



News & Views

PUBLISHED BY THE BAIE D'URFE CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1953

ENTERTAINMENT WILL PROVIDE THE KEYNOTE for the regular December meeting of the Citizens' Association, held as always on the second Friday of the month. Vice-chairman Harry Dixon has lined up an excellent agenda of out-of-the-ordinary films to follow the business meeting.

Seventh Year
Number 74

The amount of time available will determine how many of the proposed films can be shown. The tentative list includes Newfoundland Scene, Rendezvous on a Reef, Packaged Power, The Loon's Necklace, Begone Dull Care and a couple of others, each running from nine minutes to half an hour in length. All are among the prize-winning Canadian films of the past few years--not a second-stringer in the bunch.

There are quite a number of films of this type available without charge, documentaries produced with Hollywood standards of photography about subjects which are a little too "educational" for the usual movie-house clientele. Some are produced by the National Film Board, others by industries or associations which are glad to tell the public interesting facts about their little-known operations.

Some of them--the best--have little or no reference to the sponsor to inject annoying commercialism. These could provide future programs for the Association, perhaps outside the regular schedule of monthly business meetings, if people would be interested. Come to the next meeting, view a few of these outstanding films, and see what you think.

ALSO ON NEXT FRIDAY'S AGENDA is the official announcement of the name of the chairman of this year's nominating committee, who is Bill Perks. His job is to line up a slate of suitable officers for the Citizens' Association for 1954, men and women who will agree to stand for election at the January annual meeting. If you have suggestions for next year's executive, get in touch with Bill at 2976.

Our Next Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, AT 8.15 IN THE TOWN HALL

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WE SEE BY THE RECORD THAT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S regular meetings since election, the July (inaugural swearing-in) meeting was short one alderman; August was cancelled for lack of a quorum; September was cancelled for lack of a quorum; October had four present out of six; and November saw the first full turnout.

Any alderman absent from three meetings in a row is automatically an ex-alderman. From the record above, it is quite possible that some of the present aldermen have automatically resigned under this provision during their first few months of office. As it happens, the minutes do not show who did and did not attend the cancelled meetings.

It's an interesting point. If a meeting is cancelled for lack of a quorum because Aldermen X, Y and Z are absent, can they be charged with missing the meeting? How can they miss a meeting that was never held? We'll leave that to the lawyers.

THE ACTION OF BEACONSFIELD-BEAUREPAIRE in establishing a \$500-per-lot special tax on new subdivisions at a special council meeting on November 23 is of particular interest in Baie D'Urfe because the Citizens' Association received a similar suggestion two months ago from a special taxes-and-assessments committee. In our case, no action was taken to pass on the idea to our Town Council.

Baie D'Urfe has been spending money much faster than it has been taking it in as taxes this last year or two to pay for ditching and road repairs. Development of some sort of civic centre is considered mandatory because the town's population already has outgrown the existing facilities, so there is perhaps another \$40,000 to be found. Macdonald school will be short three classes next year, six the following and nine in 1956, while we have a good school-full of primary youngsters in Baie D'Urfe--so it is inevitable that we will have to start paying off a few hundred thousand dollars for our own protestant school in the next three or four years.

These two items, to mention only the Community Centre and the school, represent walloping big tax increases, made necessary solely by the fact that we have a municipality of farms which, one by one, are making money by the hundreds of thousands of dollars here and there for various building promoters. That is fine except for the fact that present residents have found their taxes multiplying in proportion to the promoters' profits.

There is nothing unfair in the idea that promoters and/or newcomers should pay some if not all of the extra taxes their arrival creates. The Citizens' Association's committee proposed two specific steps to that end, both of which have proved workable elsewhere. Perhaps they should receive some further consideration.

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A DAY CAMP NEXT SUMMER?

Elsie Persson's report on the possibility of organizing a summer "day camp" for Baie D'urfe children aroused much interest at the November meeting of the Citizens' Association, and she was asked to carry on to the extent of trying to discover how many parents would wish their children to attend.

As indicated in last month's News & Views, Mrs. Persson has established contact with the Montreal Parks and Playgrounds Association, which would be pleased to co-operate in such a venture by contributing the services of a handicrafts teacher one day a week, and helping with its advice about methods of operation. Beyond this, the proposal under consideration would involve hiring someone, possibly a student, for four weeks at about \$100, with the balance of necessary personnel made up from volunteer mothers. As the type of day camp envisaged would major in handicrafts of various kinds, there necessarily would be charges for materials. A four-week camp, five days a week, mornings only, for the 8-12 age group was favoured by those present, with the total cost for leader and materials adding up to perhaps \$15 per child or per family.

If you have children in the 8 to 12 age bracket, phone Mrs. Persson for full details, and let her know if you would like to co-operate. Her phone number is 2182.

