



Municipal Newsletter

# Le Babillard

Municipal Information Newsletter • Volume 11, number 04 • Winter 2023-2024

**CANTON DE HATLEY**

***Cross-country skiing and walking trail***  
***(page 5)***

***Ciné-Relâche***  
***Free screening of the movie Migration***  
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**cantondehatley.ca**

Photo credit: Rachelle Thompson

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## MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



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Clowery**



**COUNCILLOR 2**

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Lambert**



**COUNCILLOR 3**

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**COUNCILLOR 5**

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**Sylvie  
Cassar**

### MUNICIPALITÉ DU CANTON DE HATLEY

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## WORD FROM THE MAYOR



Dear citizens,

### 2024-2025-2026 property assessment roll

A new assessment roll for the years 2024-2025-2026 has come into effect. As such, we invite you to read the text in this bulletin by chartered appraiser Marie-Hélène Cadrin. The values of many properties have increased significantly compared to the previous roll of 2021-2022-2023. Other municipalities in the region have experienced similar variations.

### 2024 taxes

As you will be able to see on your 2024 assessment notice and tax bill, the municipal council has significantly lowered the property tax rate. To minimize the impact of rising property values on the average tax bill, the general property tax rate was reduced from \$0.40/\$100 to \$0.275/\$100. Consequently, the municipal budget increases in 2024, but in a reasonable manner and based on the increase in expenses attributable to inflation. The municipal budget increases from \$4,395,989 in 2023 to \$4,838,738 in 2024. An explanatory document of the budget and 2024 municipal taxes is attached to the tax bill.

### Unstable winters and road infrastructure

The more frequent thaws in winter cause us to experience road conditions usually reserved for spring. The most visible damage, in December and early January, took the form of deep ruts on some roads. Reloading and leveling operations, unusual in winter, had to be carried out. Winter thaws have the disadvantage or the advantage, depending on our perspective, of revealing weaknesses in our road infrastructure. We take note of this and plan our work accordingly.



### Appointment of a new general director

Council and I are proud to announce the appointment of Mr. Gabriel Demers as General Director of the Municipality. He took office on January 10, 2024. Mr. Demers is a lawyer by training and a native of our region. Until recently, he was at the firm of Monty Sylvestre, legal advisors in Sherbrooke. We welcome him to the team!

### Citizens of the Canton of Hatley in the spotlight

Joel Quarrington, was named a Member of the Order of Canada for his contributions as a world-renowned double bassist and respected teacher. This Order is one of the highest honors in the country, celebrating Canadians "who have made an extraordinary contribution to the nation." We can be proud to have citizens, in the Canton de Hatley, who fly the colors of musical culture.



Réjean Hébert, former member of Parliament for Saint-François and medical doctor, was appointed to the rank of Officer of the Order of Canada for his work in favor of the autonomy of the elderly, through his noted research in gerontology and his contribution to policy development in this area. Réjean Hébert has been campaigning for a reform of home care for several years.



*Congratulations to these two citizens for their exemplary careers!*

**Vincent Fontaine, mayor**

# MUNICIPAL INFOS

## WORD FROM THE APPRAISER

The year 2024 marks the beginning of a new assessment roll at the Municipality of the Canton of Hatley.

The real estate market in recent years has been very active and property values have increased substantially; those of the municipality of Canton de Hatley are no exception. It is important to consider that the valuation date for the 2021-2022-2023 three-year roll was July 1, 2019. The new value established for your property has therefore been updated according to the real estate market as of July 1, 2022. This value will remain the same for the next three years (2024-2025-2026), unless there are additions or renovations to your property.

Please note that the municipal council does not intervene in any way in the work of the assessor.

Without dealing with specific cases, we have noted significant variations in the real estate market in the municipality of Canton de Hatley, whether between the different sectors or the various categories of buildings.

These are generalities which demonstrate the complexity of the territory of the municipality of Canton de Hatley.

### Why has my property value increased significantly?

We understand that a significant increase in the value of your property can raise many questions.

However, you should know that the assessor, from our independent firm, carries out impartial work and is governed by the *Act Respecting Municipal Taxation*, as well as its regulations. He must enter the actual value, as close as possible to the market value (100%) of each property.

