



Low Chronicle

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Winter 2012-2013

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Dear Lowite,

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

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

From Municipal Council and staff.

The Future of St. Michael's School

By now you've heard that the Planning and Review Committee of the Western Quebec School Board (WQSB) is recommending the closure of our beloved St. Michael's High School. There is no doubt that the impact of such a closure would be felt throughout the community for years to come, which is why we're asking everyone, young and older, French and English, to come together to fight for this incredibly important community asset. Here are some of the reasons Council supported a motion objecting the proposed closure at a regular meeting held November 5th:

- * St. Michael's High School provides essential educational services to youth from 11 municipalities;
- * St. Michael's is **the only** English-language rural high school between Gatineau and Maniwaki;
- * 53% of the students benefit from excellent teaching and resources for students with special needs within a small school environment;
- * St. Michael's High School is one of the top academically successful schools within the WQSB;
- * The school's enrolment has increased over the past five years and currently runs at maximum capacity, despite no catchment area boundaries;
- * St. Michael's High School provides a highly successful alternative outdoor education program which includes hockey, cross-country skiing, canoeing, survival camping, snowshoeing, baseball, basketball, soccer and skating;



- * St. Michael's High School is home to the Community Learning Centre for the region, which has successfully launched much needed programming for the rural community;
- * St. Michael's High School provides work placement opportunities for youth who will not follow an academic track through its Work Oriented Training Pathway (WOTP);
- * 90% of St. Michael's High School students graduate through its Secondary school programs, 50% of which go onto higher education.

These are just a few of the reasons we hope will inspire you to help us keep this school open. Please check out the Facebook page for upcoming news and to keep abreast of developments:

www.facebook.com/FutureOfStMichaels

Neighbourhood Watch

Following a summer of almost nightly disturbances on our streets, people demanded change.

You'll be pleased to know that after working with Interim Director, Alain Langevin of the Sûreté du Québec as well as other representatives of the police, members of our community stepped up to the plate and formed a **Neighbourhood Watch / Bon**

voisin, Bon œil Committee.

The chair is François Beauvolks, who is joined by Della Fitzpatrick, Lorie Carroll, Claude Auger and Melissa Charron.

Neighbourhood Watch is about knowing your community, who comes and goes and the general rhythm of your street. When there is a disturbance, neighbours support each other and

report the incident to the police.

If you're interested in joining, please call 819-422-3528 to let us know.

Be Safe this Holiday Season!

Also see our Events listed on Facebook!



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. **December 16th** from 8AM-11AM at Heritage Hall. Please call 819-422-1727 for tickets.

United Church Homemade Christmas Luncheon

November 25th at Low United Church from 11am-2pm. Tickets \$10/person. For information, call Gail Draper at 819-422-3877.

Christmas in the Gatineau

The ACU is hosting their annual Christmas Supper and Dance at Heritage Hall **December 8th**, Special guest performers *Hank Hangover* and St. Michael's School Choir. Starts at 5pm; tickets are \$15/person for dinner and dance.

For information please contact Pat Ashton 819-463-3547 or Brenda Girling at 819-422-1865

Gatineau Valley Skating Club Registration for 2013

Saturday **Dec. 8th** 8am-1pm

Tues. **Dec 11th** from 5-8pm

Central Gatineau Arena—Low Brennan's Hill Seniors' Christmas Supper

Saturday, **December 1st** at Heritage Hall. Dinner and dance \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members.

Call Linda Charron now to reserve your spot at 819-422-3537.

St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, **March 16th** at Heritage Hall. Live band! Call Mike Desmarais at 819-422-1727

We will remember them

- Catherine-Mary McLaughlin-Gibson
- Vincent Rooney
- Gerald Murray
- Gerald Rooney
- Brian McLaughlin



-John Lennon

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

Arena News



Upcoming events for this **20th year** include: minor hockey tournaments at the start of December and at the end of January; a ladies tournament in mid February; and our classic year-end activities such as the Annual Figure Skating Show on **March 23rd** and Year-end Hockey Tournaments in late March and early April.

www.central-gatineau-arena.com
The Arena has a brand new website! You'll find the detailed ice booking schedule and the list of current volunteer needs. Get involved!

Weddings & Births

Congratulations to **Lisa Kelly** and **Sean Conners**, who were married at Our Lady of Sorrows in Venosta in July.

Emmanuel Kealey, grandson to **Charles** and **Sheila Kealey**, was baptized at Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

Darcy Martin is a welcome third grandson for **Jim** and **Judy Carroll**.

