



Low Chronicle

VOLUME III, ISSUE I

Winter 2014

New Municipal Library

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From Municipal Council and staff.

Good things come in small packages

The municipal library has been relocated to the space that used to house the Caisse Populaire Desjardins. True, it's a smaller space, but we now have actual daylight streaming into the rooms through the many windows that provide a view of the outdoors and the library is accessible to all. Thanks to a grant from the Caisse Populaire Desjardins we have added more shelving. As a result, the library holds some 3000 volumes that are rotated in a regular basis. There's a working table as well as a separate room where clients can access the Internet through Wi-Fi free of charge. We offer DVDs of contemporary movies, children's books, bestsellers, cookbooks, magazines and more. Clients may also request books from other libraries.

With the addition of volunteers, we are able to keep the library open for a few more hours per week and we're always on the lookout for more volunteers, so if you love books, seeing

people and the colour blue, please don't hesitate to let us know you'd be interested in helping out! Remember that membership is free, so please come and see what a wonderful place our little library is for everyone!

Library Hours:

Monday 8AM-12PM

Wednesday 8AM-4PM (closed for lunch between 12PM and 1PM)

Friday 1PM-4PM and 6PM-8PM

Saturday 10AM-1PM

OPEN HOUSE

You're invited to help us celebrate the new library on Friday, November 29th between 6:00PM and 8:00PM. Come and meet your fellow library enthusiasts, the volunteers and the supporters who make this little library the gem that it is.

New Council

On November 3, 2013, 430 citizens of Low came out to vote in a new municipal council. The mayor and one councillor had already been elected by acclamation leaving 5 seats to fill. An all candidates meeting was held on October 22 in the evening to provide voters with an opportunity to hear the candidates speak about their priorities and concerns. The event was presided over

by Michael Francis and attended by approximately 80 people. Many of the candidates communicated directly with voters by either going door-to-door or by sending flyers to all residents of Low. All of the candidates had the municipality's best interests at heart, making the choices even more challenging as people filled their ballots.

The result is a council with 4 new faces and three not so new faces.

Mayor: Morris O'Connor

Seat 1: Joanne Mayer

Seat 2: Lynn Visentin

Seat 3: Amanda St-Jean

Seat 4: Michèle Logue-Wakeling

Seat 5: Christopher Brownrigg

Seat 6: Charles Kealey

Also see our Events listed on Facebook!



Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas – lyrics

Music composed by Hugh Martin, lyrics by Ralph Blane

*Have yourself a merry little Christmas,
Let your heart be light
From now on,
our troubles will be out of sight*

*Have yourself a merry little Christmas,
Make the Yule-tide gay,
From now on,
our troubles will be miles away.*

*Here we are as in olden days,
Happy golden days of yore.
Faithful friends who are dear to us
Gather near to us once more.*

*Through the years
We all will be together,
If the Fates allow
Hang a shining star upon the
highest bough.
And have yourself A merry little
Christmas now.*

Upcoming Events

Christmas Dinner and Dance
Saturday, November 23rd,
2013

Heritage Hall

Brennan’s Hill Seniors Xmas dinner and dance. Live music plus turkey and fixings all for the price of \$15 if you’re a member. Non-members pay \$20. Contact Linda Charron at 819-422-3537.

Christmas in the Gatineau—20th Anniversary—
ACU

Saturday, December 14th,
2013 at Heritage Hall
Dinner and music. Tickets \$15 for adults, children under 12 \$6. Please call Liette Hickey at 819-422-3528 for tickets.

Free Skate with Santa!
Sunday, December 8th,
2013 from noon-1PM at
the Low Arena.
Bring the kids for some

light refreshments and a few turns around the rink!

Low Library
Open House (see page 1)
Friday, November 29, 2013
Library next door to municipal office. 6PM-8PM
Come and see your new library. Light refreshments will be served.



We will remember them

William Wilson

Beverley von Baeyer

Colleen Henry Robertson

Bertha Mahoney Gannon

Willis Donald Begley

John Walter Moan

Jacques Gendron

Gilda O’Connor Sullivan

Leonard Joseph McLaughlin

Rita McGoey Verdon

Jo-Ann McLaughlin Safruck

Robert Safruck

Helen Agnes Cuddihy Major

Mary-Ellen McCorkell

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

-John Lennon

THANK YOU

Albert Kealey
Maureen Rice
Theresa van Erp

For the many years of service to the community as members of council. Good luck in future projects!

