



LE MESSENGER

January 2024

Frelighsburg QC

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UNIS DANS LE
PROGRÈS

A WORD FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to 2024!

First, on behalf of the Council and the Municipal Team, our best health and happiness wishes for the New Year. May it be filled with joy and cherished moments shared with your loved ones!

Roads Situation

The condition of our roads has prompted several comments on social networks in recent weeks. Here are a few details on the situation.

More than 90% of our network consists of gravel roads with significant elevation variations. These are particularly vulnerable to freezing and thawing.

The weather we have experienced recently is more typical of spring conditions. Remember that when roads thaw and ruts or distortions appear, it is impossible to correct the situation as long as the ground is too soft.

As in spring, we must wait until the end of the thaw period and until the roads are dry enough to make durable repairs, if still required.

Right now, the only thing we can do is install signs warning of the poor state of the roads and ask motorists to substantially reduce speed.

Three-year Review of the Property Assessment Role

The new role comes into force in 2024 for Frelighsburg. The overall land value of the Municipality has increased from 273 891 500 \$ to 507 976 800 \$, an 85.47% average increase.

Please note that the revision of the role is based on the **market value of the properties** as of **July 1st, 2022**.

To lessen the impact for taxpayers, the Council **reduced the tax rate from \$0.65 to \$0.37** per \$100 of property value assessment.

This overall rate, which includes the general property tax and the SQ tax, is **the lowest** of all the municipalities of the MRC.

Still to come this year

During the coming week, you will receive the 2024 budget forecasts and the 2024-2025-2026 capital plan, both adopted during the special meeting on December 19.

As you will see, great challenges await us this year. If everything goes as planned, 2024 is when plans and specifications for the wastewater treatment plant will be finalized so that we can go to tender. It is also when the first plans for the construction of the Fire Station and the Municipal Garage will be submitted, and when the work to repair the roof and secure the electrical network of the Bishop Stewart Church will be completed.

As for road maintenance, we are still awaiting confirmation of a two million dollar grant from the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable. We will apply most of this amount to re-gravelling and reshaping the roads.

The Municipality also plans to spend a larger part of its operating budget on road surface repair. More details in the upcoming budget forecast document.

Happy January everyone,

Lucie Dagenais
450 298-5133, poste 126
maire@frelighsburg.ca

NEWS FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Environment

The Environment Advisory Committee examined several issues in 2023, including light pollution, invasive exotic plants and drinking water.

In 2024, we will continue to follow the significant invasive exotic plants problem. Buckthorn is now found in our Municipality, and Japanese knotweed has spread widely across our territory. Particularly, we are considering proposing the addition of descriptive documents to the Municipality's website and evaluating the possibility of citizen monitoring and control interventions to help landowners. The goal is to act as quickly as possible to avoid invasion and ensure sustained control of its spread.

In the spring, *Organisme de bassin versant de la baie Missisquoi* will give a conference to raise awareness of the importance of the riparian areas of the Pike River and to present some of the current projects that aim to preserve its integrity.

The issue of light pollution will be brought back to the table, and we will let initiatives from other municipalities inspire us to preserve the starry sky and protect nightlife. Policy proposals, particularly the integration of specific provisions on lighting into town planning regulations, will be sent to the Council.

This is just a heads-up of the challenges the Committee will address. If you have suggestions or comments on environmental issues, please send them to Councillor Josiane Martel-Ouellet at: conseiller4@frelighsburg.ca.

We look forward to working with you and doing even more for the environment. All members of the Environment Committee wish you a happy new year!

Agriculture & Forestry

The Advisory Committee is organizing an evening under the theme of TERRITORY on February 15 at 7 p.m. at Beat & Betterave.

The Brome-Missisquoi MRC will introduce its "Plan régional des milieux naturels" and the Agriculture & Forestry Committee will present a portrait of our Municipality's territory.

What does the future hold for our territory outside the village core? Come see the evolution of the landscape and share your thoughts on the current and future occupation of our territory.

MUNICIPALITY

Municipal Council

The next meeting of the Municipal Council will be held Monday, February 5, 2024, at 7 p.m. To send a question to the Municipal Council, see the agenda or take part in the meeting online, go to: frelighsburg.ca/conseil

Heures d'ouverture de l'hôtel de ville
Du lundi au jeudi, de 8 h 30 à 12 h 00 et de 13 h 00 à 16 h 30
Vendredi : by appointment only

2, place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Frelighsburg, QC, J0J 1C0
Téléphone : 450 298-5133
municipalite@frelighsburg.ca

MUNICIPALITY

Waste Material Collection Schedule

We are awaiting approval from the Town of Dunham regarding the collection schedule for 2024. Once we receive this approval, we will post the schedule on the Municipality's website.

