



## The citizen's summit – June, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2 – City of Deux-Montagnes

### **Infrastructure projects, Snow removal, garbage collection and large**

The provincial government is requiring that we renovate and upgrade our drinking water and sewer infrastructures. We are therefore faced with major investments which we must engage in the short term. Furthermore, the cost of garbage collection, snow removal, waste disposal and so forth are constantly increasing.

These financial pressures are compounded by another problem, namely, the fact that a goodly number of equipment items and tangible assets (outdoor swimming pool, vehicles, roofs, building envelopes, aqueducts and sewer lines, etc.) have reached the final end of their service life. These various obligations require that we make certain choices because we have limited financial resources if we intend to continue offering the same level of services to our citizens.

While it is true that governments presently allocate subsidies to municipalities who commit to performing those infrastructure repair projects, the citizens of Deux-Montagnes will still have to bear a good portion of these costs.

For this purpose, we require your comments and possible solutions.

The following subjects will be broached during the general meetings:

#### **1- Outdoor swimming pool**

The outdoor municipal swimming pool is almost 50 years old and major repair work is required to restore it. More specifically: leaks, inadequate filtration system and obsolete dressing rooms are all situations which have to be addressed. This swimming pool is presently being used by thousands of children and adults, who either take swimming lessons or take part in swimming day camps, making use of the pool in good weather. Within this perspective, what should we do?



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1. Leave the swimming as is until we have to close the pool because of a breakdown or major constraints?
2. Invest approximately \$1,500,000 in renovation work – while using available governmental grants – and increase the pool service life by approximately 40 years?
3. Check into adding a dome to maximize the pool's year round use?
4. How should this work be financed?
5. Should we use the user-pay principle? (as would be the case if we had an arrangement with St-Eustache)

### **2- Olympia arena**

The arena is only 15 years old but already the roof leaks and requires major repair work. As well, the Freon refrigeration system must be replaced because of new governmental standards which forbid the use of Freon gas. Approximately \$1,200,000 will be needed for repairing the Olympia over the next four years. Within this perspective, what should we do?

1. Do nothing and hope that governmental regulations banning the use of Freon gas are not implemented?
2. Do a patch-up job on the roof and hope it will last?
3. Should we go into partnership with other cities and share expenses? Sell the arena to the private sector?
4. Invest the money and resources in the work required for a long-term use of the building and if so, how should we finance the work, in spite of what financial assistance might be received from governments?



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5. Increase rates?
6. Encourage an increase in commercial usage, something which would generate higher revenues?

### **3- Central park building**

The building in Central park, which is presently used, amongst other things, as the Maison des jeunes, has become too small for its original purpose. Moreover, the soccer association and other organizations would like to have permanent premises in a building also located in Central park which they could use at all times. Within this perspective, what should we do?

1. Leave the building as is and perform repairs when needed?
2. Invest in the renovation and extension of the existing building which would allow the Maison des jeunes to expand its premises and allow more space to become available for other associations?
3. Leave the building to Maison des jeunes and stop maintaining and investing in the building?

### **4- Pumping and waste station**

The Larry Cool pumping station takes all of Deux-Montagnes sewer waters to the aerated ponds located alongside Autoroute 640 towards Saint-Joseph-du-Lac. Since it was built scarcely ten years ago, there has been an ongoing problem when heavy rains fall in the spring: the station discharges waste waters into the Milles Îles River. The Ministry of the Environment has sent numerous non-compliance notices and now will require that the City perform major repair work to stop this situation from recurring. For



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this purpose, the City would have to invest approximately \$2,000,000 for the creation of a sewer water catchment basin which would correct the station's problem.

Given this situation, what should we do?

1. Hold off and wait until we receive more infraction notices from the Ministry?
2. Perform the necessary work and invest money and resources – with the help of available governmental subsidies – in order to maintain this building over a long-term period?
3. How shall we finance this work?
4. Do we really have any choice in the matter?

### **5- Underground infrastructures**

Many of our residents located in the Grand-Moulin area (our oldest district) have had problems with rusty water for many years now. As well, many other City streets require major repair work. These projects would amount to millions of dollars of work in order to replace the sewer and aqueduct lines and repave the streets in those areas. Within this perspective, what should we do?

1. Continue with the patch-up work and postpone major repair work and expenses to a later time?
2. Establish a strategic rehabilitation program and perform the work required? If so, how will this work be financed regardless of possible governmental subsidies?
3. Do we really have any choice in the matter?



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### **6- Sound barrier**

Various residents alongside Autoroute 640 have complained about the constantly increasing noise caused by an increase of traffic on this road. Following an evaluation from the Ministry of Transport, the sound barrier project would cost \$4.5 million dollars to implement.

**What should we do?**

### **7- Garbage collection and recycling**

Due to new government regulations, our annual cost for garbage and recycling collection is constantly increasing, as well as the cost of disposal which is over and above the consumer price index

Within this perspective, what should we do?

1. Keep the status quo?
2. Decrease the number of collections in an effort to reduce costs?
3. Implement a pricing by weight procedure for garbage collection in each household?

### **8- Snow removal**

Various citizens have previously complained about the quality of snow removal services. In order to improve the situation, the last contract signed with a trade contractor was more stringent and exacting. As a consequence of this situation, the contractor raised his costs. Within this perspective, what should we do?

1. Are we satisfied with this new procedure?
2. Should we ask the contractor not to respond as soon as the snow starts in order to try and decrease the costs, a situation which might entail we would have to drive over a snow cover?



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3. Should we cancel the present contract and go back to the old one which is not so stringent, in an effort to reduce costs?
4. In areas located alongside narrow city streets where removing snow is problematic, should we blow and remove the snow in those areas and apportion these costs among those residents?

### **9- Other questions**

For many years now and because of the few available resources, management of municipal equipment is performed according to breakage and emergencies. What are the drawbacks and/or benefits in continuing this management method?

Should we create a deferred contribution system for infrastructures stemming from a special tax?

Should the maintenance and renewal of the City's infrastructures be a priority because subsidy programs presently in place will not always be there to take advantage of?

Should we establish a real investment cost each year for a long-term plan of infrastructure maintenance and renewal?

If we do nothing, what will happen in the future? Are we, in fact, already in a risky situation?

Lastly:

Without sounding alarm bells, we should face reality and:  
Make decisions while considering our perspectives and those of future generations.

**Which management method should we favour?**

***Other comments and suggestions.***