-Municipal staff-

Tax rebate and other info

We made a mistake on your 2013 tax bill. We charged you \$38 per blue bin when we should have charged you \$24.60 per bin. Look for a **rebate of \$13.40** on your 2014 tax bill. Apologies for the inconvenience!

The **Municipal Depot** is now closed for the season. We will let you know when it opens in our spring 2014 issue.

Brian Mahoney, an employee of the municipality for over 20 years, has taken his retirement. We thank him

for his dedication and wish him well in future endeavours.

We are pleased to welcome **Stephen Kelly** as a full time employee of the Public Works team.

Mayor's Annual Report 2013

Municipal Finances: The auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2012 showed a surplus of \$110,000. From this surplus, Council reserved the amount of \$40,000 for the gas tax in 2014, \$20,346 for the cleaning of the library following the flood, \$10,000 for the rectory project (over two years) and the balance remains unreserved in anticipation of the budget 2014 exercise. Council approved a budget of \$1,987,092 for 2013 (compared to \$1,874,252 in 2012).

Salaries: The Mayor's salary was \$7,908.28 in 2013, plus \$100 per month for meetings; for councillors, it is \$2,636.28 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. Some of the paving was made possible through a grant of \$40,000 from Ms. Stéphanie Vallée, Gatineau riding's representative in the National Assembly. The 2009-2013 Gas Tax Program provided the Municipality with the capacity to invest approximately \$500,000 in municipal roads over four years, including the Municipality's investment of \$102,928. The work has now been completed. It is anticipated that the program will continue in 2014.

Administration: Employees received a salary increase in line with the Consumer Price Index increase for 2012.

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. In 2013, Council agreed to assist the Municipality of Denholm with fire emergencies; consequently the Low Fire Department has been assisting Denholm when necessary. The Municipality's share for Sûreté du Québec services was \$160,955 in 2013, an increase of \$12,178 over 2012.

Environment: The municipal water systems delivered good quality water throughout 2013. More than 136 households in Low took advantage of our regional septic waste treatment plant by having their systems pumped in 2013.

Planning & Development: The declared value of permits issued to the end of October in 2013 is up from 2012 at \$1,748,892, representing stable growth in the Municipality.

Recreation, Culture & Library: Council continues to support volunteers in our numerous recreation clubs and seniors' groups. The library has moved into the old Caisse Populaire Desjardins location. A donation from the Caisse Populaire Desjardins has paid for added shelving. Though smaller, the library is now accessible and contains more than 3000 volumes that are rotated on a regular basis.

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 2014 budget will be presented at a **special meeting** planned for **7:00 p.m., Thursday December 19th** at the Heritage Hall, 4C d'Amour Road, Low. 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 moving our community forward; our staff for their consistent support and professionalism; our volunteers in the Arena Association, Lions Club, the Low Cultural Association 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 12th day of November 2013.

Morris O'Connor—Mayor

Municipality of Low

4A d'Amour Road

Low, QC J0X 2C0

Phone: 819-422-3528

Fax: 819-422-3796

E-mail: info@lowquebec.ca

www.lowquebec.ca

Franceska Gnarowski, Director General/
Secretary Treasurer

Liette Hickey, Assistant Finance

Hélène Desjardins, Administrative assistant

Lise Legros, Library

Normand Schnob, Public Works/ Inspector

Dale Ramsay, John Emery, Albert Maloney,

Stephen Kelly

Members of Council

Mayor: Morris O'Connor

Administration

Joanne Mayer, Lynn Visentin

Roads

Charles Kealey, Michèle Logue-Wakeling

Public Safety

Michèle Logue-Wakeling, Amanda St. Jean

Environment

Christopher Brownrigg, Joanne Mayer

Planning & Development

Amanda St. Jean, Charles Kealey

Recreation & Culture

Lynn Visentin, Christopher Brownrigg

Bits & Bobs

New Library Hours

Monday 8AM-Noon

Wednesday 8AM-4PM

Friday 1PM-4PM & 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 yourself!

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 2014

January 13th

February 3rd

March 3rd

April 7th

May 5th

June 2nd

July 7th

August 11th

September 8th

October 6th

November 3rd

December 2nd

Summer Residents:

Keep your private roads in good shape to ensure that emergency vehicles can get there if need be.

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.