BAIE D'URFE CITIZENS TOLD SOME THINGS TO DO, SOME TO AVOID

IN PLANNING NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES

Baie D'Urfe citizens had the benefit of advice based on country-wide experience at the Association meeting on November 13, when Miss Audrey Vaughan spoke on some of the do's and don'ts of planning community social and recreational activities, and answered many questions raised from the floor.

Some of the major points made by Miss Vaughan were: Start in a small way, with what facilities are available, and develop; remember that recreation is not just sports--it involves people of all ages and for the bulk of the population this means small group activities such as hobbies and handicrafts; Location is important and should be both safe and accessible, meaning in many cases a central location plus smaller "fringe" facilities; Serve all age groups including the older, who are increasing in number every year (creative, cultural and hobby activities cost much less per person served than sports, incidentally); Don't give the children too much--let them help themselves as much as possible both in organizing their activities and in buying or building the necessary equipment; Try to keep the "trail blazers" interested in activities--all too often the early leaders in community matters tend to drop out of the picture; Never forget the importance of leadership --the best available professional organizer is needed for an all-year rounded program, to corral volunteers and keep things rolling, especially in regard to teenagers who are the hardest to keep interested and organized.

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ARMSTRONG FLOOR TILES

Discussion on the floor dealt to a considerable extent with the desirability of facilities large enough for Baie D'Urfe children to organize activities in their own town instead of Ste. Annes, and the question whether or not the present Town Hall could not be used to a much greater extent right now. There was a general impression that Council would not permit its use. If it could be used, it was pointed out, it could supply space for most hobby and cultural groups now meeting in private houses or not organized for lack of a common hall, as well as providing a local depot for the MacLennan Travelling Library, and space for small children's groups of Cubs and Brownies.

NEW COLLEGE GREEN AND OAK RIDGE SUBDIVISIONS GET COUNCIL STUDY

CITIZENS WARNED AGAINST AUTOMATIC GARBAGE DISPOSAL UNITS

A warning against under-sink electric garbage disposal equipment was issued by Building Inspector "Pop" Ware at the regular monthly meeting of the Town Council on Dec. 1, in the Course of his routing report which also disclosed that permits for six new houses had been issued during the preceding month.

The reference to garbage units stemmed from the fact that plans for one new residence provided for a garbage unit in a system where the kitchen water bypassed the septic tank, which would deposit the garbage as a solid directly in the weeping tile. It was explained that garbage would have to go into the septic tank to be decomposed, and that it would multiply the volume of solids to be treated so many times that the size of the septic tank required makes such an installation virtually impractical.

Most of the Council's time was taken up with roads and building matters. A choice of lights for new installations was made, with a \$14.50 unit chosen for the 25 new lights needed in Bayview and Oak Ridge areas. There was divided opinion about the safety that would be offered to pedestrians by bright lights at the Metropolitan-Morgan intersection and no action was taken. Lengthy consideration was given subdivision plans for the north Cambridge Road area in the College Green and the central part of the Oak Ridge development, both of which are quite acceptable in principle but will require some small revisions before being officially approved.

The request for permission to cross the Cemetery Lane to permit children to go to school without walking on Lakeshore Road is still before the Catholic Church authorities, and the mayor said a reply is expected during December. Complaints of several citizens about faulty ditches and grading on town property adjoining their residences will be answered by corrective work costing about \$125. The idea of a municipal court system primarily to exert traffic control was considered but no action taken, partly because it would require the establishment of a police department at some cost. Arrangements were made for an annual car allowance of \$125 for Reg. Vidler, who drives a lot in the course of duty. Assessors' errors in connection with Messrs. Loke, Fielding and Capreol were corrected.

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Weed problems in vacant land were raised in a letter from the Horticultural Society and discussed, with the matter laid over until next spring. Some uncollectable taxes were written off. Approval was given for drilling a well for the College Green rink as part of the town's recreation facilities if the Citizens' Association wishes to spend part of its allotted funds for this purpose.

For various reasons, News & Views has not been able to publish accounts of the Town Council meetings since the summer, so here is a run-down of the highlights as set forth in the minutes.

July 7--Regular Meeting

Inaugural meeting the new Council. Mayor and five aldermen present sworn in. Road-patching charges of \$7,237.75 approved, to be paid out of reserve funds. P.H. Longley & Co. appointed to sweep chimneys. Lots 117, 118 and 119 of Cad. 305 sold for \$1,200 to H.T. McCurdy. Chairman C.H. McGuire of Citizens' Association congratulated members of new council and said the Citizens' Association would offer only constructive criticism.

July 15--Special Meeting

This meeting arranged details in preparation for the referendum on amendments to the building by-laws designed to reduce the number of similar houses in developments, which subsequently was passed.

August 4--Regular Meeting

Cancelled --no quorum.

