

## A word from >> Marie-Claude Nichols, mayor

#### First, I must wish everyone a great summer!

With the arrival of summer and sun, the pleasures of outdoor life are finally here for us to enjoy. It's such a delight dining with family in the garden or having a drink on the patio with friends, to the backdrop of birdsong and wind rustling through the trees. Unfortunately, the roar of a lawnmower or a choice of music imposed by a neighbour can sometimes disturb this peaceful moment.

It is worth remembering that the rules of good neighbourliness can prevent many unnecessary conflicts. If you are planning to throw a party that may be a little noisier than usual, why not take five minutes to tell your immediate neighbours? A small gesture like that can easily diminish potential disputes and even help forge stronger ties within the community.

It is perfectly legitimate to want to spend time in parks and other common areas during the summer. This must, however, be done with respect for nearby residents. Please remember that parks close at 10 pm and after this time the noise level should be reduced considerably.

We all have a role to play in promoting good neighbourliness. With a little effort, we can all have a wonderful summer, in the spirit of mutual respect.

Marie-Claude Nichols

In order to phase out paper communications, **What's new** @ **NDIP** will soon be published online! You may also write back via this all-purpose platform. WATCH FUTURE ISSUES FOR MORE INFORMATION.



# living in NDIP

This year, **Notre-Dame en fête** will be held on July 6, 7 and 8. On the program: a soapbox derby and performances by Hugo Lapointe and Brigitte Boisjoli. Please note that the fireworks will be held earlier to allow families to attend in large numbers.



During the summer, a **water park** will be installed at Parc des Mésanges to provide an opportunity for toddlers (3 to 5 years) and older kids (5 to 12 years) to cool off.

The **Mayor's blood drive** on May 3 at Carrefour Notre-Dame was a huge success. Over 117 people took the opportunity to donate blood, far exceeding the initial target of 100 units. A big thank-you to all donors!

## HOT TOPIC >>> URBAN PLANNING

#### COMPLIANCE WITH URBAN PLANNING REGULATIONS

#### Compliance is your responsibility

Summer is the season for construction projects. After refining your plans over the winter, you're anxious to get to work. But have you checked to see if your project complies with municipal regulations? Before starting work, you must check with the Urban Planning Department to see if a building permit or certificate of authorization is required.

If, for example, your project is to install a fence, wall, spa or balcony, no permit is required, but you must deposit a declaration with the City. This required report is free and is intended to ensure the compliance of construction and accessory equipment.

When in doubt, please contact the Urban Planning Department at 514-453-4128, option 1, extension 0. We will be happy to assist you and help you avoid having to apply for a minor variance on account of non-compliance. We remind you that the cost of processing a request of this nature by the urban planning advisory committee is \$600 and approval is not guaranteed.

One quick call that could save you big!

# HOT TOPIC >> WEBSITE

#### Launch of new website and Facebook page

A new version of the NDIP website (www.ndip.org) was launched last May. This new interface was designed to provide an accessible site that will evolve with the needs of our population.

The NDIP website is a gateway tool to keep residents informed and to maintain active communication with them. Residents can find a wealth of information on various services, regulations and municipal news.

Some users have informed us of the slow loading of pages on our site. After checking, it seems that this delay is attributable to the version of browser used. Access to the NDIP site is optimized for Internet Explorer 9 and Firefox 12. We are presently working with our webmaster to make our site more accessible to users who have older browser versions.

Stay in contact with Council by sending us your ideas, questions and opinions via this portal. We pay close attention to each of your comments. Keep checking the new portal to keep up to date with recent activities of your elected officials.



Also, visit the Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot official Facebook page for more information.

# The city...

#### Good news!

The 2011 financial statements were made public at the May 8 council meeting. Our sound management of public finances is paying dividends: the Municipality of NDIP recorded a surplus of over \$400,000 in 2011. We are very proud of these results and are persevering in our efforts to ensure responsible management of taxpayers' money.

A premiere in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Region: Marie-Uguay Library is now offering its members digital book loans! Over 200 titles, and counting, can be downloaded free by visiting the library catalogue powered with Biblionet search software. The digital book project is the latest example of the Municipality's ongoing commitment to innovation.

### Did you know...

#### Active travel corridors

Due to the success of Phase I of last year's project to establish active travel corridors, the Municipality is moving ahead with Phase II. As you know, active travel corridors are intended to provide visual cues that narrow traffic lanes in order to reduce vehicle speed and enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists. They connect existing paths along Boulevard Don Quichotte, Boulevard St-Joseph North and Boulevard Virginie-Roy, and encourage non-motorized travel to destinations such as La Samare Elementary School, parks and daycares.

The following streets are targeted this year: Rouleau, Rémillard, Richer, Renaud, part of Michel-McNabb, Yvette-Brind'Amour, Doris-Lussier, Françoise-Cuillerier, Antoine-De-La-Fresnaye and Lucien-Thériault.

# **GREEN THUMB**

Grass clippings, your tax bill and the environment

A strange heading, you might say! What do they have in common? These three things don't mix...

Many of us have a bad habit of mowing our lawns too short, picking up the clippings and putting them in a garbage bag or straight into the black bin and out on the street on Friday morning... but doing this has many consequences. It deprives the tiny fauna and flora of our lawns of essential nutrients to maintain their equilibrium. It unnecessarily overloads landfills, which considerably increases our municipal costs by about 33% in summer. Lastly, anaerobic decomposition creates methane emissions with greenhouse gas levels twenty times higher than CO,! Is that explanation enough?

The simple solution is to leave the clippings on site by setting the blades higher (7 cm) and using a mower that grinds: this is known as grass cycling. The grass will dry in no time and settle on the ground where it will be decomposed by the microorganisms that feed on it.

Have a great summer.