

THE EXPRESS

OF DEUX-MONTAGNES

MUNICIPAL INFORMATION

■ JANUARY TO JUNE 2017



Photo: Jacques Poirier

Improve your lifestyle, keep it on track!



VILLE DE DEUX-MONTAGNES

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Denis Martin
Maire



- 1 DISTRICT DU GRAND-MOULIN
Manon Robitaille
- 2 DISTRICT DU LAC
Karine Gauthier
- 3 DISTRICT DE L'OLYMPIA
Micheline Groulx Stabile
- 4 DISTRICT DE LA GARE
Frédéric Berthiaume
- 5 DISTRICT DU COTEAU
Michel Mendes
- 6 DISTRICT DU GOLF
Margaret Lavalée



Healthy lifestyles, a guarantee of better living in Deux-Montagnes

The obesity rate in Quebec has been growing since 1980. By 2010, the obesity rate had doubled to more 16.4% of the population. Over 50% of the adults in Quebec are overweight today. Our unhealthy lifestyles have drastically increased the risk of chronic disease across the board. In addition to affecting quality of life, obesity puts a heavy economic burden on us, too, of more than \$1.5 billion a year. Developing healthy lifestyle habits could take some of the pressure off our healthcare system and help reduce costs for us all.

Improving the quality of life and well-being of our citizens are issues that affect all levels of government, including municipalities. That's why, in line with the prevention policy announced by the Government of Quebec at the end of 2016, the City of Deux-Montagnes is committed to establishing measures that promote healthy lifestyles.

The city has already taken a number of concrete steps to promote physical activity in Deux-Montagnes, including:

- Water games at Olympia Park and Louis Warren Park*
- Free access to the outdoor swimming pool and extended hours of operation*
- New game modules at Champigny Park, Mastromatteo Park, and Aimée-Struthers Park*
- Improvements to various playing fields (new stands and benches, and resurfacing)*
- Installation of a bike stop on the way to Oka*
- Improvements to bicycle paths between Oka and Mont-Saint-Hilaire*
- Organization of the Course de la famille*
- Municipal day camps to promote physical activity*
- Tennis lessons for young and old*
- An inter-municipal junior tennis league*
- Adult aqua-fitness classes*
- Swimming lessons for children 3 years old and up*
- Prohibiting the use tobacco products in public spaces, especially outdoor playgrounds*
- Support for the Incroyables comestibles (incredible edibles) project, a citizen initiative for making a healthier diet accessible to all residents*
- A planned indoor pool project for year-round swimming*

These initiatives will make it easier for Deux-Montagnes residents to make healthier choices from a wide range of activities. Physical activity, better nutrition, and quitting smoking lead to healthy lifestyles that help prevent chronic disease.

The City of Deux-Montagnes encourages all residents to enjoy healthy lifestyles by taking advantage of the services and activities now available.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denis Martin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Denis Martin, Mayor

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

REPAIR WORK ON CHEMIN D'OKA

This summer Deux-Montagnes will proceed with repair work to chemin d'Oka between 9th Avenue and the east entrance to the city. The work will consist mainly of replacing and upgrading the drinking water pipes and sewer pipes, as well as rebuilding the roadway. The project also includes the partial rebuilding of sidewalks and curbs, and the complete repaving of the road surface. Upgrades are planned on the traffic lights at the intersection of 8th Avenue and 9th Avenue as well as improvements for making the crosswalks safer for pedestrians.

The project will be carried out under a federal and provincial and grants program that will cover most of the cost. It will take an estimated 12 weeks to complete the job which is set to get underway as soon as the City of Deux-Montagnes gets authorization from the Government of Quebec.



THE OLYMPIA ARENA IS GOING GREEN

As part of the Government of Quebec's program to support the replacement of refrigeration systems, the City of Deux-Montagnes received a grant of \$618,334 for the Olympia Arena. The arena, built in 1997, uses R-22 gas, a gas that is harmful to the environment. Thanks to the provincial subsidy, the city will replace the current refrigeration system with a new one that uses a gas five times less toxic to the environment.