To do this, it considers in particular:

- the real estate market in recent years;
- the particularities of the municipality's sectors;
- elements noted following the visit to your property, likely to have an impact on its value.

## Stay informed

To stay informed of the latest news from the municipality, you are invited to subscribe to the newsletter at the bottom of the home page of the website. You can also follow our Facebook page.



## AUTOMATED ALERT SYSTEM

The Municipality's automated alert system makes it possible to quickly reach its citizens by telephone, text or email for the transmission of important messages such as road closures, boil water notices or other messages of public interest. You can add or modify your contact details by email to: [reception@cantondehatley.ca](mailto:reception@cantondehatley.ca)



As the real estate market does not vary in a linear manner and the value of a property is made up of several factors, which are often distinct from one property to another (for example, the property may be located in a more sought or having been the subject of work which had not yet been included in the roll), the values do not necessarily fluctuate according to the same percentage.

It is therefore not a simple indexation, but rather a revaluation taking into account all the elements that make up your property.

### Questions?

You may consult the assessment roll and obtain general information on this subject on the Canton de Hatley website, at <https://cantondehatley.ca/en/information/assessment-role/>

To find out more about the reasons that led us to determine the value entered on the assessment roll, do not hesitate to contact us at 819 843-3635..

If, after discussion with our assessors, you still believe that the value entered on the roll should be reviewed, you can request a review as provided for in sections 124 to 138.4 of the *Act Respecting Municipal Taxation*, by completing and submitting the form provided for this purpose before April 30, 2024. (You will find the complete official procedure on the back of your tax bill.)

In closing, we invite you to contact us to discuss your specific situation, in complete confidentiality. We will be happy to listen to you and help you better understand the particularities of your property.

Marie-Hélène Cadrin, approved appraiser

## HALL RENTAL

The municipality has two halls available for rental for private events. Both halls are equipped with kitchens and can accommodate around 100 people each, depending on use. Preferential rates for residents. [cantondehatley.ca/en/recreation/hall-rentals](https://cantondehatley.ca/en/recreation/hall-rentals)





# HIGHLIGHTS OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Winter 2023-2024

## OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

### Régie de Coaticook Budget

The Municipality of the Canton of Hatley is a member of the Régie intermunicipale de gestion des déchets solides de la région de Coaticook (Régie de Coaticook). Council approved the Régie's 2024 budget at \$3,244,190.

### Multi-use gazebo - call for tenders

The Municipality is eligible for \$100,000 grant of for the construction of a park gazebo, which would be installed on the grounds of Town Hall. Council authorizes the preparation of a tender estimate for this project.

### PRABAM – grant

The Municipality received a grant of \$123,112 as part of the Programme d'aide financière pour les bâtiments municipaux (PRABAM). It made it possible to finance the renovation of the council room (addition of a kitchen).

## NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETINGS

### Régie des eaux Massawippi Budget

The Municipality of the Canton de Hatley is a member, with North Hatley, of the Régie des eaux Massawippi. This Régie owns the drinking water treatment plant in North Hatley.

The Régie des eaux Massawippi adopted a budget of \$1,049,082 for 2024 including a share of \$108,300 for the Municipality of the Canton de Hatley.

### Parc régional Massawippi Budget

The Municipality of the Canton de Hatley is a member of the Régie intermunicipale du Parc régional Massawippi (Régie du Parc). The Régie du Parc has prepared a budget of \$374,258 for the year 2024 including a share of \$29,452 for the Municipality of the Canton of Hatley.

### MRC delegation of authority agreement

Council approves a delegation of powers agreement for recyclable materials to be implemented between the MRC of Memphrémagog and local municipalities. With the modernization of selective collection, the MRC of Memphrémagog will be responsible for the next selective collection contract, starting January 1, 2026.

### Emptying of septic tanks 2024 and 2026

The Municipality awards, after public call for tenders, the contract for the emptying, transport, transshipment and treatment of septic and retention tanks (option C - 2024 and 2026) to Enviro5 for an amount of \$247,500 before taxes in 2024 and \$260,100 before taxes in 2026.

