

Info Village

3125, chemin Capelton
Website www.northhatley.org Phone 819 842-2754



*Council members and the administrative staff
wish you a happy Holiday Season
and a New Year filled with health and
happiness!*



*The municipal office will be closed for
the Holidays from December 23, 2016
to January 3, 2017 inclusively.*

The Municipality at your service

Mayor

Michael Page

Councillor, seat #1

Pauline Farrugia

Councillor, seat #2

Marcella Davis Gerrish

Councillor, seat #3

Guy Veillette

Councillor, seat #4

Normand Jolicoeur

Councillor, seat #5

Claude Villeneuve

Councillor, seat #6

Director-General and Secretary- Treasurer, Emergency Measures Coordinator, Access to documents, Secretary-Treasurer RIEM

Daniel Décary

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Bruno Bélisle

Administrative-Assistant

Natacha Prince

Inspector -Building and Environment

Carl Rodrigue

Foreman – Public Works

Dany McKelvey

President – Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee

Alain Beaulieu

Employees – Public Works

Scot Fergusson and Wade Morse

Business hours

Monday through Friday

10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Contact us

3125 Capelton Road

North Hatley (Québec) J0B 2C0

Telephone: 819 842-2754

Fax: 819 842-4501

Email: info@northhatley.org

communication@northhatley.org

Website: www.northhatley.org

Important numbers:

Emergency 911

SQ 310-4141 or *4141 (cell.)

Road conditions 511

Urgence-santé 811

Mayor's Report

Dear Citizens,

In accordance with the Quebec Municipal Code, I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report on the Municipality's financial situation.

It is the opportunity to provide you with information as required by law and to talk to you about various other topics of public interest as well.

1. MUNICIPAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE ACCOUNTING PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015 INCLUDING THE AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE SAME PERIOD

The following is a summary of the municipal financial statements for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2015:

- consolidated operating fund revenues totaled \$3,562,365 and consolidated operating fund expenses totaled \$3,596,384;
- the year ended with a non-consolidated operating deficit of \$38,017 and a consolidated operating deficit of \$126,948;
- the non-consolidated long-term net debt is in the amount of \$9,034,034 and the consolidated long-term net debt is in the amount of \$12,374,511;
- reserve funds totaled \$542,717.

The firm of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, s.e.n.c., audited the financial statements. In the opinion of the auditors, the consolidated financial statements present, in all material respects, an accurate picture of the financial situation of the Municipality of the Village of North Hatley as at December 31, 2015, as well as of the results of operations, changes in net debt and cash flow for the year ended, in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

2. THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

For the three-year capital plan of 2016-2017-2018 budget estimates are in the order of \$2,215,350. In 2016, a few projects were completed, notably the replacement of various computer equipment and the replacement of a 6-wheel truck. The first phase of the Community Centre restoration project (floors, movable partition and paint), fully subsidized, is in the preparation stage. Projects were submitted for the purpose of obtaining subsidies for the work to be done on the Community Centre and in the parks.

3. PRELIMINARY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016

The adopted budget for 2016 was of revenues and expenses in the order of \$2,838,188. As we present this report, a slight operating surplus is anticipated. Reduced spending, in addition to a fairly mild winter, thereby resulting in savings, would explain the situation. Final results will be known when financial statements for 2016 are completed.

4. REMUNERATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

In accordance with the Act respecting the remuneration of elected municipal officials, the following are the remuneration and expense allowances for elected officials for all municipal and para-municipal work they undertake.

The Mayor receives an annual salary of \$6,584.648 for the tasks he undertakes locally and an expense allowance of \$3,291.72. He receives a remuneration of \$2,102.72 for his participation in MRC of Memphrémagog events and meetings and an expense allowance equivalent to half of this amount or \$1,051.44.

Councillors each receive an annual remuneration of \$2,203.68 for their work and an expense allowance of \$1,102.20.

An amount of \$37.63 is allocated to each elected official for participation in a municipal committee meeting.

I take the opportunity to acknowledge the commitment made by the elected Council members who week in and week out contribute in a manner that is worthy of mention. As you can see, financial gain is not a determining factor for these individuals in committing themselves to serve the community.

5. LIST OF CONTRACTS OF MORE THAN \$25,000 IN THE COURSE OF THIS LAST YEAR

At each Council meeting, we present a list of expenses in excess of \$5,000 with a same supplier.

As required by law, a list of contracts of more than \$25,000, and contracts of more than \$2,000 with a same co-contractor when the amount of the contracts exceeds \$25,000, is also available on request to the management staff at the Municipality and on the website of the Municipality.

6. PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR

In addition to the ongoing management of municipal services, I wish to draw attention to a number of files that in particular held the attention of Council in 2016.

This is not merely a list of the files taken up by Council and Administration but rather the details on projects, among the most significant, undertaken for the development of our community.

- Representation of municipal interests within the MRC de Memphrémagog is a priority given the key issues to be addressed.

Responsibilities assumed by the MRC and previously delegated to the Centre local de développement and to the Conférence régionale des élus raised key issues, notably in terms of cultural, economic and tourist development.