Photo: Mayor Denis Martin with Argenteuil MNA Yves St-Denis at the Olympia Arena

THE RÉSEAU ÉLECTRIQUE MÉTROPOLITAIN (REM) IN DEUX-MONTAGNES

The *Réseau électrique métropolitain* is a 67 km integrated public transit network project designed to link downtown Montreal, the South Shore, the West Island (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue), the North Shore (Laval and Deux-Montagnes), and the airport through the introduction of a fully automated, electric light rail transit (LRT) system. The new LRT trains will be quieter, have free Wi-Fi, and run 20 hours a day, with a new train arriving every 5 minutes at peak times.

Authorities from Deux-Montagnes met with REM project officials on a number of occasions to facilitate the implementation of infrastructure in the city. Various scenarios have been considered over the past few months. It's important to remember that the project is not managed by City of Deux-Montagnes but by CDPQ Infra, a subsidiary of the *Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec*. At every stage in the REM process, city representatives spared no effort to ensure that the project will have the least amount of impact on the territory of Deux-Montagnes proper.

In order to ensure a better integration of the REM with the traffic flow around the train stations, the proposed construction of new overpasses for railways, pedestrian walkways, and

access roads was presented, as well as plans for underpasses and parking areas.

The construction of three overpasses represented a technical solution with some drawbacks. City authorities asked CDPQ Infra to assess the possibility of changing the profile of the REM route by raising the railway line. CDPQ Infra experts have worked diligently on this alternative and their analyses proved conclusive. It is indeed possible to raise the railway tracks on a vegetation covered embankment and totally prevent any impact on Deux-Montagnes Boulevard, Henri-Dunant Street, or Guy Street.

The City of Deux-Montagnes has agreed with the representatives of the *Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec Infra* that this variation is the best technical solution for integrating the REM project into the city's territory since it precludes having to acquire parcels of land that would affect many families.

A memorandum relating to Bill 137 on the *Réseau électrique métropolitain* was tabled by Deux-Montagnes Mayor Denis Martin to the National Assembly's Transport and Environment Commission. On the whole, the memorandum highlighted the positive impact of the REM project on the City of Deux-Montagnes territory and stipulated that Bill 137 appeared to be adapted to the needs of current and future users of the Deux-Montagnes railway line.

TWO TOD AREAS IN DEUX-MONTAGNES

The Plan métropolitain d'aménagement et du développement (PMAD: metropolitan improvement and development plan) includes two transit-oriented development (TOD) areas around the Deux-Montagnes and Grand-Moulin stations. The City of Deux-Montagnes is subject to the requirements of the PMAD.

This approach encourages densification around train stations and the creation of living environments with local services and retail outlets.

The suburban neighbourhood area around the Grand-Moulin station calls for 30 to 60 dwellings per hectare (about 2.5 acres). The City of Deux-Montagnes offers a program of tax credits in the Grand-Moulin TOD area to encourage redevelopment of the land there.

The regional suburban area around the Deux-Montagnes station calls for a minimum of 40 housing units per hectare.

The new TOD areas must respect, among other things, requirements for protecting the natural environment, encouraging car sharing, and densification. These requirements

complicate urban planning in Deux-Montagnes since the city includes two TOD areas. It should be emphasized that the MRC improvement plan and the Deux-Montagnes urban plan are subject to and must be consistent with the PMAD. It is not, strictly speaking, a local choice when it comes to development, but rather a supra-regional choice.

If you're interested in knowing more about TOD areas, please click on this link: <http://cmm.qc.ca/champs-intervention/amenagement/plans/pmad/>

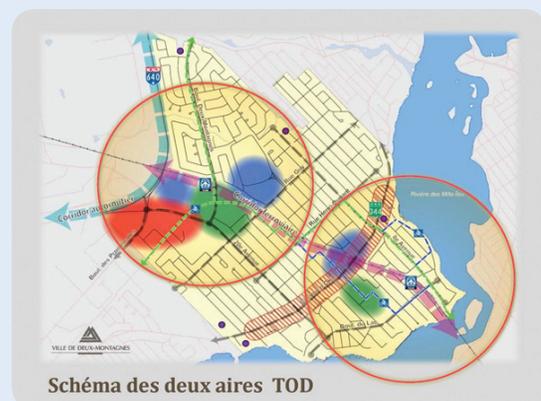


Photo: TOD areas around the Deux-Montagnes and Grand-Moulin stations

A LIBRARY WITH FREE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

The library is an important part of life in Deux-Montagnes with more than 4,000 subscribers and 44,400 visitors in 2016. Last year, as well, 65 activities were offered free of charge, with 1250 people taking part. Activities for young people are always very popular, whether it's the *mercredis des tout-petits* (Wednesdays for toddlers), daycares, events for the 3 to 5 year old members of the *Club du rat Biboché*, or the 6 to 9 year old members of the *Club #LESCRÉATIFS*. The 2016 edition of the *Contes du Père Noël* (Santa Claus stories) was also a great success, attracting a crowd of 115 eager listeners.

