

# Pontiac Council - public river accesses needed

Mo Laidlaw

The regular monthly meeting of Pontiac municipal council was held on 8 June 2021 at 7:30 pm, by teleconference. About 10 members of the public joined council and director general Pierre Said.

## Public input

Wendy Ryan asked for an update on the plan for the lots acquired by the Municipality due to flooding (many are in Plage Bélisle). “We have one resident who has been waiting since 2017 to buy an adjacent lot so that he can update his septic system (approved by the Ministry of Public Security) but there’s no decision yet from the municipality. We have other residents in our neighbourhood who would like extra land and to buy and maintain some of the lots. The grass and noxious weeds on these lots are encouraging the breeding of mosquitoes and ticks.” Mayor Joanne Labadie replied that Council is discussing this and waiting for advice from Municipal Affairs. “There’s been input from various residents, some of whom want these lots to remain public land. If lots are put up for sale they may have to be offered to everyone.”

Ryan also asked about plans for public access to the Ottawa River. “The lack of public access causes people to enter private beach communities looking for access to the river. Outsiders drive through our neighbourhood, often speeding, making it dangerous for children. The extra traffic also causes more wear and tear on our private road which we have to repair and maintain. Sometimes people from outside our community park their trucks, trailers, and boats here for the summer season, blocking access for local residents. If the Municipality maintained a couple of official access points to the river, at Tremblay and de la Sapinière, for example, this would help decrease the issues that we're facing. The access point at the end of ch Tremblay is blocked and there were signs at the end of de la Sapinière prohibiting parking there. Please tell us your plan for public access to the Ottawa River.”

Labadie explained that the Ministry of Environment has jurisdiction over access to the Ottawa River. A new conforming launch ramp will be installed at the end of Tremblay but meanwhile the only public access is in Quyon, where the docks are presently inaccessible because the water level is unusually low. There is no public access at the end of de la Sapinière - vandals removed the signs. She suggests that private road associations should put up signs indicating that there is no access to the river, no parking etc.

Camille Beaufort had more questions about de la Sapinière, whether gravel will be added, and problems with beavers causing flooding. Labadie replied that grading will be done and calcium spread to reduce dust. Permits are needed to deal with beavers but Public works is working on this. She repeated that the beach at the end is not a municipal beach and not authorized for boat launching by the Ministry of Environment.

Jean Amyotte and Marie-Anne Larose asked about the splash pad for Quyon recreation park. “Is this in the flood zone? What is the water source?” Labadie said it is located in the 20 to 100 year flood zone, but the Ministry of the Environment and the manufacturer have said this is not a problem. A flat area is needed. It will be paid for using part of a grant of \$67,000 from the Ministry of Education, with the municipality putting in an equal amount, mostly in labour. Municipal water is required, at a cost of about \$2 to \$3 a day.

Larose also commented about ATV users going off trails. ATVs are not allowed on public land or snowmobile trails. The MRC police are working with the municipality on this.

### **Financial report and official name**

The mayor gave a few highlights of the audited financial report and stated that all Ponticois/ Ponticoises will receive her presentation in the mail next week. This is the French name for residents of the municipality. A majority of councillors supported a request to the Commission de la toponymie to make this official. The English term Pontiacers may still be used unofficially. Councillor Maxsom asked if this has to do with moving to the MRC Pontiac (No) and voted against.

### **Municipal elections**

A list of fees to be paid to numerous election officials was approved. There will be polling stations at Quyon, Luskville and Breckenridge as before, as well as one at Lac des Loups run by La Pêche. Councillor McDonald asked about the amount of the fees and was told that Chelsea pays a bit more and Val des Monts almost double. A resolution was passed to allow seniors and others to vote by mail.

### **Public works**

A digital meter from Garant équipement (Système Saphir) for \$4,331 will be added to the gasoline and diesel tanks at the Luskville garage to record the vehicle, litres, time, and name of employee using the pump. Installation will be done by Lauriault Électrique for \$2,790. Chemin Kilroy which ran between 5th concession and Mackechnie, in the far west of the municipality, but was cut in two by a washout many years ago, is closed permanently.

### **Planning**

A new MRC bylaw on animals, adding rules on dangerous dogs to comply with recent provincial law, was passed by a majority with councillor Maxsom voting against, although some of her comments had been incorporated in the bylaw.

The plans to build single family homes by owners of 104 and 116 ch de l'Aventure, were approved.

Two requests for minor variances were approved, to regularize existing buildings on lots smaller than now allowed, at 99 ch Desjardins and 373 cr Lelièvre.

### **Public safety**

A new MRC bylaw, setting standards for fire safety was passed.

### **Expenses approved:**

\$75,407 to Simexco for the water play structure for Quyon. Councillor McDonald voted against.

\$49,368 to Jambette for play structures for the Quyon park, the lowest of two bids.

\$31,733 to Groupe Brunet/Béton Brunet for 6 concrete bases for ball field lighting at the Luskville park, the only conforming bid.

A \$500 scholarship for a student at Pontiac High School.

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The municipal website is [www.municipalitepontiac.com](http://www.municipalitepontiac.com)