



Notre-Dame-
de-l'Île-Perrot

What's new @NDIP

A word from the Mayor

The year 2012 is drawing to a close, and it's time to look at the record. No one will be surprised if I say that last year was pretty busy. Just think of the major projects that have been undertaken: the extension to rue Forest, the development of the Domaine de l'Aristocrate and the opening of Boulevard Virginie-Roy.

On the budgetary front, the year 2012 is ending on a positive note. At the Council meeting of November 13, I filed my report on the financial situation of NDIP, which reflects the City's sound financial health. The Council is also very pleased to announce that, as planned, we expect to achieve a balanced budget for the third consecutive year and we shall even generate a small surplus to be used for future expenditures. All our efforts to tightly manage the finances of the City have come to fruition.

The secret of our budget management is also due to the team of professionals that we have succeeded in bringing together to manage the

various areas of municipal life. Since 2009, we have recruited many people whose expertise is now benefiting all residents of NDIP. We are very proud of the team we have in place and thank them for all their work and their professionalism.

Another highlight of 2012 has been our strategic planning exercise and the filing of the **Plan stratégique 2022 – Bâtir un avenir commun** (2022 Strategic Plan – Building our future together). Far from being a purely theoretical exercise, the plan is a practical tool that will guide all decisions and actions of the Council over the next decade. I invite people to read the strategic plan, which is available on the municipal website.

The end of the year also means celebrations and festivities. I wish you happy times with your family and friends and I look forward to seeing you in 2013. Drive carefully!

Marie-Claude Nichols



What's new @ NDIP is also available on the NDIP website, in the **Publications section**. For up-to-date information on the municipal life, visit regularly our web site (www.ndip.org), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/VilledenDIP) and Twitter account (@ville_de_ndip).

living in NDIP

RELIP

Have you heard of RELIP? La Régie des équipements en loisir de l'île Perrot (leisure facilities board of Île Perrot)? In spring 2012, RELIP was set up by the four municipalities of Île Perrot to promote the construction, operation and administration of one or more new, major facilities relating to athletic, recreational, community or cultural activities in the territory of Île Perrot. This partnership enables the four municipalities to join forces and combine resources to better meet the needs of the entire population of Île Perrot.

Léger Marketing was engaged last fall to conduct a telephone survey of a sample of residents from member municipalities to survey the public regarding their priorities for leisure facilities. The survey results will be released early in 2013.

For further information, please visit the RELIP website at www.relip.ca.



Mayor Marie-Claude Nichols submitted to the Council Meeting of November 13 her report on the financial position of NDIP for the year 2012. In this period of economic difficulty and upheaval in the municipal world, Ms. Nichols took pride in filing a report that confirms the sound financial health of the City. The approach adopted by elected officials since 2009, based on a stringent control of expenditures and respect for residents' ability to pay, has enabled us to maintain an adequate, balanced budget. In addition, with respect to the 2012 budget, the Mayor stated that, based on estimates, she could predict a slight surplus for the third consecutive year. It is important to understand that a surplus does not mean a profit in terms of municipal accounting. Any surplus depends on circumstances (additional grants, discontinued projects, bids lower than projected estimates, etc.). It can be reassigned or set aside for unforeseen expenditures and for the years ahead that will likely be more difficult, given the global financial context and a history of systematic increases in our assessed contributions.

The surplus is not a matter of wealth, but rather a proof of our prudent, sound management!

This fall, the new real estate assessment roll was filed. It is important to note that the City plays no role in assessing property values. This task is entrusted to independent valuation companies. According to the new assessment, the value of many properties in NDIP experienced a major upswing. To offset an increase in municipal taxes due to increased values on the roll, your elected officials have taken the initiative of reducing the tax rate from \$0.72 to \$0.67 per \$100 valuation. This measure will certainly be reassuring for property owners, but it deprives the City of a significant increase in revenue. Although the current financial position of NDIP is highly enviable, the City will have very little leeway in the next financial year. Since tax revenues for the City in 2013 will remain the same as in 2012 and our current operating budget will be maintained, while the assessed contributions we pay to the SQ, CIT, REIP and RELIP will increase, the City will have to manage its finances very stringently in order to balance the budget in 2013.

Residents can certainly count on the continued tight control of municipal purse strings by the Council. Ongoing projects and planned investments for the next year are based on a long-term vision of services to residents.

Have you ever wondered what kind of city you want to live in in 2022?

For members of the Council, it was essential to answer this important question, to take an objective look at the City and establish guidelines for the future development of NDIP. In this context, in 2012 we completed a rigorous strategic planning project in which the heads of municipal departments and people involved in the community also participated. This exercise resulted in the development of the document **Plan stratégique 2002 – Bâtir un avenir commun** (2022 Strategic Plan - Building a future together), which defines the priorities of the municipal government for the next decade.

With this practical plan, the City will have specific criteria for assessing the suitability of various projects proposed by residents and developers, according to established guidelines, especially in terms of residential growth and development of the local economy and regional tourism. It will also help residents to make a practical assessment of municipal actions within our territory and ensure that the measures taken are consistent with the guidelines established. This plan will be closely monitored by the municipal administration and, each year, an action plan and an assessment of the objectives achieved will be completed and made public.

The French version of the **Strategic Plan** can be viewed in the Publications section of the municipal website (www.ndip.or/publications).

The City...

Good news! Boulevard Virginie-Roy is now open to traffic between Rivelaine and Doris-Lussier. Foundation work for the new segment of road is complete and paving will be done in the spring as soon as weather conditions permit.

Did you know...

Teen dances have been hugely successful in NDIP! Six times a year, at Carrefour Notre-Dame, the City organizes a dance, with a DJ, which is specially intended for kids from Grade 5 to Grade 8. Tickets are on sale two weeks before each event at a cost of \$5 and on average around 300 tickets are snapped up. As proof of the great popularity of our Teen Dances, other organizations check the schedule of the NDIP dances before fixing the dates for their own dances. That tells you something! But the kids aren't the only ones in NDIP who like dancing. If you go by the number of those who turned up at the latest 50+ Dance, which is to say about a hundred, there are lots more people in NDIP who are young at heart!

GREEN THUMB

De-icing traffic areas

Did you know that spreading ashes from your fireplace or wood stove is a greener way to clear ice from your driveway or walkways in winter?

In fact, using sodium chloride, commonly known as salt, is harmful to the environment and has a detrimental effect on your garden soil and lawn. It can contaminate water from the well for those who still have one. It also affects the salt levels of waterways and the fertility of the soil.

On the other hand, however, spreading wood ash on the ice has a beneficial effect on your plants and lawns. The ash contains nutrients, such as calcium and potassium, and many micronutrients that promote plant growth.

It's a small gesture for the environment but it's important for the flora and fauna that surround us on our beautiful island!

Have a good winter!