Adults are not to be outdone with their *Entre les lignes* (between the lines) colouring club and *À vos aiguilles* (to your needles) knitting club. Both clubs have dedicated regular members with new participants joining in all the time. And the conference on healthy cooking by the *Crudessence Académie végétale* was hugely popular with close to 60 showing up to learn more.

Basic computer training sessions are now available. During the winter, topics such as creating an email address, Windows, and security on Facebook created such a big demand that extra sessions had to be added. Other topics will be introduced in the fall 2017 programming.

TO COME:

Starting in the fall, the free *générations@branchées* program for those having difficulty using computers will be available to library subscribers. The service consists of a one-hour session that pairs young volunteers with a good understanding of technology and adults looking to improve their computer skills.

PIANO MAN...OR WOMAN?

During the summer months, you're invited to display your piano skills for the enjoyment of passers-by and music lovers at the corner of chemin d'Oka and 14th Avenue. The project, a collaboration between the City of Deux-Montagnes and the *École de musique Lilianne*, is designed to give residents the opportunity to put our public spaces to good use and meet people in the process.

The piano is open for playing every day in good weather until September.

AN INVESTMENT OF \$244,300 IN YOUR CITY'S CYCLING AND WALKING TRAIL

The Government of Quebec, the *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM)*, and the City of Deux-Montagnes are pleased to announce the completion of a new section of the cycling and walking path between Oka and Mont-Saint-Hilaire. The work involves repaving the roadway, and installing bollards, beacons, road markings, and traffic signs along the streets. A new bike stop near the *Petite École jaune* will soon be on the scene to encourage cycling on to Deux-Montagnes.



Photo: The future bike stop near the *Petite École jaune*



Photo: The bicycle path through the *Boisé Roger Lemoine*

DEUX-MONTAGNES IN ACTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017 – LIONS CLUB WINTER CARNIVAL

The Lions Club of Deux-Montagnes has been organizing its Winter Carnival for many years. Despite the cold, residents turned up in good numbers to join in the January fun. This year's carnival included sleigh rides, skating, and tasty snacks, all courtesy of the Lions Club.



Photos: City communications service



Photos: City communications service

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017 – CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY IN DEUX-MONTAGNES

The memorable event was organized jointly by City of Deux-Montagnes and the Deux-Montagnes Canada Day Committee on the occasion of Canada's 150th anniversary. Over 210 people attended the swearing-in ceremony of 30 new Canadian citizens by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).



Photos: City communications service



Photos: City communications service

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017 – CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

At 11:15 am on April 9, 2017 at the Canadian Legion 185 St-Eustache Branch in Deux-Montagnes a celebration was held to honour the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. A wreath was deposited at the cenotaph in memory of the 3598 Canadians who died in the field of honour in France.

APRIL 20, 2017 – NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION WEEK

Transplant Québec's National Organ and Tissue Donation Week was held April 23-29.

For several years now, the City of Deux-Montagnes has supported this worthy cause by raising the flag with the green ribbon in the council room at city hall to promote awareness of the week.

Deux-Montagnes residents are encouraged to make a real gesture to give hope and support for life by consenting to an organ donation. This commitment contributes to our collective well-being and spirit of unity by increasing the number of people enrolled in the organ and tissue donation registry.



Photo: City communications service

DEUX-MONTAGNES IN ACTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017 – MAYOR’S DINNER

Mayor Denis Martin invited all Deux-Montagnes merchants to discuss a possible revitalization of chemin d’Oka. The occasion gave the merchants the opportunity to express their views on the city’s business development and related needs. The mayor intends to make merchant get-togethers like this more frequent to better understand their views and get their feedback.



Photo: City communications service

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2017 – HORTICULTURAL DAY

The 12th edition of Horticultural Day was held in the municipal garage on May 27, 2017. The City initiative is organized to encourage residents to tend to their property and flower beds. Municipal councillors were on hand to welcome participating residents. It was also a great opportunity to get professional gardening advice from the city’s horticulturists.



