



# LE MESSENGER

Janvier 2025

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## A WORD FROM THE MAYORESS

We can say that the year 2025 is off to a great start! But first and foremost, on behalf of the Council and the municipal team, I extend our best wishes for health and happiness. May this new year be filled with many joys, pleasures, and precious moments shared with your loved ones.

I also want to take the time to highlight how motivating and inspiring it is to work for such an engaged, creative, and compassionate community as ours. The number of projects completed throughout the year by the volunteers of Vitalité Frelighsburg, École-O-Village, the PRÉ, the Mount Pinnacle Land Trust, the Société d'histoire et de patrimoine, and the members of the Advisory Committees is simply incredible. Thank you all for your commitment.

An extraordinary environment, a dynamic community, and amazing people—this is the very essence of the Frelighsburg signature.

### 2025 Taxation Rate

As a reminder, due to the revision of the property roll that had an extraordinary impact on certain properties, the 2024 tax rate was reduced from \$0.65 to \$0.37 per \$100 of assessment. To achieve this reduction, we notably had to use \$216,000 from the surplus to balance the finances.

In the interest of responsible management, the Council has decided not to use the surplus, as was done in previous years, to balance the operating budget. Consequently, the tax rate will increase this year from \$0.37 to \$0.4158 per \$100 of assessment.

Please note that despite this increase, the new rate adopted for general taxation remains lower than that of neighboring municipalities.

Furthermore, if we consider all the elements that affect the tax rate, such as general taxation, repayment of borrowing by-laws, network maintenance fees, and waste collection, the overall cost of the tax bill in Frelighsburg remains significantly lower than that of all surrounding municipalities.

You will soon receive a special edition of *Le Messenger* presenting the details of the 2025 budget forecasts, as well as the 2025, 2026, and 2027 capital expenditure plan, which were adopted at the special meeting on December 16th.

As you will see, major projects lie ahead, with the first being the finalization of the plans and specifications for the wastewater treatment plant, which will allow us to proceed with a call for tenders for construction in 2025.

Wishing you a great start to the year,

Lucie Dagenais  
[mairese@frelighsburg.ca](mailto:mairese@frelighsburg.ca)

## NEWS FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### CULTURE & TOURISM

We are very proud of the beautiful achievements accomplished in 2024!

- Revision of the "Tourism" section on the municipality's website
- Recommendations for temporary signage in the village
- Consultation and recommendation to rename the municipal park on Richford Road (Jane-Freligh Park)
- Organization of the conference on Marcelle Ferron, which took place at Beat and Betterave on September 26th
- Programming of the course "History of the Colonization of the Eastern Townships," offered by UTA (University of Sherbrooke's University of the Third Age), which will be taught on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall from January 28 to March 25 by historian Laurent Busseau

Registration on the UTA website at:  
[usherbrooke.ca/uta/prog/estrie/brm](http://usherbrooke.ca/uta/prog/estrie/brm)

### ENVIRONMENT

Did you know? On October 12, France celebrated the 16th edition of "Night Day," an event dedicated to protecting the starry night and nocturnal biodiversity. Across France, entire towns and villages turned off their public lighting to rediscover the starry sky! On the same date in 2024, Quebec held its first edition of "Night Day."

Our village is already making efforts to combat light pollution (amber lighting, regulations, awareness campaigns), and the Environment Committee plans to organize a "Night Evening" this winter in our village. A few activities will be arranged to marvel at the starry sky. We'll share more details about this exciting project soon!

If you'd like to learn more about Quebec's October 12, 2024, edition, the Mont-Mégantic International Dark Sky Reserve highlights various initiatives and revisits the principles and solutions related to light pollution. You can also take a quiz on the topic at: [cietoile-montmegantic.org/jourdelanuit](http://cietoile-montmegantic.org/jourdelanuit).

Do you have ideas for activities for a starry sky evening?

Write to [conseiller4@frelighsburg.ca](mailto:conseiller4@frelighsburg.ca).

### SOCIETY

A huge thank you to the members of l'Escouade bienveillante who worked hard to make the Free Christmas Market a resounding success.

The event, held at the beginning of December, welcomed an impressive number of participants who had the opportunity to connect and chat over crêpes, coffee, waffles, and pastries. The setup and decorations created by the team beautifully showcased the wonderful items offered to the community.

This event is sure to become a cherished tradition in Frelighsburg!

### Municipal Council

The next meeting of the Municipal Council will be held on January 13, 2025, at 7pm. To send a question to the Council, visualize the agenda or take part in the meeting online, go to: [frelighsburg.ca/conseil](http://frelighsburg.ca/conseil)

### Town Hall Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday : 8:30 am to 12 pm and from 1 pm to 4:30pm  
Friday is by appointment only  
450 298-5133 — [municipalite@frelighsburg.ca](mailto:municipalite@frelighsburg.ca)

## MUNICIPALITY

### FIRE DEPARTEMENT

The community dinner organized by the brigade on November 30th was a huge success, warmly bringing citizens together for a nice evening as a community. The date is already set for next year!

