



LE MESSENGER

March 2026

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FIERS DE NOTRE
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UNIS DANS LE
PROGRÈS

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

This is the time of year when we find ourselves between a lingering winter and the welcome promise of spring. March break is now behind us, the maple sugaring season is beginning, and upcoming thaws will start to affect the condition of our roads.

In this regard, please know that the Public Works team is closely monitoring the situation in order to act at the appropriate time. In the meantime, caution and reduced speed remain your best allies when traveling on our roads.

Giving a voice to children

On February 9, we had the pleasure of welcoming Isabelle Charest, MNA for Brome-Missisquoi and Minister responsible for the Estrie region, for a meeting with Grade 6 students from St. François-d'Assise School on an issue that directly affects them: road safety.

This meeting, initiated by the Société Advisory Committee, reflects the clear intention of our municipal council: to give children a voice so they can express, in their own words, what they experience daily on their way to school.

Through their testimonies, the students shared their concerns about traffic on the village's main streets, vehicle speed, and the difficulty of crossing certain public roads.

These discussions highlighted an important reality: in Frelighsburg, most of the main streets fall under provincial jurisdiction. Therefore, the safety issues experienced by children mainly concern these roadways, which run directly through our village.

Following this meeting, a session was organized by representatives of the Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility. We will keep you informed of the measures that will be authorized to improve road safety in the village, particularly for children and vulnerable users.

I would like to sincerely thank the students for the quality and honesty of their contributions, as well as Minister Isabelle Charest for her attentive listening and openness regarding this priority issue for our community.

Two new steps for our municipal projects

The Municipality recently proceeded with the opening of bids for two important calls for tenders related to ongoing projects in our territory. The first concerns the construction of a new treatment plant, a key step in upgrading municipal infrastructure and meeting the current and future needs of the community.

A second call for tenders was also issued for support in a philanthropic campaign aimed at raising the funds needed to transform the Bishop Stewart Memorial Church. This project, based on citizen and partner mobilization, will give new purpose to this heritage building while preserving its importance within the village.

These steps mark significant progress in advancing priority projects for the Municipality and demonstrate a commitment to sustainable and coherent community development.

Lucie Dagenais
maire@frelighsburg.ca

THANK YOU ANNE



We learned with deep sadness of the passing of our colleague Anne Pouleur on February 19.

For more than 30 years, Anne served our Municipality with a constant sense of duty. She placed great importance on the responsibility entrusted to her and, as Director General, always ensured that she acted with professionalism and integrity.

She was known for her rigor and her commitment to the proper functioning of the municipal administration. Anne was dedicated to ensuring that work was done properly, with respect for citizens and for the institution.

Even after her retirement, and until just a few days before her passing, she continued to offer her support to the municipal team with the same integrity and diligence. Her professionalism and loyalty will leave a lasting mark on Frelighsburg.

Our most sincere condolences to her family and loved ones.

In memory of two former councillors

We also wish to express our full support to the families and loved ones of François Jobin and Steve Levasseur, two citizens of Frelighsburg who made a meaningful contribution to municipal life through their commitment. As former councillors, they devoted their time, energy, and conviction to serving their community, each helping in their own way to advance important projects for our village.

Their involvement reflects a deep attachment to Frelighsburg and a genuine desire to contribute to its development. Their passing leaves a void for those who knew them, as well as for the entire community that benefited from their dedication.

We share in the grief of their loved ones and offer them our full support during this difficult time.

NEWS FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Members of the five advisory committees — Agriculture and Forestry, Culture and Tourism, Environment, Society, and Built Heritage — are currently planning their activities for the coming year.

More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

Municipal Council

The next meeting of the Municipal Council will be held on March 9, 2026, at 7pm. To send a question to the Council, visualize the agenda or take part in the meeting online, go to: 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

MUNICIPALITY

EMERALD ASH BORER: A GROWING CHALLENGE FOR OUR WOODLOTS

The presence of the emerald ash borer in the area is causing rapid deterioration of ash trees. The larvae tunnel beneath the bark, disrupting the flow of sap and inevitably leading to the tree's death. All ash species are vulnerable, and the insect can affect both weakened trees and those that appear healthy. The infestation is progressing to the point of posing a serious threat to the forest, as well as to the ecological and economic value of woodlands.

Impacts on private woodlots

Ash mortality can result in:

- rapid loss of forest resources;
- decreased timber value if harvesting is delayed;
- increased risks from dead or unstable trees;
- sudden canopy openings that encourage invasive species.