Photo: City communications service



Photo: City communications service



Photo: City communications service

DEUX-MONTAGNES IN ACTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017 – FÊTE DES VOISINS

Fête des voisins (neighbours' day) was held in several Deux-Montagnes parks on Saturday, June 10. It was the perfect occasion for residents in different districts to meet members of City Council, enjoy tasty snacks provided by the city, and take part in a multitude of fun activities.



Photo: City communications service



Photo: City communications service



Photo: City communications service



Photo: City communications service

FRIDAY, JUNE 2 AND SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017 – RELAY FOR LIFE

The 2017 edition of the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life took place at Lake of Two Mountains School from 7:00 pm on Friday, June 2 to 7:00 am on Saturday, June 3. The night was dedicated entirely to cancer survivors and those who did not survive. The funds raised this year totalled \$141,817, a record amount for the Deux-Montagnes MRC. Mayor Denis Martin and City Councillors were there for the event to offer their support to families affected by cancer. Make a date to be there for the 2018 event!

TO COME: ANCIENS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL (OLD TIMERS) TOURNAMENT

The Anciens Canadiens de Montréal will meet the Deux-Montagnes softball team for a friendly game on Saturday, July 22 at 3:00 pm in Deux-Montagnes Central Park. All proceeds from the event will go to the SERCAN Foundation in honour of Jimmy Shields (1959-2017), former player in the Deux-Montagnes Softball Association. You can buy tickets to the game online at www.dmsa.ca or by calling Troy Ewenson at 514-707-5646.



Photo: City communications service

TENNIS TOURNAMENT: THE DEUX-MONTAGNES CHALLENGE

The Deux-Montagnes Challenge is the first tennis tournament to be held at Olympia Park. The Challenge is on from August 13 to August 20, 2017. Anyone wishing to take part in the tournament must register online by the August 1, 2017 at: www.ville.deux-montagnes.qc.ca

There will be plenty of prizes for winners in various categories. New this year: parent-children's doubles matches (registration fee of \$25.00 per team).

We're counting on big crowds to cheer the players on!

DEUX-MONTAGNES: GENERAL INFORMATION

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2017 SPRING FLOOD

In the spring of 2017, 278 municipalities and 5,300 homes were flooded in Quebec. In late April, the Quebec civil security agency and the *Réseau hydrique du Québec* set up a system of conference calls to daily assess the situation with cities and towns concerned. Several of these, including Deux-Montagnes, were placed on emergency measures status at the end of April. Fire department brigades, public works crews, and the police then initiated various procedures under the city's emergency plan.



Photos: City communications services

On May 6 and May 7, the water level in Lac des Deux-Montagnes rose to 24.79 metres, breaking a record over 100 years' old. An emergency help centre for victims of the disaster was opened by the City of Deux-Montagnes at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall. The city also called in the Red Cross, under the terms of an annual contract between the two organizations. Many dedicated volunteers also joined in to lend a hand. Psychological counselling for flood victims was made available through the CLSC.



Photos: City communications services

During the flood, the Quebec minister responsible for the Laurentians region, Christine St-Pierre, paid a visit to Deux-Montagnes to observe emergency conditions in the municipality firsthand. Local MNA Benoît Charette (Deux-Montagnes) was also on the scene.



Photos: City communications services



On May 4, sand banks were erected in certain strategic spots. With floodwater levels expected to reach 24.37 metres, the fire safety service and public works department laboured around the clock to hold back the rising water in various sections of the city. The rapid snow melt in the north and heavy rains would soon overturn the scenarios predicted by water management experts at the *Réseau hydrique du Québec* and dam inspectors from the *Direction des barrages du Québec*. The municipalities concerned had only a short time to prepare for a sudden, drastic change in anticipated water levels.



Photos: City communications services

On May 8, in response to an official request by Mayor Denis Martin, the Canadian Forces were deployed to assist the City of Deux-Montagnes, primarily to secure the Larry Cool pumping station, and a state of emergency was declared. Legally, this allowed for exceptional spending measures, and could force the evacuation of flood victims considered to be in danger.

In all, over 150 homes were evacuated from an area between 9th Avenue to 15th Avenue, and between Lakebreeze Street and Boulevard du Lac.



