



Municipal Newsletter

Le Babillard

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CANTON DE HATLEY



***Distribution of trees and
compost 2023 (page 5)***

cantondehatley.ca

Photo credit : Marie Lemonnier

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WORD FROM THE MAYOR

Dear citizens,

Spring fills us with light and the hope of renewal. While we welcome this season with open arms, this transition period is difficult on road infrastructures and makes our roads temporarily fragile. The ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) calls this season dégel (thaw). During this period of approximately two months, the load limits for heavy vehicles are reduced. It is also a period when road maintenance is limited. According to the MTQ, the thaw period for 2023 will be from March 20 to May 19. Your understanding regarding road conditions during the thaw is appreciated.



The spring thaw is also marked by the return of hundreds of species of migratory birds. All of these birds enhance our visual and audio environment. Many of us encourage their presence with feeders and birdhouses. Another way to help birds is to avoid light pollution. High intensity, cold colored or skyward lighting is harmful to birds on many levels. What should we do? Turn off lights, project light towards the ground, choose low intensity and warm colored lights. For more information, visit: www.quebecoiseaux.org/fr/pollution-lumineuse

While waiting for spring, each of us can do our part for our roads and ditches. Be careful not to fill the ditches with snow. Also, make sure that your access culvert is not blocked. This will facilitate the proper flow of melt water and prevent water from accumulating around your driveway and eroding the roads.

In addition to road maintenance, as you know, the Municipality manages household waste. We are constantly working to improve our collective performance in reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. As such, we are beginning a 5th year of glass recycling (bottles and containers). The container located in the Town Hall parking lot receives visitors daily and is filling up at the rate of one per month.

Waste management also means compost production. In May, we redistribute the compost produced by your brown bins and, at the same time, give free trees to the citizens from the Association forestière du sud du Québec.

To stay informed of the municipality's news throughout the year, such as proposed activities or recreation programming, subscribe to our newsletter by entering your email address in the box at the bottom of the home page of the cantondehatley.ca website. You can also follow our Facebook page or consult the News section of the website.

If the Municipality wishes to keep you informed, please know that it also wishes to hear from you. For example, if you have a business, send us your information and logo to reception@cantondehatley.ca to be added to the list of local businesses.

Some citizens check in with us in person, if I may put it that way, at Council meetings. They must have noticed that part of the Council hall is under construction. These are temporary inconveniences in order to add a kitchenette and update the bathrooms dating back to the Montjoye ski hill days. This kind of investment hopefully helps to create a place for community life.

With these words, I wish you a sunny spring filled with great projects!

Vincent Fontaine, mayor

2023 DAY CAMP AND RECREATION SURTAX REFUND

The Municipality will not hold a day camp in the summer of 2023, nor will it shuttle to another day camp. However, the day camp activity becomes eligible for the surcharge refund. Registering your child in a day camp in Sherbrooke or elsewhere? If you are charged a surcharge (non-resident tax), it is refundable by the Municipality of Canton de Hatley. In fact, the Recreation Policy allows for the reimbursement of up to \$150 in surcharges per child per year.

SEARCH FOR PHOTOS FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR

We are looking for the best photos of the Township for our next annual calendar. Please feel free to send us your high quality photos throughout the year to reception@cantondehatley.ca. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

BE CAREFUL WITH OPEN-AIR FIRES IN SPRING

From April to June, household open air fires cause half of all forest fires. During this time of year, only a few hours of sunlight are enough to dry out the grass or other surface fuels, making the forest and surrounding buildings extremely vulnerable. The Société de protection des forêts contre le feu (SOPFEU) recommends safe and ecological alternatives, such as composting, collecting green waste and depositing residual materials at the ecocenter. Furthermore, please note that it is only permitted to burn branches and wood. The burning of leaves, pine needles and construction materials is prohibited.

Before lighting an open air fire, you must obtain a burning permit and respect a few simple rules: stay close to your fire, control it at all times and limit it to less than one metre in diameter. You must also have the appropriate equipment to intervene quickly, choose an open area on mineral soil and avoid burning if the winds are greater than 20 km/h.

Do you know the fire danger index?



Every day and for each region, starting in the spring, SOPFEU publishes a fire danger index on the website sopfeu.qc.ca. It is important to remember that any outdoor fire is **FORBIDDEN** when the fire index is high, very high or extreme.

To obtain an open air fire permit (no charge):

Régie incendie Memphrémagog Est at 819 838-5877 ext. 209 or on the website regieincendieest.ca.



PICKING UP AFTER OUR DOG – A CIVIC DUTY

The municipality wishes to remind dog owners of their duty to immediately remove their animal's droppings from public places, such as streets and parks, and to dispose of it in a hygienic way.

We also ask horse owners and riders to collect their animal's dung when returning after the ride or to use a bag provided for this purpose. This is an obligation under the municipal nuisance bylaw.

Out of respect for all, thank you for picking up the excrement of your animal at all times.