### Land exchange and right of ways - Capelton Mine

The council authorizes the exchange of land and right of ways with Mont-Capel inc. The exchange notably

makes it possible to obtain a right-of-way for parking and access to the Massawippi river.

### Arts-Cultures Show Massawippi

Council accepted the proposal from Arts-cultures Massawippi to offer an indoor cultural event on November 25 in the afternoon, with a contribution of \$3,500.

### Lake Massawippi Landscape circuit

The Municipality accepts that the fund provided for in the call for projects Plan d'action Paysages from the local landscape committees, in the amount of \$7,500, can be used for the creation of the Lake Massawippi landscape circuit.

### 2024-2025 black bin collection calendar

The Municipality asks the contractor to collect the black bins once a month over a period of seven (7) months per year (October to April), for the years 2024 and 2025.

### Looping of the aqueduct – intermunicipal agreement

Council authorizes an intermunicipal agreement with North Hatley governing the sharing of responsibilities relating to the project to loop the drinking water network in the Vaughan sector.

### 2023-45 by-law

Council submits a draft loan by-law relating to the financing of the looping of the drinking water network in the Vaughan sector. The project is largely subsidized by the Programme de la taxe sur l'essence et de la contribution du Québec 2019-2024 (TECQ).

## DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

### Régie incendie Memphrémagog Est Budget

The Régie de l'Est adopted a budget of \$1,761,753 for the year 2024 with a cost estimate of \$245,743 for the Municipality of the Canton of Hatley.

### Public works truck driver

Council confirms the hiring of Mr. Thomas Kirby as a truck driver and public works employee.

### Technical specifications for 10-wheel truck

The Municipality accepts the offer from Form-Éval for the assessment of needs, the creation of the technical estimate, the inspection of equipment and the recommendation for the purchase of a 10 wheeler truck with snow removal equipment.

## JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

### Director general hired

The council appoints Mr. Gabriel Demers as Director general of the Municipality.



## REMINDER

## THE RIGHT WAY TO PLACE BINS ❄️

Put out bins before 7 p.m. the day before pick-up or before 6 a.m. the same day.

Remove bins from the roadside by 9 p.m. the day of pick-up.

1 meter between each bin.



Please place them inside your driveway, as illustrated, so as not to interfere with snow removal.

## PLEASE KEEP YOUR SNOW ❄️

It is **FORBIDDEN** to push snow on public roads, across the street or in the ditches.

You are also responsible for the work of your snow remover.



Snow deposited on public roads is punishable by fine.



**Thank you for your cooperation!**

## SNOW REMOVAL TAKES AT LEAST 4 HOURS

During a snowfall, snow removal takes at least 4 hours to clear the entire area with snowplow trucks. Usually, if the snow falls during the night, the snow removal teams begin their routes around 4 a.m. to finish the main roads around 8 a.m. and the entire territory around 10 a.m. A second tour is done if necessary before the return of the school buses or in the early evening.

Everyone's collaboration is essential to help our teams work with maximum efficiency. Please respect the night parking ban, remove your bins from the road no later than 9 p.m. on collection day, be vigilant when traveling, on foot or by car, near snow removal vehicles and remain visible to operators. Thank you for your collaboration!



Photo credit : Allen Fullum

## RECREATION

### Cross-country skiing and walking trail

Part of the bike path is groomed in winter into a cross-country ski and walking trail. The trail is maintained over a distance of 8 km, between the Capelton Mine and the Massawippi River dam on Vaughan Road near North Hatley. Parking is available at the Capelton Mine (5800 Chemin de Capelton) as well as at the end of Kingdom Road. A pleasant activity to enjoy winter with the family and admire the landscapes of our beautiful locality!

### Mont-Orford ski ticket draw

Draw of 15 pairs of adult tickets valid for one day of skiing during the 2023-2024 season (expiration April 30, 2024).

Register for the draw by email to [reception@cantondehatley.ca](mailto:reception@cantondehatley.ca) indicating your name, your address in the Canton of Hatley and your telephone number. Only one name per residence, for residents of the Canton de Hatley only.