Photos: City communications services

On May 10, *Dépannage St-Agapit* and the City of Deux-Montagnes created a special fund to assist flood victims in Deux-Montagnes. Donations can be made to *Dépannage St-Agapit*. Any donation over \$10 is eligible for a tax receipt.

On May 17, a second information session on the special financial assistance program for flood victims was held by the ministry of public security at St-Agapit Church. A crowd of over 700 turned up. On May 18, starting at 9:00 in the morning, public security representatives were available to assist flood victims who needed help in completing their Quebec government claims forms.

DEUX-MONTAGNES: GENERAL INFORMATION



Photos: City communications services

A major cleanup operation then got underway. The City of Deux-Montagnes provided containers, workers, and machinery to help residents who had been hit by the flood get rid of debris left by the disaster. Nearly 1,900 tons were collected!

In the days since then, the department of public security, which is responsible for the special assistance program, has barely been able to keep up with all the applications from the many Quebec residents affected by the floods. Delays for getting responses have sometimes been very long for the victims. The mayor of Deux-Montagnes has even gone public in the news media to demand faster replies from the public security department for impacted Deux-Montagnes residents.

The situation has been gradually returning to normal since May 23, when floodwaters returned to the 23.3-metre threshold level. The City of Deux-Montagnes was one of the areas most affected by the flooding.

In the wake of the 2017 spring floods, Mayor Denis Martin has started a petition demanding construction of a vegetation-lined dike or embankment along the shore of Lac des Deux-Montagnes (in a zone yet to be determined), and that the government assume the bulk of the cost. Embankments like this, which have been built elsewhere, can prevent, or at least reduce, the damage caused by rising floodwaters. To counteract future flooding, the City of Deux-Montagnes wants the support of residents in getting agreement from both the Quebec and federal governments. Government support would make it easier to get all the necessary authorizations, particularly from the Quebec minister of sustainable development, environment, and the fight against climate change. This petition is available at city hall for anyone wishing to add their signature.

Starting in July, in the very region that has been affected by flooding, the Quebec government will hold public consultations on the policy for the protection of shores, coastlines, and flood plains.

On behalf of the City of Deux-Montagnes, Mayor Denis Martin would like to thank all the willing volunteers, city employees, and councillors who assisted flood victims at the help centre, cleaned up debris, and collected donations. Despite the severity of the situation, they never gave up while fighting the disaster.

REMINDER: FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS

The City of Deux-Montagnes recently began inspections of fire hydrants within its territorial limits. Hydrants are being thoroughly flushed out and, in the majority of cases, adjusted to meet new provisions in the RCM fire safety risk coverage plan.

During these inspections, it's possible that water in nearby houses may become yellowish or brownish (depending on the density of the particles in suspension) when taps are first turned on. The water is still drinkable. You can drink it without any danger, and it does not have to be boiled. Simply let the water run long enough for it to become clear.

Here are the steps to follow if you see that your tap water is a brownish or yellowish colour:

- Do not turn off the water main to your home.
- Before you use the water, always check to make sure it is clear.
- Let the water run until it turns clear before drinking or using it for washing.
- Do laundry in the evening or on the weekend.

If clothing is stained during cleaning because of water discolouration, the City of Deux-Montagnes will supply a special stain remover. Just follow this simple procedure. Do not dry the stained clothes. Instead, leave them to soak in water, and get the special stain remover from the municipal garage at 625 20th Avenue.

For more information, contact the public works department at 450-473-4688.

NEWSLETTER SERVICE

Residents who want to keep up with current activities, work being done by the city, and other valuable information are welcome to subscribe to our newsletter online at the City of Deux-Montagnes website.



OUTSIDE FIRES

The inter-municipal fire safety service of Deux-Montagnes and Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac reminds residents that it's prohibited to light or maintain a bonfire, a fire to burn trash, or any other kind of fire inside city limits. However, it is permitted to have a fire in an outdoor fireplace that's equipped with a fire screen and, if necessary, a chimney with a sturdy chimney cap. The outdoor fireplace cannot be more than 6 feet high. It is the homeowner's responsibility to prevent any damage to neighbouring properties (smoke, sparks, embers, etc.). Homeowners are also responsible for any damage resulting in the use of their outdoor fireplace.