Forest management options

Before ash trees are completely dead, landowners may consider preventive forest management. This approach makes it possible to:

- harvest ash trees that are still alive or only partially affected, preserving their value;
- plan selective cutting rather than costly and risky emergency interventions;
- maintain forest health by avoiding uncontrolled mass mortality;
- promote regeneration of better-adapted species through replanting or natural regeneration.

Acting early not only helps maximize timber value, but also reduces risks associated with declining trees and protects the structure of the forest stand.

Professional support

Landowners may consult a forest engineer or a private forest management agency to:

- assess the condition of ash trees and the level of infestation;
- identify priority areas for intervention;
- plan harvesting adapted to the woodland;
- propose diversification or reforestation strategies.

BY-LAW DRAFTS UNDER REVIEW

To consult the draft by-laws, visit frelighsburg.ca or go to Town Hall to obtain a copy. Once the notice of motion has been given and before the adoption date, you may submit comments or suggestions for amendments.

To access online by-laws related to urban planning:

- ⇒click on the "Urban Planning and Environment" tab at the top of the homepage;
- ⇒select "Urban Planning By-laws";
- ⇒scroll down to "Draft By-laws".

For other draft by-laws:

- ⇒click on the "Municipality" tab at the top of the homepage;
- ⇒select "Municipal By-laws";
- ⇒choose "Draft By-laws".

Draft By-law No. 164-09-2024 – Agreements related to municipal works

Notice of motion: September 25, 2024

Expected adoption date: April 7, 2026

Overview: This by-law governs agreements between the Municipality and real estate developers to ensure that residential developments include all necessary infrastructure (roads, water systems, sewers, etc.) and that costs are fairly shared between the developer and future beneficiaries.

Draft By-law No. 182-03-2026 – Occupancy and maintenance of buildings

Notice of motion: March 9, 2026

Expected adoption date: April 7, 2026

Overview: This by-law establishes rules regarding the occupancy and maintenance of buildings within the Municipality. It notably requires that buildings be kept in good condition at all times.

Draft By-law No. 183-03-2026 – Code of ethics and professional conduct for municipal elected officials

Notice of motion: March 9, 2026

Expected adoption date: April 7, 2026

Overview: This by-law sets out the Municipality's core ethical values and the standards of conduct that must guide members of Council.

Draft By-law No. 184-03-2026 – Establishing the rules for the formation and internal governance of advisory committees

Notice of motion: March 9, 2026

Expected adoption date: April 7, 2026

Overview: This by-law defines the rules governing the structure and internal operations of the Municipality's advisory committees.

MAILING OF 2026 MUNICIPAL TAX BILLS

Tax bills were mailed in mid-February. To help with budget planning, the total amount may be paid in four installments, without interest. For your information, the first installment is due on March 24.

Did you not receive your tax bill?

The mailing address on file may be incorrect. Please call Town Hall (450-298-5133, option 0) to report the situation. Note that failure to receive your bill does not constitute grounds for postponing payment without interest.

COMMUNITY

Adélar

From March 10 to April 30, Adélar is hosting artist Stina Baudin for a research-creation residency.

Her artistic practice, at the intersection of textile and sound art, draws on data found in archives and oral histories. Her research on Black historical presence in Brome-Missisquoi will inform a site-specific installation to be presented starting May 16, as part of Adélar's summer launch.

In parallel with her residency, Stina Baudin is participating in the *School in Residence* program: all students from Frelighsburg Elementary School will contribute to a collective artwork that will be exhibited in the barn this summer. A wonderful opportunity to share a lesser-known chapter of history with young people and bring it to life through creation.

More information: adelard.org

Mont Pinnacle Land Trust (FFMP)

Information and registration: montpinnacle.ca

March 7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Wildlife tracking hike with Isabelle Grégoire on FFMP trails.

March 19, 7 p.m.

Soirée des possibles – Screening of the film *Woman and the Wind* at Beat & Betterave.

March 26, 7 p.m.

Bringing conservation and agriculture together

How can regenerative agriculture meet the needs of local communities while protecting natural habitats?

Conference at Beat & Betterave with Ananda Fitzsimmons, Stéphanie Wang, and the FFMP.

Camp Garagona

On **April 25**, enjoy a memorable evening at the Old Mill restaurant in support of Camp Garagona. A fundraising event filled with great surprises awaits you!

For full details and to purchase tickets, visit garagona.org or the Camp's Facebook page.