Our participation also made it possible to be involved and have a say on files in various areas of activity of the MRC.

The Municipality remains up to date on the most recent developments and is in a good position to participate in the various opportunities that may arise. The Municipality is also in a good position to benefit from the various services and programmes offered by the MRC.

- The first year of operation at the water filtration plant required constant follow up work in terms of the numerous adjustments that were called for under the circumstances.

Water usage was and remains a major preoccupation as we have noted an increase in local water usage three times higher than the usual target levels. In order to stabilize the situation, a by-law has been adopted on drinking water usage that contains various economic and control measures. With our partner at the la Régie intermunicipale des eaux Massawippi, we have ruled on an action plan that will allow us to work together towards national objectives of reducing water usage by 20%, as of next year. Action has already been taken on the issue with more to follow in the future.

- A regional study on the optimal use of fire safety services was also of particular concern. With our partners at the RIPI (Régie intermunicipale de protection incendie), that now provides services to four municipalities, we were involved in the steps needed to complete the preliminary studies and are now fully involved and committed in talks leaning towards the implementation of a sole service for the whole of the municipalities located in the EAST sector of the MRC.

With a view to providing the best possible safety services to our residents, and, if possible, to do so at a better cost, we will remain very close to the ongoing developments.

- We also took an active part in talks and decision-making at the Régie intermunicipale du parc Massawippi that oversees five shoreline municipalities.

For one, much has been said on the file to do with the acquisition of the plage des Servites, in particular following our decision, which we maintain was justified, to not get involved in the project.

Projects that will benefit the whole of the community are likely to emerge from the partnership. We remain alert to any opportunities that may arise for the benefit and in best interest of the Village as a whole.

- This past year, we have been increasingly involved in the ongoing efforts of the Régie intermunicipale de gestion des déchets solides de la région de Coaticook, that oversees waste management.

We will better be able to understand the key issues that arise and the actions needed to improve our performance and reduce our costs.

- Putting together the management plan for the flood zone and the special urban planning programme, as well as related by-law amendments required ongoing work. I am particularly proud of the work that was accomplished within a context where vision and innovation were on the agenda.

In putting together the management plan, under close scrutiny by five government departments and the MRC, the Municipality met all regulatory requirements and in various aspects showed proof of foresight.

In putting together the PPU programme, the Municipality established goals and set requirements that reflect a vision of sustainable development.

Many of you have mentioned to us daily how you look forward to seeing this sector given prominence. The results of our efforts will be presented to you at the beginning of next year. Studies and opinions submitted will reassure the most concerned as to the opportunity and feasibility of development in the designated zone, a unifying project that will make all of us proud.

- Cultural and leisure activities have again been the object of great enthusiasm from all Council members. Support for local community groups, hosting and organizing various events, celebrations, concerts, all were initiatives that made it possible for our citizens, neighbours and visitors to unwind, enjoy themselves, discover local know-how, and appreciate North Hatley.
- The Farmers Market and its increasing growth in popularity attracted a record number of merchants and visitors. The various comments we have received praising the weekly market are proof of the need to maintain it and expand its services through active involvement and management.

In December, the Municipality will take over this area of activity with a view to maintaining a Christmas market. With a modest first year, within a short delay, efforts will continue to be made on an ongoing basis so as to develop an increasingly attractive and popular event.

- The benefits of tourism on the regional economy are known by all. In terms of local industry, I am proud to say that our Village is rapidly increasing its favored status with visitors. The collaboration with the Merchants Association, various joint efforts for the promotion, maintenance and beautification of our area and actions taken to make visitors feel welcome have again paid off.

With the help of Mother Nature people from all over and in great numbers came to visit. It should be noted that the tourist information center set a record in greeting more than 3,500 visitors during the summer season.

We should never forget that it was visitors to our Village who fell under its charm, decided to stay and went to work at making it what it is today.

As the Village prepares to court potential new residents, tourism appears to be an exceptional window of opportunity.

Late breaking news... Our Village has just joined the select group of Quebec municipalities to be awarded four 'fleurons' or blooms by the Les fleurons du Québec organization following their visit this past summer. In addition to the attractiveness and increase of your floral arrangements since the previous visit, the beauty of our parks and the cleanliness of our Village where among the main points included in the classification report.

- Citizen participation was also at the forefront of our key priorities. Work done by the CCUP, the Consultative Committee on Strategic Planning and more recently the AFM (Age Friendly Municipality) or MADA have all stimulated reflection by Council.

Other consultative committees to address the ongoing work by the Municipality will progressively be established, as soon as the required resources are available.

Of course the many exchanges with citizens, visitors, merchants and representatives from local community organizations are all taken into consideration for discussion and decision making.

- Efforts made to ensure increased communication with citizens, visitors, merchants, and the various area organizations also must be acknowledged. Numerous means of communication, meetings and discussions with Council members, the municipal website, the Newsletter, the monthly Council News, the quarterly Info-Village, mailings, local postings, all are examples of our willingness to maintain productive relations aimed at providing services to the community.