Kindling, firewood, and branches are the only things you're allowed to burn in an outdoor fireplace. Construction materials are strictly forbidden.

Contact the fire safety service if you have any doubts about the size of your outdoor fireplace.



PROTECT YOUR HOME AGAINST THEFT WHEN YOU'RE AWAY ON HOLIDAYS THIS SUMMER

Here are some tips from the *Régie de police du Lac des Deux-Montagnes* to help residents prevent break-ins and theft while they're away from home during summer vacation. There is always an increase in this type of crime during two times of the year, in particular: the winter holiday season and the summer vacation period.

Contrary to popular belief, this twice-yearly crime wave takes place during regular weekdays.

Those suspected of break and enter in homes or sheds usually follow the same modus operandi. They ring the doorbell to see if anybody's home. If someone answers, they pretend they're looking for someone else, and then leave, apologizing for any inconvenience. If no one answers, they start looking for a way to break in. A shoulder shove or hard kick is often all they need to open the door to your home.

Here are some preventive measures you can take to make your home more secure while you're away:

1. Make sure all doors and frames are solid.
2. Attach a steel plate to the door frame where the hardened steel bolt is inserted.
3. Use timers on a light or radio.
4. Jam a solid board on the inside of windows and sliding doors to prevent opening from the outside.
5. Make sure your property is well lit.

If you witness anything suspicious like this taking place call the police immediately at 9-1-1. What you see can help the police in significantly cutting down crime. When we all work together everyone is safer!

ROAD SAFETY: SPEED

Régie de police du Lac des Deux-Montagnes officers watch out on a massive scale when it comes to the safety of our children on city roads. Police officers patrol school zones all year long and go out of their way to make sure drivers know about the back-to-school period and safety for schoolchildren, the elderly, and school staff as well.

Parents are also strongly encouraged to frequently talk with their children about accident prevention, reminding them of the main safety rules for pedestrians, like only crossing at intersections, always respecting the signals of crossing guards, and looking both ways to make sure the road is clear before they cross the street...at all times!

As for the drivers, here's a reminder of some important rules to follow for safety's sake (and to avoid some very heavy fines):

- Respect the 30 km/h speed limit near schools and in school zones
- Obey the instructions of school crossing guards at all times
- Stop your vehicle completely behind or in front of any school bus with flashing red lights
- Respect school bus corridor regulations during the period indicated

By driving responsibly and following safety rules carefully, you can help prevent life-shattering tragedies on our roads. Slow down in residential areas and school zones: that's where our children live all year long!

NEW VIDEO SHOWS WHAT “GOES IN THE BIN”

A new, information-packed video about household waste collection is now online for viewing at the City of Deux-Montagnes website. Entitled *L’Affaire est dans le BAC* (the job is in the BIN), the entertaining video explains what residents need to know about sorting recyclable materials to help reduce the volume of waste going into landfill sites.

USED ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Every Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, from April to November only, residents can drop off their used electronics devices at the territorial management service (Service de gestion du territoire) at 625 20th Avenue.

REMINDER: USED BATTERIES

If you’ve been getting rid of used batteries by throwing them out with your household garbage, you need a more eco-responsible solution. Batteries contain toxic metals that can badly damage the environment. Some components in batteries can be reused to make new products. Residents are urged to dispose of batteries at the centres set up for this purpose. The nearest battery disposal centre is *Appel@recycler* at 625 20th Avenue in Deux-Montagnes. Another drop-off point is *Jean Coutu* St-Eustache at 319 Boulevard Arthur-Sauvé.

“INCREDIBLE EDIBLES” PROJECT KICKS OFF

A citizens’ group has taken the initiative to start up a project that provides Deux-Montagnes residents with fresh vegetables free of charge in some of our city parks. The group is called *Incroyables Comestibles*, and the City of Deux-Montagnes is supporting the project by supplying the necessary spaces and materials to help get it going. Several beds of vegetables and herbs have already been planted in city garden plots, and are available to all who stop by. The Deux-Montagnes group is part of a larger network of community gardeners offering quality food and an overview of urban farming in a number of Quebec cities and towns, including Montreal, Saint-Élie-de-Caxton, and Drummondville.



Photo : Service des communications, Ville

FIRE BLIGHT IN APPLE TREES

Fire blight (brûlure bactérienne) is a serious contagious disease that infects trees, causing major damage and significant economic losses in apple and pear orchards. The disease has reached epidemic proportions in the Laurentians. To stop it from spreading, cooperation from residents is crucial.