Until then, please continue to follow the 2023 collection schedule.

Brown Bins

You have probably noticed that organic waste material bins do not empty well in winter.

To avoid equipment breakdown and ease collection, we recommended to put your organic waste materials in large paper bags like those used to collect dead leaves.

Remember that NO plastic, even "compostable", can be put in brown bins

Glass recovery containers have been relocated

The containers used to collect glass were moved to the road adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant at 15 chemin Saint-Armand.

Big thanks to Hubert, Nora and Daniel for having the containers in the garage parking lot until now.

A lot going on at the Fire Department

2023 has been a busy year for the Fire Department. Marc Fortier was hired as interim director in January and three new firefighters Simon Guerout, Alex Whithead and Gilles Blais joined the team. They are currently completing their Firefighter 1 training from École nationale des pompiers du Québec and are full members of this dynamic team.

In 2023, three other firefighters completed their 350 hours of Firefighter 1 training, five completed the 45-hour pump operator training and two others completed the 95-hour officer training.

Training is a crucial part of the firefighting profession. This is why most of the Brigade members have completed 24 hours of training in agricultural and industrial extrication, which allows them to intervene effectively in situations specific to our rural reality.

Furthermore, the appointment of two lieutenants made it possible to adjust the organization chart for optimal efficiency and safety during interventions.

On a sadder note, the brigade has had to respond to major fires three times in 2023. We regret the loss of three lives and one serious injury among our citizens.

In addition, firefighters responded to 47 other various calls, participated in several prevention events and were socially involved during Municipality activities to ensure everyone's safety.

In a nutshell, a year full of challenges that the team was able to face with dedication and an unflinching desire to improve at every opportunity. As the new year begins, this dynamic and enthusiastic team is more ready than ever to serve its community!

Our Region's Natural Tourist Attractions

The Centre local de développement (CLD) and the Municipalité régionale de comté (MRC) are currently working on identifying the attendance and use challenges for the natural tourist attractions of our beautiful area.

To help them better understand your experience and find solutions to promote nature-based activities, please take the survey on the FaceBook page of the MRC Brome-Missisquoi.

COMMUNITY

Camp Garagona

Information for summer employment: olivia@campgaragona.qc.ca

To donate: Canadon; Association Garagona inc.

This month, let's talk about the Camp Counsellors. Thanks to these dedicated front-line employees, users have wonderful experiences all summer and leave with hearts full of love and fond "Garagona" memories. Most counsellors are between 17 and 23 years old. These 20 or so passionate, patient, generous and cheerful people come together every year to live an unforgettable summer.

A summer job at Garagona is the experience of a lifetime where joy and love are part of everyday life. Friendships and love stories develop over summer sunsets, parties, game nights and outings.

La Brimbalante

Information: www.brimbalante.com/formations

La Brimbalante unveils its 2024 spring/summer program with courses in **Theatre Creation, Clown, Poetry, Neurology and Creativity, Polyphonic Singing, Authentic Movement, Dance, Jester ...** Experienced artists and neophytes alike – from 20 to 80 years old – are all welcome!

Mount Pinnacle Land Trust

Registration: montpinacle.ca/activities

Let's Walk in the Woods!

Saturday, January 20, from 10 a.m. to noon

Get introduced to wildlife tracking on the trails of the Mount Pinnacle Land Trust's biodiversity research and education site.

Boulevard des Arts 2024

Registration and information: www.leboulevarddesarts.com

Local visual arts and crafts artists are invited to participate in the 4th edition held in September 2024.

In 2024, workshops and the group exhibit will open their doors to art lovers from August 31 to September 8. Once again this year, local artists who wish to do so can invite colleagues from the area or elsewhere to their studio.

To be part of the circuit, artists and artisans must have an easily accessible, safe and pleasant workshop or creation and production space where they can welcome visitors during the nine days of the circuit in Saint-Armand, Frelighsburg and Dunham.

Artists and artisans have until January 14, 2024, to submit their proposals.

Réseau foresterie Frelighsburg et région

A second information meeting about the impact of overgrazing by deers on the health of our forest ecosystems will be held on January 20.

"Le cerf dans le sud du Québec : Des solutions pour tendre vers un équilibre" will be given by Anaïs Gasse, biologist, M.Sc., responsible for the management of large wildlife at the ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte aux changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs.

This conference will be followed by a reflection on the importance of this issue in our region and possible solutions to limit its impacts.

Date: January 20, 2024

Location: Council room, 2, place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville

Time: 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Free activity. All are welcome!

English version available on the website at frelighsburg.ca/lemessager

Print version available at the town hall

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