



Notre-Dame-
de-l'Île-Perrot

What's new @NDIP

Dear Residents,

You are now holding the 18th issue of What's New, a publication by the Option citoyens party, elected five years ago. After six months as mayor, I continue to take great pleasure in writing articles, which I have been doing since this publication began in 2009, to keep our community informed about the news and current issues in the greatest municipality on the island.

Since June 2014, a renewed municipal council has been meeting to discuss topics of concern to you and to make decisions for the residents of Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot and, occasionally, all residents of Île Perrot. Your elected officials are working together, making themselves available to the residents and organizations of Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot and demonstrating the highest degree of professionalism when called upon to decide on the future and the priorities of our municipality. Your municipal council has

A word from the Mayor

your interests and concerns at heart, and I am absolutely thrilled to be working with the elected officials and the employees, who are central to our success.

We are focusing on co-operation, openness and a vision of respect for the specific needs of Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot. We hope that you, as residents, feel that your municipality is being well managed, with full transparency, and that you can live here with complete peace of mind.

On that note, I wish you happy holidays and a new year full of happy times with family and time to enjoy winter activities. The year 2015 will be brimming with new projects that bring people together, and we will be ever ready to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Danie Deschênes



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). You can also follow the mayor on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MaireseDanieDeschenes).

INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE TO NEW E-NEWSLETTER

Municipal Council members would like to invite NDIP residents to subscribe to a new monthly e-newsletter that is being created to enable the City to correspond with residents quickly and in an environmentally friendly way. The new method of correspondence will also significantly reduce the cost of producing the City's various printed publications. To subscribe, simply visit the NDIP website (www.ndip.org), enter your email address in the "Email" field near the top right corner of the page and click "Subscribe!" You will then receive a confirmation email message. Thank you for helping the City to communicate with you more effectively.

living in NDIP



The holidays are fast approaching, and you are invited to the "Fête de Noël," a Christmas party on Friday, December 12, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Des Mésanges Park. Come with family or friends and get into the holiday spirit by visiting Santa Claus and sipping hot chocolate by the fire. The municipal councillors look forward to seeing you there!

Financial Situation

As part of the provincial fiscal consolidation effort, certain measures announced by the government will affect the City's budget. Under the new fiscal pact, the government is tackling the deficit, reducing the percentage of the Québec Sales Tax (QST) paid out to municipalities starting in 2015. This measure will have a direct impact on NDIP. Québec's reduced financial contribution to the various municipal and regional authorities to which NDIP belongs will increase the City's financial contribution to various regional organizations. For example: the elimination of the regional economic council (Conférence régionale des élus, CRÉ) and the reduction in subsidies to the local development centre (Centre local de développement, CLD) will place an added burden on the RCM, cities and residents considering that economic development is vital to the region and our city. Elected officials must now take over to ensure and maintain development in the region, an important provincial government responsibility. These expenses combine with a \$24,000 increase in NDIP's contribution to the Montreal Metropolitan Community (Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, CMM) in 2015. Unfortunately, these outside pressures on our budgets are beyond our control, and occasionally cancel out the efforts we are making internally to optimize taxpayer funds.

The implementation of the agroforestry project announced in 2013 is continuing on land located in Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot. The purpose of this innovative project is to create a large-scale intercropping testing, experimentation and demonstration site. This agroforestry initiative, likely one of the largest in Quebec, will make it possible to evaluate issues associated with the presence of trees in the farm environment and foster research into balancing objectives for farm productivity and environmental quality.

In July 2014 GPS land levelling was completed in the field along Don-Quichotte Boulevard. Lime was then applied to correct the soil acidity, and a green fertilizer (wheat) was applied. Once it is in the soil, the green fertilizer decomposes and enriches the soil with organic matter.

Tree planting in the fields continued in August, under the supervision of the Institut de recherche en biologie végétale (IRBV), and fast-growing poplars will be planted in spring 2015. Once complete, the fields will be bordered by rows of different varieties of slow-growing, fast-growing and nitrogen-fixing trees.

The grower has put in permanent raised beds on the south lot (closer to Perrot Boulevard) of the five acres to produce vegetables and fruits in 2015. Nearly 40 varieties of vegetables will be harvested there (garlic, beans, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchinis, Swiss chard, beets, carrots, etc.). As well, 1,000 asparagus plants and 500 raspberry plants will be planted for harvesting in 2016. On the parcels facing Don-Quichotte Boulevard, the grower plans to grow squash and pumpkins in 2015 if the spring is dry and, if not, to apply other green fertilizers to encourage quicker drainage in 2016.

The City...

Negotiations are underway on Bill 3, and its adoption will not affect the Municipality. Municipal employees have a defined contribution plan (and not a defined benefit plan) that is funded equally by the employer and the employees. The municipal pension plan will not have a shortfall or solvency problem, because the amount paid to retirees is not guaranteed. It depends on investment performance, a responsibility shared by all employees.

Did you know...

Don-Quichotte Boulevard, an east-west road across Île Perrot from Highway 20 to Pointe-du-Moulin Historic Park, is named after the main character of the novel *The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha*, by Cervantes. In the novel, Part 1 of which was published in 1605, the character of Don Quixote fights windmills that he takes to be giants sent by evil wizards. This literary allusion inspired the officials in charge of place names when this boulevard, which leads to the old windmill of Île Perrot, was opened in 1963.

GREEN THUMB

In spring 2014, the Municipality modified the spray park in Des Mésanges Park to reduce the amount of water used. The data for 2013 showed that water consumption had exceeded the manufacturer's specifications. In light of that unsatisfactory finding, the municipal council ordered an evaluation of various scenarios for reducing water consumption to an acceptable amount. A proposal was made to modify one structure, replace four nozzles in the spray tunnel and reprogram the control panel to shorten the duration of each spray.

The municipal council is pleased to learn that the modifications were successful according to data for 2014. Water consumption decreased 22%, even though usage time increased 42% (349 hours in 2014 versus 245 hours in 2013).