymond Johnson Community Center
- Signed a partnership agreement with Maison des Jeunes to encourage youth activities
- Decrease of mill rate from .70 to .62 cents per \$100 of evaluation
- Created detailed municipal tourist guides and placed 3 "Discover Otter Lake" ads in tourist publications (Tourism Outaouais, Cottage Living and Travel Guide)
- Working on improving and making our Municipal Website more user friendly for our citizens
- Continued community beautification as well as property enhancements and improvements.
- Arrangements for 2019 made with local gravel pit owners (Jerry & Joanne Dubeau) for the Municipality to crush gravel on their property resulting in cost savings for the maintenance of our municipal roads. 25,000 tons were crushed in 2019.
- We received a grant from Canada Summer Jobs that subsidized 50% of the cost of hiring 1 summer student. The Municipality hired two students that worked at the library, organized youth activities, helped with community events and road maintenance.
- Continued road improvements on 3 season roads.
- The recreation hall continues to be used for an indoor walking club during winter months keeping residents active.
- Our municipal skating rink continues to operate successfully.
- 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.
- Continued communication with logging companies travelling on municipal roads.
- We **strongly recommend** that you use the Municipal Boat Wash facility located at 15 Palmer Street (municipal garage) to ensure the protection of our community lakes.
- We urge you to continue visiting our Web site for municipal updates: (www.otterlakequebec.ca) as well as our Facebook Page (Otter Lake municipalité-municipality)
- Continued collaboration with our community Groups & Associations.
- A public consultation was held in 2019 to better understand the needs of the citizens regarding Sports & Leisure.
- FDT grant – Awarded \$7,284 towards the extension of the ball field fencing in 2020 to ensure the safety of our citizens.
- Otter Lake was selected for the NOBS Motorcycle Club Bike Show & Shine. We thank the RA for working with them!

Planning & Development

The planning committee is continuing to work on revising the existing municipal by-laws and continue to propose site planning and development recommendations to the municipality. Future plans for 408 Tessier are still in discussion

Leslie Park is continuing to operate successfully with ongoing improvements. 2019 was again another successful year. Lease agreement with the foundation in discussion for renewal in 2020. We would like to thank André Loranger for his many years of hard work, dedication and direction as President of the Leslie Park Foundation. We also wish to welcome Scott Lemay as the new President of the foundation. With open communication, transparency and team spirit I am confident that Leslie Park will continue its operations successfully.

We were saddened this year by the death of one of our valued employees, Maurice (Buck) Richard. Maurice worked for the municipality for 19 years, 9 of these as the town foreman. Maurice's commitment to the community was commendable. He will be remembered for his witty sense of humour, his helping hand and his huge heart. Maurice will be missed by the municipal team and all who knew him. **R.I.P. Buck.**

I would like to thank you, the citizens, for your continued support. It has been and continues to be an honor for me to proudly represent the Municipality of Otter Lake. Thank you to all council members for continuing to work together with constant effort in evaluating the best decisions for our municipality. Transparency, open communication and team spirit remain the key factors for the prosperity and continued success of our community. All of our employees continue to be major partners in our municipality's success and progress. Their hard work, commitment and dedication will always be appreciated. We are very fortunate for the partnership we maintain with our groups and associations as well as our vast number of dedicated volunteers who are greatly valued in our community.

Let us continue to remain a dynamic and prosperous community!!

Your Mayor, Kim Cartier-Villeneuve