



# Low Chronicle

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Winter 2011-2012

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Dear Reader,

We hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter about your community. If you would like to make any suggestions or submit any story ideas, please contact us at 819-422-3528 or email us at [info@lowquebec.ca](mailto:info@lowquebec.ca)

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to each and every one of you.

From Municipal Council and staff.

## New Fire Truck for Low

The Low Fire Department became the proud new owners of a very shiny fire truck in October 2011. The combination pumper/tanker is an essential addition to the fleet that now features one pumper truck, one emergency services van, a tanker and the new truck.

Deputy Fire Chief, Ghyslain Robert, was thrilled to be part of the acquisition process, "This truck is a long time coming. Our fire department needs upgraded equipment if we are going to respond effectively to emergencies." This acquisition is part of the first phase of a life cycle renewal plan that the fire department is working to finalize this spring. The plan will cover the next ten years and address the need to renew equipment on a regular schedule.

Six fire fighters have completed the Fire fighter course mandated by the government and seven more are presently enrolled in the course. This should give the Low Fire Department an extra edge in terms of overall competencies.

Several more fire fighters will be embarking on a

pumper truck course, which will also add to the skill set that already exists in our volunteer fire department.

At the moment there are 21 fire fighters on the force, two of whom are women, Maureen Rice and Ellen Brownrigg. There are no more places on the slate, but if people are interested in putting their name on a waiting list, then by all means contact Dave Fitzpatrick or Ghyslain Robert at the fire hall.



Fire fighter team spirit!

## Municipal Staff Changes

As you know, there have been some significant staff changes at the municipality. Liette Hickey, who held the position of Director General for 25 years, decided that the addition of twin boys to the family fold was just too exciting to ignore. She accepted the part-time position of Assistant Treasurer in favour of spending more time with her grandchildren. It's a

win-win for everyone involved, including the new Director General, Franceska Gnarowski. "Thank goodness Liette is still here. Her knowledge of the municipality is encyclopedic. I can't believe she did this job on her own."

Hélène Desjardins and Normand Schnob remain on the team in

the office, as do Brian Mahoney, John Emery, and Dale Ramsay in Public Works.





## Upcoming Events

### Don't Miss Christmas Brunch with Santa!

Join Santa and his elves for a home made brunch for all kids, big and small, old and young. Price \$10 /person. December 4, 2011. Please call 819-422-1727 for tickets.

### Annual Christmas Supper

The ACU is hosting their annual Christmas Supper and Dance featuring *Hanks Hangovers* at Heritage Hall December 10th, Special guest performers include St-Michael's

School Choir and some of our finest ballet dancers. The event starts at 5PM and tickets are \$15/person. For more information please contact Pat Ashton 819-463-3547 or Brenda Girling at 819-422-1865

### United Church Home-made Christmas Luncheon

November 27th at Low United Church from 11-2PM. Tickets \$10/person and \$5/child. For information call Gail Draper at 819-422-3877

### New Year's Eve

Celebrate the new year with a catered dinner and dance featuring live music from Bacon Tree. Tickets for dinner and dance \$25 and for dance only \$10. To get your tickets; please call Mike Desmarais at 819-422-1727 or John Cahill at 819-422-1378.

### St-Patrick's Day

Saturday, March 17th, 2012 at Heritage Hall. For more info call Mike Desmarais or John Cahill—numbers above!

## We will remember them

John J. McGoey

Lila Cuddikey Hogan

Helen Coyle McLaughlin

Muriel Stevenson Smith

Diana Stewart Van Duyse

Mary Gannon Brennan

Bradon Leslie

Francis Murray Morris

Lucie O'Connor Valentine

Theresa Colleen Desormeaux

Catherine Bridget O'Neill

Joseph Roger Caron

Ida Monette

*"... we all shine on, like the moon and the stars and the sun..."*

-John Lennon-



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!

## Weddings, Birthdays, Births

Congratulations to **Caroline Madrid** and **Jason Maloney**, who were married at St-Martin's this past summer.

Double welcome to twins **Decklan** and **Evan Maloney**, sons of Natasha and Eric Maloney.

**Winston Peter Moir** came into this world in August, son

of Wendy Salisbury and Michael Moir.

**Tessa Sage Salisbury** is a welcome addition to the home of Jean Salisbury and Sarah Cheslock.

Congratulations to **Aurèle Normand** and **Thérèse Marleau** who celebrated 50 years of wedded harmony this

past summer.

Belated **birthday greetings** to:

Lina Lacharity, Beverly Von Baeyer, Martha Morris, Yolande Stewart, Cecelia Salisbury, Mona Monette, Yvette Roy, Elva Morris, Marcelle St-Jean.

