

INFO MERCIER

FALL 2014
Volume 47

Starting this fall, *Mercier* celebrates its history

Mercier is getting ready to party during the next year. Indeed, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the change from being town to city in 2014. Also, in 2015, we will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the parish of Ste-Philomène. Mercier will be covered with its best finery for the occasion! Moreover, members of the City Council and I are proud to be involved in these celebrations and celebrating our history with our fellow citizens.

A bit of history

First, it was on May 6th, 1964 that the village of Sainte-Philomène (the latter will change its name to Mercier only in 1968) will get its legal city status to become the City of Sainte-Philomène. This change will allow the new city to develop, among other things, its economy since before the 60s; Sainte-Philomène lived mainly from agriculture. Moreover, we must emphasize the important contribution of the 32 founders of the Chamber of Commerce of Sainte-Philomène members who bequeathed to us, 50 years ago, the foundations of our current city.

If we can celebrate this city's 50th anniversary, it is because a simple cross was erected in the village of Saint-Philomène 175 years ago, debuting the story of our parish.

Much water has run over the dam since then, but our community can be proud of the rich patrimonial heritage, but also of a place where it feels good to live. It is in this spirit that the organisation comity was created to celebrate both events. Moreover, the City Council wishes to emphasize the dynamism of the organizing committee consisting of Mr Daniel Melançon, Mrs Ginette Viau, Mr Claude Racine, Mrs Stéphanie Dumas, Mr Serge Marticotte, Mr Louis Cimon, chaired by Mr. Mario Primeau.

I also want to thank in particular Mrs. Mariette Dorais Pitre who agreed to be the honorary president of the festivities as well as all the volunteers who will make these celebrations successful.

I therefore invite you to watch the schedule of festivities that will begin in October. You will receive the complete program at home via a special edition of Info Mercier. In addition, you will find on our website a specific section about the festivities of the 50th and 175th.



Looking forward to celebrating
our history with you.

Lise Michaud, Mayor



*Mr. Mario Primeau, president of organisation comity
and Mrs Mariette Dorais Pitre, honorary president.*

Echoes of the Council

During its last meetings, the Council has:

- Mandated the firm TechnoRem inc. to act as an expert in hydrogeology in the proceedings before the Commission for the protection of agricultural land and those subject to any other agency or court in connection with the request for establishment of a career (dynamiting);
- Formed a negotiating committee, on which sit Lise Michaud, Mayor, Rene Chalifoux, Director and Clerk, Philippe Drolet, councillor and Louis Cimon, councillor between the Town of Mercier, Clean Harbors and the Government of Quebec in the file of the contamination;
- Nominated Mrs Ana Claudia Oliveira, Eng. MR. Ing., PMP, Director of Public Works;
- Nominated Mrs. Julie Chabanel, project manager at the Planning Department;
- Mandated Lise Michaud, Mayor, and Mr. René Chalifoux, Director and Clerk in order to analyze the implementation of an independent Police Service for the City of Mercier;
- Resolved to request the Government of Quebec to allow for a level 1 Police Service on the territory of the City of Mercier as are entitled to the cities less than 100,000 citizens across Quebec;
- Granted a mandate to TRAK, a public safety consulting firm so that it is analyzing the feasibility of implementing an independent police service within the city of Mercier.

Traffic lights at the intersection of Josime-Pelletier and Saint-Jean-Baptiste

Following negotiations between Sobeys, Transports Québec and the City of Mercier, work to install new permanent traffic lights will be undertaken and completed by the end of fall 2014.

Branch pick-up on October 14th

(and subsequent days)

The municipality is providing its citizens with a branch pick-up service on October 14th.

Branches must be placed in a stack on the side of the road and piled in a way to facilitate pick-up. Therefore we ask that you place all the branches in the same direction. Trunks must be cut and face the street and only branches with a diameter inferior to 6 inches will be picked up. Soil, rocks, metal, or construction material will not be collected.

Deposit branches on the side of the road: Monday October 13 after 8 p.m.

Branch pick-up: Tuesday October 14th startind at 7 a.m.
(and subsequent days)

Maximum diameter for branches: 6 inches

Major work

upcoming on 138

Note that major work will take place this fall on Boulevard Saint-Jean-Baptiste, between St-Laurent and the pumping station (1149, boul. Saint-Jean-Baptiste).

We invite you to visit our web information capsule or our Facebook fan page to learn about ways to help you get around in this area during work.

www.ville.mercier.qc.ca/travaux
[facebook.com/VilledeMercier](https://www.facebook.com/VilledeMercier)

Aqueduct network flushing

The City of Mercier wishes to ensure the maintenance of quality of its drinking water distribution service. In order to do so, it is important to flush the aqueduct network. Employees of the Public Works department will be carrying out this task from September 22th to October 17th.