Kathleen Wilson gave birth to **Ethan Olsson**, first grandchild for **Bill** and **Terry Wilson**.

Congratulations to **Melissa Wilson** and **Tommy Roberts** who were married at St. Martin's Church in August.

More felicitations go out to **Christine Leslie** and **Jonathan Larocque**, who also tied the knot this past September.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Mayor's Year-End Report—2012

Municipal Finances: The auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2011 showed a surplus of \$100,331. From this surplus, Council appropriated an amount of \$45,000 directly to the 2012 budget and reserved \$50,000 for the auto pumper fire truck. Council approved a budget of \$1,874,252 for the year 2012 (\$1,840,353 in 2011). Presently, a surplus is anticipated for 2012.

Salaries: The Mayor's salary was \$7,814.28 in 2012, plus \$100 per month for meetings; for councillors, it is \$2,604.06 plus \$50 per month for meetings. These amounts 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 \$50,000 from Ms. Stéphanie Vallée, Gatineau riding's representative in the National Assembly. The 2012 Gas Tax Program provided the Municipality with the capacity to invest approximately \$500,000 in municipal roads over four years, with the Municipality's investment at \$102,928. The balance of the work will be completed in 2013.

Administration: Employees received a salary increase in line with the Consumer Price Index increase for 2011.

Fire Safety & Policing: Low Fire Department firefighters conducted regular practice sessions to maintain their skill levels and safety standards, and undertook several community awareness activities. A brand new 2012 pumper-truck was added to the LFD fleet of emergency vehicles this past summer, for which a borrowing bylaw was adopted to amortize payment over 15 years; the amount will be included in your taxes in 2013. The Municipality's share for Sûreté du Québec services was \$148,777 in 2012, an increase of \$3,131 over 2011.

Hygiene & Environment: The municipal water systems delivered good quality water throughout 2012. More than 186 households in Low took advantage of our regional septic waste treatment plant by having their systems pumped in 2012, an increase of 16 households. Blue recycle bins were also provided to all households in the Municipality; as a result, we're already seeing an increase in recycling and a decrease in waste poundage.

Planning & Development: The declared value of permits issued to the end of October in 2012 is up from 2011 at \$1,664,300, representing stable growth in the Municipality.

Recreation, Culture & Library: Council continues to support volunteers in our numerous recreation clubs and seniors' groups. The library continues to be successful with the addition of four new computers, a new layout, new hours and more activities.

Contracts: As required by Law, a list of contracts awarded by the Municipal Corporation of Low is available for review in the municipal office during regular working hours.

The 2013 budget will be presented at a special meeting planned for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, **December 13th** 2012 at the Heritage Hall, 4C d'Amour Road, Low. The Council welcomes your presence at this meeting.

I would personally like to thank members of Council who contribute to managing our ongoing cost pressures and who are committed to moving our community forward; our staff for surpassing all expectations; our volunteers in the Arena Association, Lions Club, and social and recreation groups, without whose efforts this community would be much poorer and last but not least, our gratitude goes to our volunteer firefighter team who are always ready to protect us when the occasion demands it.

GIVEN AT LOW, Province of Quebec, this 5th day of November 2012.

Morris O'Connor, Mayor

Municipality of Low

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Franceska Gnarowski, Director General

Liette Hickey, Assistant Treasurer

Hélène Desjardins, Administrative assistant

Lise Legros, Library

Julie Cameron, Administrative assistant

Normand Schnob, 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, Amanda St. Jean

Planning & Development

Amanda St. Jean, Charles Kealey

Recreation & Culture

Maureen Rice, Albert Kealey



Bits & Bobs

New Library Hours:

Monday 8AM-Noon

Wednesday 8AM-Noon

Friday 6PM-8PM

Saturday 10AM-1PM

The library has some fresh offerings such as new computers, a genealogy club, cultural activities and author visits. Come and see for your self!

The Heritage Hall can be rented through our office by calling 819-422-3528 or booking in person.

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 2013

January 14th

February 4th

March 4th

April 1nd

May 6th

June 3th

July 8th

August 6th

September 9th

October 7th

November 4th

December 2nd

Summer Residents:

Keep your recycling bin in good shape by storing it for the winter away from the elements!

We recycle:

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

Batteries: AA, AAA, C, D, 6 and 9 volt and rechargeables.

Electronic devices: computers, laptops, TV, cell phones, old stereos

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 share story ideas or information on anything you think is fit to print!