# Mayor's Report—2011

**Municipal Finances:** The auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2010 showed a surplus of \$167,937. From this surplus, Council appropriated an amount of \$66 000 directly to the 2011 budget and reserved other amounts for capital projects. Council approved a budget of \$1,840,353 for the year 2011 (\$1,741,376 in 2010). Presently, we anticipate a surplus for 2011.

**Salaries:** The Mayor's salary is \$7,594 plus \$100 per month for meetings and for councilors it is \$2,531 plus \$50 per month for meetings. These salaries include cost of living increases.

**Roads:** Staff and contractors carried out drainage and foundation works at various locations in the municipality. A lot of this work was made possible through a grant of \$65,000 from Mrs. Stéphanie Vallée, our provincial Member of the National Assembly. The gas tax program has provided our municipality with the capacity to invest approximately \$225,000 in our roads, this past summer. The balance of the work will be completed in 2012-13.

**Administration:** Employees received a salary increase in line with the Consumer Price Index increase for the previous year.

**Fire protection/Police:** Firefighters conducted regular practice sessions to maintain skill levels and safety standards, and undertook several community awareness activities. As indicated last year, we added a 2012 pumper/tanker truck to our fleet of emergency vehicles this past summer. It is fully paid for. Our cost for policing services in 2011 was \$145,646, an increase of \$2,663 over 2010.

**Environment:** Our municipal water systems delivered good quality water throughout the year. More than 170 households in our municipality took advantage of our regional septic-waste treatment plant by having their systems pumped in 2011. Our partnership in this facility is generating important cost savings for property owners emptying their septic systems.

**Planning/Development:** The declared value of permits issued to the end of October in 2011 is up from 2010 at \$1,341,200, representing stable growth in our municipality.

**Recreation/Library:** Council continues to support volunteers in our recreation clubs and seniors' organizations. The library continues to be successful.

**Contracts:** As required by law, a list of contracts awarded by the municipal corporation is available for review in the municipal office during regular working hours.

**The 2012 budget** will be presented at a special meeting planned for 7:30 p.m., Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Heritage Hall, 4C, chemin D'Amour, Low. Council welcomes your presence at this meeting.

I would like to thank members of Council who have and will contribute to managing our ongoing cost pressures and moving our community forward; our staff for surpassing our expectations, our volunteers in the Arena Association, Lions Club, and social and recreation groups, without whose efforts this community would be much poorer; and particularly our volunteer firefighter team who are always ready to protect us when the occasion demands it.

**GIVEN AT LOW, Province of Quebec**, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 2011.

Morris O'Connor, Mayor

## Municipality of Low

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### Staff

Franceska Gnarowski, Director General

Liette Hickey, Assistant Treasurer

Hélène Desjardins, Administrative Assistant

Normand Schnob, Director Public Works/  
Inspector

Brian Mahoney, Dale Ramsay, John Emery,  
Albert Maloney, Steve Kelly

### Members of Council

Mayor: Morris O'Connor

### Administration

Theresa van Erp, Carole Robert

### Roads

Charles Kealey, Theresa van Erp

### Public Safety

Carole Robert, Maureen Rice

### Hygiene/Environment

Albert Kealey, Maureen Rice

### Planning & Development

Amanda St-Jean, Charles Kealey

### Recreation & Culture

Maureen Rice, Albert Kealey



## Bits & Bobs

The Municipality now offers the possibility of paying your taxes through Interac or on the Internet using on-line banking.

*Heritage Hall can be booked through our office by calling 819-422-3528 or by coming in person to the municipal offices.*

The Library is open Wednesday from 8AM-noon and Friday from 6-8PM. Please note that volunteers are needed. If you are interested please call 819-422-3528.

*Please remember that 9-1-1 is for emergencies only!*

Are your chimneys clean? We've got brushes if you need them!

*Fire alarms save lives. Make sure yours are in working order.*

### COUNCIL MEETINGS 2012

January 16th

February 6th

March 5th

April 2nd

May 7th

June 4th

July 9th

August 7th

September 10th

October 1st

November 5th

December 3rd



### We recycle:

Paint, used motor oil in their containers and filters too.

**Batteries:** AA, AAA, C, D, 6 and 9 volt and rechargeable ones too.

**Electronic devices:** computers, laptops, TV, cell phones, old stereos etc...

*All these items can be brought to the Municipal Office from Monday to Friday between 8AM and 3PM.*

### Looking forward

Keep an eye out for our next newsletter in the spring. Please do not hesitate to give us story ideas or information about upcoming events, initiatives, calls for volunteers, special occasions, birthdays, anniversaries or anything you think should be in here.