Taking their involvement even further, the firefighters later prepared and distributed turkey soup during the Christmas Market. All proceeds were donated to Frelighsburg's Escouade Bienveillante—a generous gesture that reflects the spirit of our brigade!

The community dinner was made possible thanks to the participation and generosity of our local businesses: Lyvano, Les 2 Clochers, Les Marchés Tradition, and Dépanneur du Village. A big thank you to our donors!

### ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

A few years ago, the Municipality installed charging stations at the Paul-Goodhue Park and Town Hall, thanks to subsidies for organizations with employees owning electric vehicles.

In addition to providing access for employees, the Municipality aimed to offer tourists and visitors passing through the opportunity for occasional recharging.

However, due to the growing number of citizens using these public and free charging stations, they will soon be removed. Later this year, they will be replaced by paid charging stations installed in various locations throughout the village.

### WASTE COLLECTION

The waste collection schedule has been updated for certain areas of the territory. To check the frequency and collection days, visit the "*Personalized Collection Calendar*" tab in the right-hand column on the homepage of [frelighsburg.ca](http://frelighsburg.ca).

You can also get a copy by visiting Town Hall during opening hours.

### BURN PERMITS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Burnpermits can now be requested and obtained directly online. This new process simplifies and speeds up the procedure for anyone wishing to burn branches in our area.

To get your permit, visit the Municipality's website ([frelighsburg.ca](http://frelighsburg.ca)) and follow the steps provided. There, you will find all the necessary information as well as safety tips and current regulations to follow.

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Representative positions are open or up for renewal in February 2025 on the Culture and Tourism, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, and Society committees.

If you wish to participate in any of these committees, send your resume and cover letter by February 25 to: [municipalite@frelighsburg.ca](mailto:municipalite@frelighsburg.ca).

### NEW HOURS AT THE CANADIAN BORDER

As previously announced, the Canadian customs office providing access to Route 237 in Frelighsburg is now open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, year-round.

The Canadian border posts in Abercorn and Saint-Armand remain open 24 hours a day.

### PRESENTATION OF DRAFT REGULATIONS

To review draft bylaws, visit [frelighsburg.ca](http://frelighsburg.ca) or stop by Town Hall to obtain a copy. Before the adoption date of a bylaw, you can always submit comments or suggestions for potential modifications.

•**Draft Bylaw No. 168-12-2024** Authorizing the replacement of the agreement concerning the shared municipal court in the City of Cowansville. *Expected adoption date:* January 13, 2025

•**Draft Bylaw No. 170-12-2024** Amending Borrowing Bylaw No. 135-01-2011  
*Expected adoption date:* December 16, 2024. *Deadline to submit opposition to MAMH approval:* January 16, 2025

•**Draft Bylaw No. 115-02-2025** Establishing municipal taxes for 2025  
*Notice of motion:* January 13, 2025. *Expected adoption date:* February 3, 2025

•**Draft Bylaw No. 116-2025** Granting remuneration to members of the municipal council  
*Notice of motion:* January 9, 2025. *Expected adoption date:* February 3, 2025

•**Draft Bylaw No. 171-01-2025** Concerning the right of first refusal  
*Notice of motion:* January 9, 2025. *Expected adoption date:* January 13, 2025

•**Draft Bylaw No. RM 330-2025** On traffic and parking  
*Notice of motion:* February 3, 2025. *Expected adoption date:* March 3, 2025

## COMMUNITY

### GARAGONA

Camp Garagona is looking for a Program Coordinator for a maternity leave replacement.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help create a memorable summer for campers, who are adults living with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorders.

If you know someone who might be interested, please feel free to share this information.

For any questions or to send a resume, contact:

[laurie-ann@campgaragona.qc.ca](mailto:laurie-ann@campgaragona.qc.ca).

### MONT PINNACLE LAND TRUST

*Let's Take a Walk in the Woods:*

Wildlife Tracking Workshop

Saturday, January 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., with Isabelle Grégoire, on the Trust's trails.

Register at [montpinnacle.ca](http://montpinnacle.ca).

### LIBRARY

The community library is back to its regular hours:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday (closed from noon to 1 p.m.), and open until 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

**Note:** The course "*History of the Colonization of the Eastern Townships*" offered by the UTA of the Université de Sherbrooke will be held in the Council Chamber. As a result, the library will not be accessible on Tuesday mornings from January 28 to March 25.

### LA BRIMBALANTE

La Brimbalante has unveiled its new program and major guests for 2025.

In January and February, the yurt will be dedicated to the filming of a documentary, and the offices will be closed. We'll be back in March 2025 for a new season!