KEEPING YOUR DOG ON A LEASH, A PROVINCIAL REGULATION

A dog must be kept on a leash at all times and be well controlled by its keeper. This is specified in the provincial Dog Control Act, which came into effect in March 2020. Also, unless the dog is tethered, in an outdoor enclosure or the property is fenced, a keeper cannot leave his or her dog loose on the property if he or she does not have constant control of it. A dog running at large outside the boundaries of its property in the absence of its keeper is considered a stray and its keeper is subject to a fine for a dog at large violation. Before leaving the house, it is important to make sure that your dog is wearing its SPA de l'Estrie identification tag. If he ever runs away, his tag will facilitate his return home.

FARM CAT ADOPTION PROGRAM

Thousands of cats are admitted to the SPA de l'Estrie each year, but unfortunately many cannot be placed for adoption in families because they are feral or too fearful.

In order to save these animals and offer them an appropriate environment, the SPA de l'Estrie has set up a farm cat program. This program consists of collaborating with farms, warehouses, greenhouses or any other establishment that could take in these felines that are in excellent health, but behave wildly. They will be sterilized, vaccinated, dewormed and microchipped at the expense of the SPA de l'Estrie.

You want to adopt a farm cat or learn more about this program? Visit the SPA de l'Estrie website at spaestrie.qc.ca/en/adoption/barn-cat-program/barn-cat-adoption-request/.

Spring 2023

You will find here some highlights that may be of more general interest. The complete text of the minutes of council meetings is available on the website: cantondehatley.ca/en/administration/meeting-proceedings/

COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2023

OQLF Notice - Bilingual Status

The municipal council adopts a resolution to maintain the bilingual status of the municipality. This resolution is adopted following the receipt of a notice from the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) concerning the Municipality's demographic linguistic data.

By-law 2023-02 - Principal residence for tourism

Council adopts a draft by-law to prohibit principal residence for tourism in 31 zones on the territory of the Municipality.

Principal Touring Residence: An establishment where tourist accommodation is offered, by means of a single reservation, in a furnished dwelling used as the principal place of residence of the natural person operating the establishment; rented for the purpose of short-term tourist accommodation to tourists (offered for rent for remuneration, for a period not exceeding 31 consecutive days). In addition, the rental of the principal place of residence must be offered to one person or group of related persons at a time and must not include any meals served on the premises.

A principal residence is defined as the residence where the operator, a natural person, lives on a regular basis and where the operator's family and social activities are centered, and where the address corresponds to the address indicated by the operator in official correspondence with most government departments and agencies.

Grand défi cycliste Pierre Lavoie

The Municipality authorizes the passage of the Grand défi Pierre Lavoie cycling convoy on its territory including chemin Dunant, chemin de Capelton (Route 108) and Route 143. The 13th edition of the Grand défi Pierre Lavoie, a 1,000 km cycling challenge, will be held from June 8 to 11, 2023.

COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Hiring of a public works coordinator

The Municipality hires Mr. Dany McKelvey as Public Works Coordinator.

Massawippi Vocal Ensemble - 2023 contribution

The Municipality contributes \$2,500 to the Massawippi Vocal Ensemble to support its activities and concerts in 2023.

COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2023

By-law concerning the demolition of buildings

The Municipality adopted a draft by-law concerning the demolition of buildings. The purpose of this by-law is to control the demolition of buildings, to protect a building with heritage value and to regulate the reuse of the soil cleared following the complete or partial demolition of a building.

By-law on minor exemptions

The Municipality adopted a draft by-law on minor exemptions. The purpose of this by-law is to allow the council of the municipality to grant minor variations to the zoning and subdivision by-laws of the municipality, subject to a prior opinion of the Comité consultatif en urbanisme and subject to the applicable provisions of this by-law.

Paving of the Hatley Centre Road pedestrian pathway

The Municipality will pave the pedestrian walkway on Hatley Centre Road. The path was constructed in 2022 between the North Hatley Golf Club and Hatley Acres Road.

Support for Arts-Cultures Massawippi

The Municipality recognizes Arts-Cultures Massawippi as a non-profit organization as pertains to the Municipality's Politique d'aide aux organismes à but non lucratif.

PLANTING TREES TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Conference by Luc Fontaine

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

In the community hall of the Canton de Hatley Town Hall.

Would you like to learn about the beneficial roles of trees and their effects on the environment, how to plant them and how to choose the right species for dry or wet land? This conference is for you!

COMPOSTING WITH PAPER BAGS FROM NOW ON

The citizens of Canton de Hatley, as well as the twenty-one member municipalities of the Régie intermunicipale des déchets solides de Coaticook (RIDSC), must now use only paper bags to deposit compostable materials in the brown bin. It is still possible to deposit, in bulk, materials in the brown bin.