Be careful with trees that are susceptible to fire blight, particularly apple trees. If you’re thinking of planting trees on your property and you live near a commercial orchard, you should plant something other than apple, crab apple, or pear trees.

If you already have trees that are susceptible to fire blight, here are the steps to follow the moment you notice any symptoms of the disease:

- In dry weather, cut back the infected branch or spur 30 to 45 centimetres below the visible symptoms.
- Disinfect your tools with rubbing alcohol after pruning.
- Let the cut branches dry out, then dispose of them in tightly sealed plastic bags.
- Watch out for new symptoms, and promptly cut back any infections that appear.
- If the trunk is attacked, cut down the tree.

For more information online, please visit www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/brulurebacterienne.



Photos : MAPAQ



COMING TO YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD: A CONTEST TO MAKE DEUX-MONTAGNES BLOOM!

This summer, a jury of residents and gardening experts will be checking out streets in the six districts of Deux-Montagnes...in search the most beautiful home landscaping designs.

All Deux-Montagnes residents are automatically entered in the “Fleurir Deux-Montagnes” contest. Evaluation criteria for landscaping projects include variety and originality, respect for the environment, inclusion of infrastructure, overall visual effect as landscaping, and prominence given to the various plants.

The event is organized by the City of Deux-Montagnes horticulture department.



Photo: City communications services

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWER AND LARGER CENTRAL PARK CHALET OFFICIALLY OPENS

On June 3, the City Council officially opened the enlarged Central Park chalet. Besides being a regular venue for Canada Day celebration crowds for over 45 years, Central Park has been used by thousands of residents for decades as a meeting place for sports activities. The City decided to expand the chalet to accommodate new facilities, including the addition of a 1200 square foot multi-purpose room that can be used by various organizations, as well as the Shamrocks soccer club. New urban furniture has also been added to the enhanced the Central Park facilities, and Wi-Fi is now available in both the chalet and the park itself.



Photo: City communications services



Photo: City communications services

WATER GAMES OPENED IN LOUIS WARREN AND OLYMPIA PARKS

The City of Deux-Montagnes officially opened two water games on June 15, one at Olympia Park and the other at Louis Warren Park. The water games are another city initiative to promote physical activity, a major component in adopting a healthy lifestyle. No funds had to be borrowed to buy the water games, and the installation was carried out by public tender.



Photo: City communications services



Photo: City communications services

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A COMMUNITY HOUSING PROJECT IN DEUX-MONTAGNES

On June 26, the *Coopérative de solidarité du Train de la vie* community housing project was officially announced. The City of Deux-Montagnes is proud to support the project before the Quebec Housing Corporation, in collaboration with the *Association d'éducation et de promotion en logement (APEL)*. Initiated in 2015, the "lifestyle solidarity" housing project got off the ground in real time with the purchase of land in November 2016, and will be built on 20th Avenue in Deux-Montagnes. The 40 unit housing project harmonizes perfectly with present-day sustainable development criteria. Located at the heart of the City of Deux-Montagnes public transit network and close to various community services, the *Coopérative de solidarité du Train de la vie* will provide enriching benefits and capabilities for residents. Our region is facing a serious shortage of affordable housing, a situation that projects like this will help to correct.



Photo: City communications services



Photo: City communications services

OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL GETS A MAKEOVER IN TIME FOR SUMMER

The Deux-Montagnes outdoor swimming pool was upgraded and renovated with repairs to the entire water piping system, and concrete areas, and a complete repainting of the pool's inside surfaces.

There are also some new changes at the pool:

- Free admission for Deux-Montagnes residents (proof required)
- Now open during supper hour
- A new outdoor shower
- New, attractive urban furniture

Swim times:

For all: 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm and 6:30 pm to 7:50 pm
Wading pool: noon to 6:30 pm
Adults only: noon to 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm

The outdoor swimming pool is located in Central Park.
Contact: 450-473-4101

HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE CITY’S FINANCIAL HEALTH

Recent financial data for Deux-Montagnes shows a noticeable improvement over the city’s precarious financial situation in 2013. While the tax rate remains at or below the rate of inflation, debt (in its various forms) continues to go down as financial reserves go up.