September 1--Regular Meeting

Cancelled--no quorum.

September 8--Special Meeting

Letters to be written to one citizen about his ditching responsibilities and to another about his septic tank, now emptying into a ditch. The mayor announced plans to ask the Catholic Church for a right-of-way across the cemetery lane into Macdonald College grounds so school children can avoid going on the highway. New road names officially adopted. Bayview (Miller subdivision): Somerset Road, Somerset Circle, Devon Road, Westchester Drive, College Green Drive, Coventry Drive, Surrey Drive. Oak Ridge District: Applehill Road, Willowdale Road, Elm Crescent Drive, Orange Drive, Oakridge Drive. Secretary to publish notice that lots 42 and 43 of Cad. 305 for sale.

September 29--Special Meeting

Auditors' report and town's annual financial statement referred to the Finance Committee for study. Lawyer Jacques Viau present, explained proposed amendments to charter and was authorized to represent the town at the next session of the Quebec legislature.

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October 6-- Regular Meeting

The secretary was instructed to write to a citizen giving him 30 days to correct his septic tank installation or court action would follow. Protests about new tax valuations were received from three property owners. Arthur Comber's request for classification as a farm was rejected. Wm. Fielding secured a reduction of \$1,720, result of an assessor's error. Frank W. Booth secured a reduction as part of his house is not completed. After several changes to correct some people's religious denominations, the tax roll was homologated at \$1,531,369 and the 1953-54 general tax rate set at 12 mills, no change.

Council is of the opinion that to be "in harmony with their surroundings" new buildings in Sunny Acres will have to be bungalows. Two offers were received for lots 42 and 43 in College Green with the sale going to C.O. Grimm for \$1,100. A request that Council allow a large property to be split into two lots, each a few feet short of the established minimum frontage, was refused. Following a complaint from one citizen that his dog had been attacked and injured on his own property by another dog, Council decided that if there is more trouble of this kind, it will consider a suitable by-law. A plan for a new sub-division in College Green was referred to the Town Planning Committee. The Hydro stated that it would set up its new Baie D'Urfe sub-station north of the tracks, not south, if the town would give it a road across the railway lines, and Council will be happy to oblige..

November 3--Regular Meeting

During the previous month, 13 building permits were issued. Painting of the Town Hall authorized, contract to Wilf Bedard at cost not to exceed \$1,360. Five more sand boxes will be installed at strategic locations for emergency use by motorists this winter. Plans for further subdivision of Oak Ridge referred to Town Planning committee. Plans for new subdivision at top of Cambridge Road discussed, and some changes still required.

Town Budget for 1953-54

Although the current Town Council appears not to have officially adopted an operating budget since its election July 1, it has by general agreement been operating on the basis of the draft budget drawn up by the outgoing Council in June. The budget does not include Capital expenditures to be paid out of reserves such as road repairs and, this year, costs of revising the Town Charter; and it is subject to revision as circumstances dictate. This year's budget estimated revenue of \$20,070 at 12 mills, an increase over \$17,728 last year as a result of increased construction.

The budget draft:

Revenues

Taxes (@ 12 mills)	\$19,000
Interest on Bonds	400
Interest on Taxes	50
Sundry Revenue	620

\$20,070

Expenses

Salaries	\$ 4,200
Wages (Casual Labour)	1,000
General Expenses	1,700

Roads - Snow Removal \$2,900

- Sanding 450

- Repairs 1,000 4,350

Road Lighting & Power 700

Garbage Removal 3,120

Legal, Audit & Assessment 2,100

Insurance 350

Victorian Order of Nurses 100

Baie d'Urfe Day 100

Road Signs 350

Town Hall Repairs 800

Recreation Facilities 1,000

Tree Planting 200

\$20,070

POSTAL NOTES

Once again its time to send out those Christmas cards and parcels. The information below is for your guidance and is forwarded as a service to you from your postmaster. R.C. Vidler.

Please bear in mind that the salary of your postmaster is based on the sale of stamps sold by him annually and you are asked to please patronize him as much as possible during this and every season of the year.

For Local delivery please mail your letters and cards before Dec. 17th.

For all mail leaving the Province of Quebec use the figure that follows the destination point as your mailing date from this office.

United States Dec. 8th --- Newfoundland Dec. 12 --- Maritimes Dec. 15---
Quebec Dec. 15 --- Ontario Dec. 15 --- Manitoba Dec. 14 --- Saskatchewan
Dec. 12--- Alberta Dec. 12 --- British Columbia Dec. 12.

Greeting cards in Sealed envelopes 4 cents

Greeting cards in unsealed envelopes 2 cents

Post cards not in envelope 3 cents

All parcels over 8 ounces to United States require declaration forms.

BAIE D'URFE BUYERS' GUIDE

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