**Registration deadline:**

**Thursday, February 15 at 8 a.m. and draw at 9 a.m.**

**Good luck to everyone!**





# CINÉ relâche

**MIGRATION** ✨

**7 mars à 19 h ★ March 7 at 7 p.m.**

**Projection intérieure gratuite à l'Hôtel de ville**  
Prévoyez vos chaises de parterre, couvertures, collations et breuvages.  
Popcorn gratuit sur place!

**Free indoor screening at Town Hall** *(in french)*  
Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets, snacks and beverages.  
Free popcorn on site!

 Canton de Hatley • 4765, chemin de Capelton

**Bienvenue à tous ! ★ Everyone is welcome!**





## RECREATION AND CULTURE

### ENSEMBLE VOCAL MASSAWIPPI

If you have experience in choral singing or music, you are invited to come and participate in the open house on Thursday, February 22 at 7 p.m. at Ste-Élisabeth Church in North Hatley at 3550, chemin de Capelton, North Hatley. Reading music is not a requirement, but an asset. This is a free activity.

The Ensemble Vocal Massawippi is currently recruiting choristers for its next concert, on **April 20 at Saint-Benoît-du-Lac Abbey**.

It is with a unique musical program that we will pay tribute to composers and musicians. We will mark the birthdays of Gabriel Fauré, Giacomo Puccini as well as

the patroness of musicians, Ste-Cécile, in a work for choir, soloists and orchestra by Joseph Haydn. In addition to the program, works by young contemporary composers, Arnesen and Jenkins.

- Rehearsals take place every Thursday at Sainte-Élisabeth Church in North Hatley, from Thursday January 25 to Saturday April 20, 2024, and Saturday March 16 and April 6 (from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
- Registration fees are \$125 plus \$20 for the scores which are given to you at the start of the session
- Information and registrations: [info@ensemblevocalmassawippi.com](mailto:info@ensemblevocalmassawippi.com)  
[ensemblevocalmassawippi.com](http://ensemblevocalmassawippi.com)

## MUNICIPAL INFOS



### THE PAIR PROGRAM

Pair is mainly aimed at people who are aging, losing their autonomy and living alone. This is a personalized automated call service that contacts subscribers to ensure their good health. It's free and the program has already saved several lives!

#### How it works

It's simple... It's the subscriber who chooses the time of the call and the number of calls per day. When the program contacts the subscriber, responding indicates that everything is fine. After 3 attempts within 20 minutes, if the subscriber has not responded, the system triggers an alert and a home visit is carried out to ensure the subscriber's state of health. This service is offered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

#### How to join

For any information or to join the Pair program, you can visit the [pairprogram.ca](http://pairprogram.ca) or contact the local organization responsible for providing the service:

- The Sherbrooke Police Department at 819 821-5555
- The Memphrémagog police department at 819 843-3334



BANQUE  
ALIMENTAIRE  
Memphrémagog

**Food insecurity can strike anyone, at any time.**

Ask for food assistance at  
819 868-4438, ext. 1  
[www.banquealimentaire.ca](http://www.banquealimentaire.ca)  
[info@banquealimentaire.ca](mailto:info@banquealimentaire.ca)



Communityaid in Lennoxville and surrounding areas has the mission of promoting and coordinating community assistance and voluntary action to facilitate home care for the elderly and/or those in convalescence.

#### Services offered to seniors:

- Meals on Wheels (2 days/week)
- Accompaniment/transport
- Friendly visits
- Grocery store
- Exercise groups
- Pedicure clinic
- Prevention programs (information and awareness sessions, social activities, etc.)
- Technology assistance
- Support for caregivers

For more information, visit [communityaid.ca](http://communityaid.ca) or contact Lennoxville and District Community Aid at 819 821-4779.

### LICENCE RENEWAL

UNTIL FEBRUARY 15

[SPAESTRIE.QC.CA/LICENCES](http://SPAESTRIE.QC.CA/LICENCES)



SPA  
DE L'ESTRIE





## THE EFFECTS OF RADON ON HEALTH

### Do you know about radon?

It is a natural radioactive gas coming from uranium present in the rock of the earth's crust and which can infiltrate and concentrate in the basements of homes. It can cause health risks and even cause lung cancer over a long period of exposure. Since it is a gas, it dissipates in the air and is therefore breathable without us being able to detect it by its smell or color.