Taxation rate:

Since 2013, tax rate increases were maintained at below the consumer price index (CPI) and below the level of Canadian inflation: (1.92% in 2014), (1.78% in 2015), (1.2% in 2016), (0.59% in 2017). These are the lowest tax increases of any city in our RCM over the past four years.

DEBT :	2013	2016	↓ DECREASE
Total debt (long-term debt and temporary borrowing)	45M\$	39M\$	6M\$
Debt net of subsidies (long-term debt minus subsidies)	38M\$	32M\$	6M\$
Net debt (financial assets less financial liabilities)	41M\$	25M\$	16M\$
Short-term debt (temporary borrowing)	10M\$	20,000\$	9,9M\$

FINANCIAL RESERVES	2013	2016	INCREASE
Financial reserves for future projects (allocated surpluses)	1,6M\$	4,8M\$	3,2M\$
Financial reserves for contingencies (unallocated surpluses)	1M\$	3,7M\$	2,7M\$

**Data taken from financial statements audited by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton*

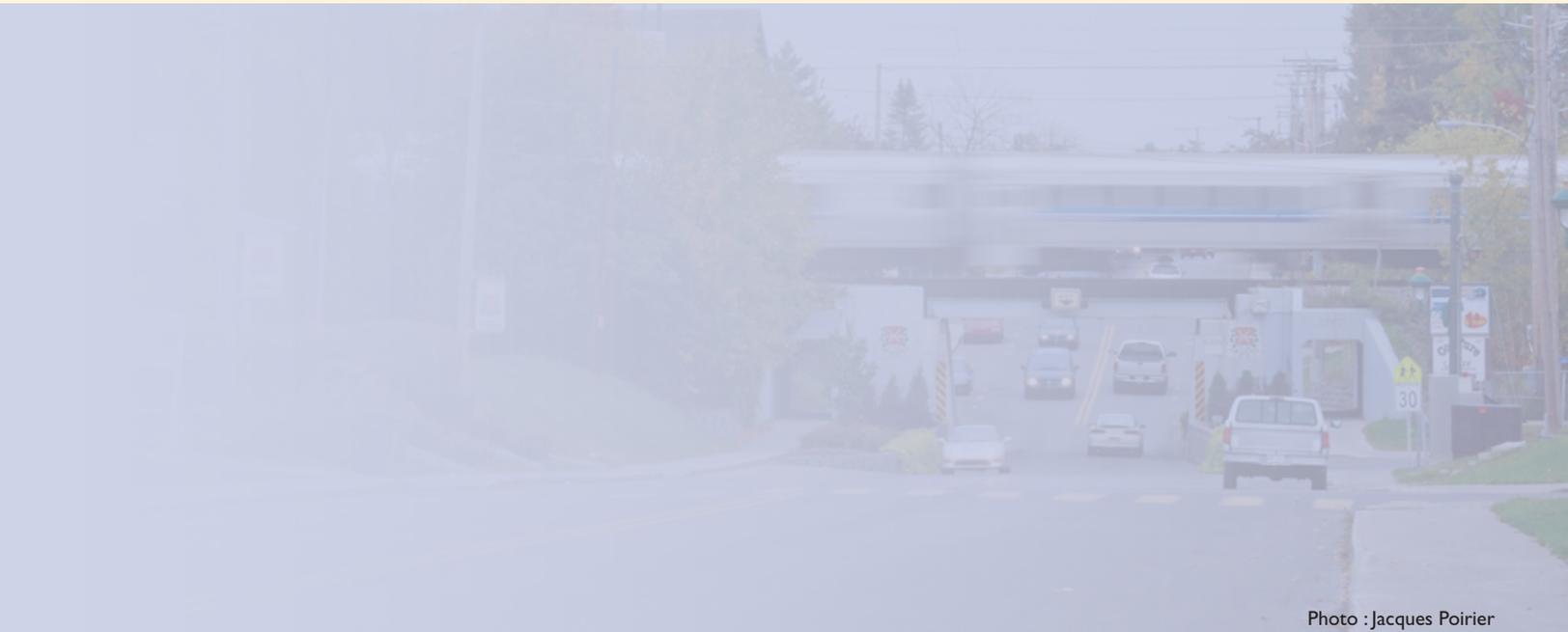


Photo : Jacques Poirier

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