When I presented my 2015 report to you, I stated my concern for the financial situation of the Municipality. In spite of ever increasing demands and very modest means, I can assure you that significant efforts were made by Council and Management to continually improve performance by the Municipality in terms of development and finance management. We are committed to doing so again in 2017.

In 2015, again as I presented you with the report, I called for your support to help us better address the major challenges facing us. I am very pleased with the positive signs that we witness on a daily basis.

I am particularly proud to hear citizens tell us, in increasing numbers, of their appreciation with regard to the commitment, presence and availability of Council members and Management.

In closing, I would like to thank my colleagues on Town Council for their commitment that reaches way beyond the framework of their tasks as elected officials. I also wish to thank all members of the personnel at the Municipality whose goal is to provide increasingly personalized services and in a courteous manner.

Thank you for your attention.

Michael Page
Mayor



Overnight Parking

We wish to remind you that under By-law 2010-544, overnight parking is prohibited on all public roads and at the municipal parking lot during the winter season, from November 1 to April 1, between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

All illegally parked vehicles will be towed away at the expense of the owner and subject to a fine.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Parking Stickers

Parking stickers with a December 31, 2016 expiry date will remain valid for 2017. New residents can obtain them at the Municipal Office. To obtain a parking sticker, proof of residence, either a current tax bill or driver's licence, is required. You will also need to provide the registration certificate for the vehicle for which you are requesting a sticker.



Clear Access to Fire Hydrants

The Fire Dept. and the Public Works Dept. would like to remind you that it is very important that access to fire hydrants (1-metre circumference around the hydrant) not be blocked with snow from your property. In the event of an emergency, fire hydrants must be quickly accessible.



Firefighters and management at the RIPI (the intermunicipal fire protection board) for the Village of North Hatley and Hatley Township wish you a safe Holiday Season!



CHRISTMAS TREES

The Municipality will be picking up your Christmas trees on Monday, January 9, 2017. Trees must be by the roadside before 7 a.m.

Here are a few guidelines to follow:

- Make sure there are no Christmas decorations left on the tree
- Do not put a plastic cover on your tree
- Protect your tree from the elements until the scheduled collection date
- Place your tree along the driveway, free of snow and ice. It is important to not place trees on the road as this will hinder snow clearing operations.

A reminder that Christmas tree decorations and lights must not be disposed of in the recycling bin.

Before disposing of the items, Récup Estrie suggests that you reuse them or pass them along to someone else.

For more information, click on 'Ça va où ?' at the RECUPESTRIE.COM website



Green Holiday Tips

- 1- Reduce: opt for gift giving of your time or services
- 2- Reuse: opt for washable or compostable dishes for your gatherings
- 3- Recycle: non-metallic gift wrap is recyclable
- 4- Tree recycling: check for natural tree pick-up dates

For more tips:

www.abcdubac.com

Brrrr... my bin is frozen shut

Due to the cold weather and frost, items can stick to the inside of the bin. The garbage pick-up truck may not be able to completely empty it. To avoid this, place a piece of flat cardboard (Ex.: an empty cereal box) or newspaper at the bottom of the bin when it is empty. During warmer spells remove the items that were stuck to the inside of the bin. Avoid disposing of liquids in your bin.





Licence Renewal for Cats and Dogs

The renewal of cats and dogs licences will take place between January 15th and February 15th 2017. All pet owners who have dogs and cats already registered at the Eastern Townships SPA will receive their renewal notice before the end of January.

All registration payments are due no later than February 15, 2017. Under municipal regulation, administrative costs are applicable for payments made after that date. Also under municipal regulation, non adherence could result in a minimum fine of \$50.

Registering your pet is a municipal by-law. Under municipal regulation, owners must register their pets with the Eastern Townships SPA.

The registration is valid from January 1st until December 31st of each year. You must renew your pet's registration on an annual basis with the notice sent to you by the Eastern Townships SPA.

A new ID tag is not sent with the notice; you use the same tag year after year. Should your pet lose the ID tag or the number on it has faded over time, contact the Eastern Townships SPA at 819 821-4727, option 4. A new ID tag will be mailed to you.

You are entitled to a \$10 rebate if your pet is spayed or neutered. If your pet has been spayed or neutered in the past year, include a proof of sterilization (provided by a veterinary doctor) with your payment or send it to the Eastern Townships SPA by fax at 819 823-1573. You will benefit from a \$10 rebate on the regular fee for your pet's registration.

You no longer have a pet? Contact the Eastern Townships SPA without delay at 819 821-4727 (option 4), to have your file updated.

You have a new pet? You have recently moved to the region? If you have recently acquired a new pet or have just moved to the region, municipal regulation requires that you register your pet within 15 days of its arrival or of moving into your new home. Contact the Eastern Townships SPA at 819 821-4727 (option 4) Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. or visit the Eastern Townships SPA shelter, Monday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.;

You can also fill out the registration form available at spaestrie.qc.ca under the link *Registering your pet* (on the right-hand side of the screen), of the section *Registering a pet and obtaining an ID tag* and mail it to the Eastern Townships SPA. You will receive the registration invoice and tag by mail.

For more information, contact SPA Estrie at 819 821-4727, option 4.