FOR A BETTER QUALITY COMPOST

Although available on the market, the compostable and biodegradable bags that hold table or garden waste do not have the necessary exposure conditions for their decomposition when they are on the site of the Régie's composting platform (weather, light, humidity, etc.). Thus, in an almost ready compost, it is common to find pieces of bags that have not decomposed. In this context, the Régie employees must remove the undegraded bag residues from the compost, which increases the workload, costs and reduces the quality of the compost. This situation is also present in many other composting sites in Quebec.

This is why it is important to use only paper bags or bulk to deposit compostable materials in the brown bin. Our collective efforts will result in better quality compost.

Thank you for your precious collaboration.

Danielle Côté
Representative to the Régie des déchets (RIDSC)
and responsible for the CCE



DISTRIBUTION OF TREES AND COMPOST 2023

Saturday, May 20, starting at 8:30 a.m.

At Town Hall, 4765 Capelton Road

The Municipality, in collaboration with the Association forestière du Sud du Québec, is offering a free distribution of trees and compost to the citizens of the municipality. The trees are donated by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs. Details will be sent to you approximately two weeks before the event by mail and via Facebook and the electronic newsletter.



MAINTAINING YOUR CULVERT

Did you know? It is the responsibility of every property owner to install and maintain a culvert to access his or her property to ensure the free flow of water into the municipal ditch. This is especially true during the spring thaw.

Unlike culverts that cross public roads, culverts that provide access to private property are the responsibility of the property owner. A person wishing to install or replace a culvert in a ditch must obtain a permit from the Municipality. Full details are available at cantondehatley.ca/en/land/access-to-your-property-permit/

THE MUNICIPAL RIGHT-OF-WAY

There is a space owned by the municipality that lies between the boundary of a private property and the public road. This is called the municipal right-of-way. This strip of land runs along the highway and its width may vary from one road to another within the Municipality. To determine the width of the right-of-way, check your certificate of location.

The municipal right-of-way is part of the public roadway, which includes the shoulders, ditches and possibly the edge of the land beyond the ditch. The Municipality or its contractors may therefore undertake any work deemed necessary in this municipal right-of-way at any time.

If you have any questions on this subject, please do not hesitate to contact the Municipality.



ENVIRONMENT

THAW PERIOD AND GRAVEL ROADS

Each spring brings the deterioration of gravel roads due to the alternating thaw and freeze. Some years the deterioration is more pronounced, depending on the weather conditions.

It must be said that municipal employees ensure a constant surveillance of all roads and intervene to make urgent repairs including the localized addition of granular materials when the situation lends itself to it.

While some urgent work can be done during the thaw period, the basic and generalized grading work cannot be done. The road is too unstable since it is water-laden and partially frozen. The grading can therefore begin when the road is largely thawed and relatively dry.

This year, the thaw period for roads in our region, according to the ministère des Transports du Québec, is from March 20th to May 19th. These dates are subject to change depending on the weather.

We thank you for your understanding.



TOPONYMIC CHRONICLE

MCFARLAND ROAD

The McFarland road name comes from a family of farmers who arrived in the country in 1829. It was officialized more than a century after its opening by the Commission de toponymie du Québec: on December 18, 1986 in the Township of Hatley and on April 17, 1998 in Rock Forest (now Sherbrooke).

The road

The exact opening date of McFarland Road is not known, but it appears on a cadastral map of 1863. However, on the topographic maps, we can see that this road is poorly maintained in some places. Moreover, McFarland Road was for a long time a dead end accessible only by Capelton Road (Route 108) before opening onto Lower Belvedere Road (now North Hatley Road). Around 1940, the road was improved thanks to government grants.



The McFarland Road which stops at the township boundary in 1863 (Map of the District of St. Francis, Canada East)

The Farm

According to an 1863 map, the McFarland farm is located in Ascot Township (now Sherbrooke) at the northern limit of Hatley Township. However, at that time, the farm is only accessible from Hatley Township via McFarland Road.

The family

According to the 1901 census, Mary McGrath (born about 1802) and Hugh McFarland (born about 1805) immigrated to this country in 1829 with their son John (born April 14, 1828).

In 1868, John McFarland married Bridget O'Connell (1835-1917), who had immigrated from Ireland in 1859, at the church of St. Thomas Aquinas in Compton Township. The couple had five children: Mary Ann, Sara Catherine, Helena, Augustin, and Charles. Charles took over the farm with his wife Jeannette Thibault. Charles and Jeannette's son, Philip (1919-2006), succeeded them on the farm.

Parish of Saint-Roch

John McFarland was one of the petitioners in 1896 to the Bishop of Sherbrooke, Paul LaRocque, for the canonical erection of the parish of Saint-Roch, in Rock Forest. He died on June 22, 1905 and is buried with his wife in the parish cemetery of Saint-Roch.

Gérard Côté
(Lennoxville-Ascot
Historical and Museum
Society)

Jean-Marie Dubois
(University of Sherbrooke)



Gravestone of Bridget and John McFarland in Rock Forest (collection of Gérard Côté, Sherbrooke)