### What to do?

The only way to know if you have a radon problem in your home is to measure the concentration in the air using a measuring device called a "dosimeter". This single-use detector can be purchased on the Association pulmonaire du Québec website and on the CAA-Québec website. This test is simple to do, safe and relatively inexpensive. Depending on the results obtained, you will be able to correct the situation

if necessary. Please note, you cannot rely on the result of the neighboring house or the neighborhood average, because each house is unique in its construction.

For more information, visit the Quebec Lung Association website [lungquebec.ca/sante-pulmonaire/environnement/radon](http://lungquebec.ca/sante-pulmonaire/environnement/radon) or call 1-888-768-6669.



## TOPONYMIC CHRONICLE

### RUISSEAU DES VIGNOBLES: THREE OLD VINEYARDS IN ROCK FOREST (1986-2003)

The main course of the Vignobles stream is more than 5 km long. It takes its source in the Canton de Hatley, east of Dunant Street and flows into the Magog River between Grignon and Napoléon-Poulin streets, in the Rock Forest sector. It drains the area of Felton Street and parts of North Hatley and Sainte-Catherine roads in addition to the Sintra quarry in the Canton de Hatley.

When the Commission de toponymie du Québec named this stream in 1996, there were two vineyards in the stream basin and a third nearby had just closed. The most important was the Sous les Charmilles vineyard on Chemin Dunant, owned by Georges Ducharme, Denis Ducharme, Lucie Gagné and François Desrochers.

The first vines of the Sous les Charmilles vineyard, mainly of the Seyval hybrid grape variety, were planted in 1986. Production began in 1991 and the opening to the public was made in 1995. It unfortunately had to close its doors in 2003 for health reasons of the main owner. At its peak production, the vineyard had 2.8 ha, included more than 15,000 vines and produced more than 12,000 bottles of wine. Most of the plantation was sold and the new owner kept around ten thousand vines to sell the grapes to commercial vineyards for a few years before abandoning production.

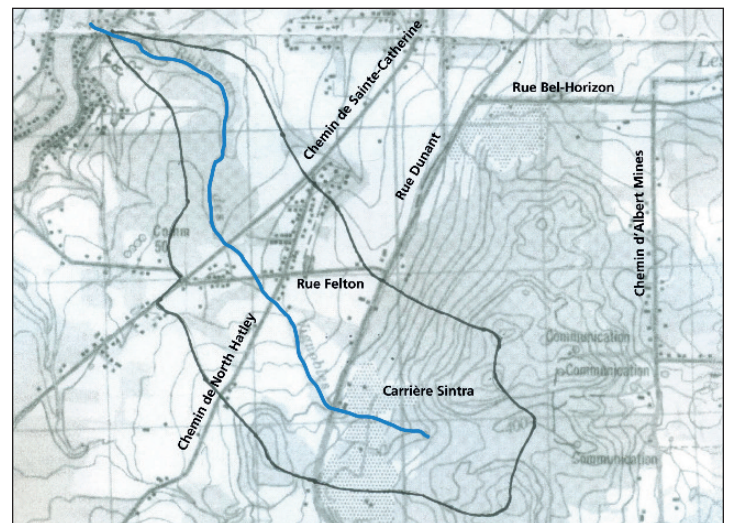
The second vineyard is that of Deux-Ruisseaux, adjacent to the Sous les Charmilles vineyard, and owned by Georges Ducharme and François Desrochers. Planted in 1994, it included more than 10,000 vines and production was incorporated into the Sous les Charmilles vineyard in 1997.

A third vineyard also existed ephemerally on the Trois-Étoiles farm, located on North Hatley Road, at the head of the Nick Creek basin. This vineyard was the property of Clément Lacasse.

However, it was maintained by Gérard Maratier (1932-2009). Nearly 9,000 vines of the noble Muscadet Melon

grape variety were planted in 1992, but they were decimated by frost in just two winters. The vineyard therefore never produced. The main author of this article led research there at the time on the use of snow to protect the vines and had to continue it at the Sous les Charmilles vineyard.

Jean-Marie Dubois (University of Sherbrooke) and Gérard Coté



Seyval harvest at the Sous les Charmilles vineyard in 1995 (photo by Jean-Marie Dubois)