During this period your clothes or dishes become stained with rust, you can obtain, at no extra cost, a cleaning product (Red-B-Gone) at City Hall or municipal garage during regular business hours (Monday to Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday 8: a.m. to 12 p.m.)

The City of Mercier can not be held liable for damages caused by the work of flushing.

For more information: 450 691-6090

Public transportation is our *priority*

There is one issue that is very important to us: public transportation. A formidable challenge is laying ahead of us in 2015. We want to increase the amount of services while maintaining the same level of quality. Furthermore, we hope that these improvements do not negatively affect the tax burden of citizens. This is an ambitious challenge, since we believe that the development of a standard of enriching living for a municipality must include a mobility of all its citizens. We conducted a consultation on the needs of the population last spring and we anticipate presenting the results of our work this fall.

I wish you a great fall and I remain available to meet you.

Philippe Drolet,
Councillor district 4



Cultural *policy*

Early in my term, Mrs. Michaud has entrusted me with the responsibility to evaluate the possibility of establishing a cultural policy for the City of Mercier. To make sure that this project reflects accurately the needs and values of citizens, I will begin, starting this fall, various consultations with the public, which will help us determine how the City of Mercier can be a partner to support the production and the distribution of local artworks. I therefore take this opportunity to appeal to all concerned, whether amateur or professional artists, passionate about culture and heritage and lovers of cultural leisure activities to participate in consultation sessions.

For all those who want to be part of this great adventure, do not hesitate to contact me.

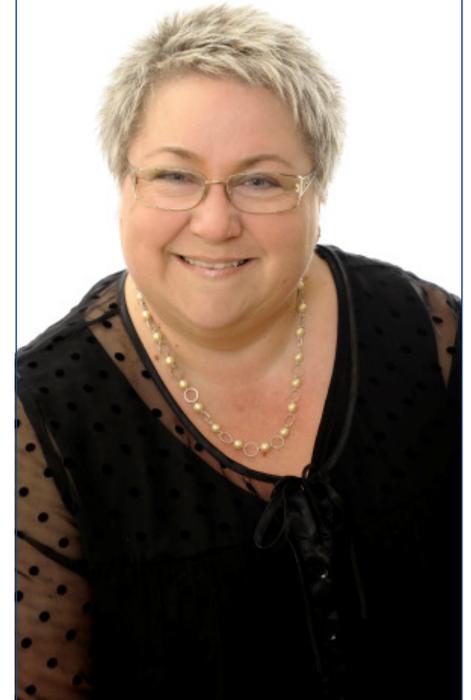
Anik Sauvé,
Councillor district 3



Mercier is adopting a strategic planning

In recent months, the city staff, together with the City Council, undertook a strategic planning process. Together, we plan the goals we want to achieve and ways to achieve them. This reflexion will help decisions for the years to come. We firmly believe that this approach will help us to respond positively to the changes and challenges we will face. With a good game plan, achievement of objectives becomes possible!

Johanne Anderson,
Councillor district 2



Summary

financial report 2013

Here are the highlights of the financial report for the year 2013.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Incomes	ACTUAL	
Expenditures and reserve	\$ 15 869 535	14 911 904
SURPLUS 2013	\$ 957 631	

Compared to estimates, the annual surplus in 2013 is explained as follows:

> INCREMENTAL REVENUES

Waste material	\$ 267 000	
Revenues RIAVC - Leaks	109 000	
Grants and subsidies	89 000	
Taxes, estate transfer taxes and licence	75 000	
Bank and mortgage interests and tax arrears	26 000	
Fire prevention	20 000	
Dispositions of Capital Property	(40 000)	
Revenues RIAVC - Agreement	(21 000)	
Fines - Municipal Court	(10 000)	
Revenues - Watercourse	43 000	
Revenues - Quarries and sandpits	31 000	
Revenues - Administrative fees	15 000	
Other revenues	30 535	\$ 634 535

> ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Salary and benefits	\$ 260 000	
RIAVC - Leaks	109 000	
Snow and ice removal	67 000	
Works - Watercourse done by MRC	43 000	
Provision quarries and sand pits	31 000	
CIT - Interests 2013	28 000	
Garbage and recycling	25 000	
Capital assets (budget)	140 000	

> BUDGETED BUT NON-USED EXPENDITURES

Police services	\$ (355 000)	
Fire department service (agreement project Chat.)	(168 000)	
Honoraires professionnels	(125 000)	
Maintenance and repair	(115 000)	
Debt service	(110 000)	
Water purchase	(62 000)	
Collecting leaves and branches	(29 000)	
Transportation and communications	(22 000)	
Consumables	(18 000)	
RIAVC - Debt	(17 000)	
Miscellaneous	(5 096)	\$ (323 096)
SURPLUS		\$ 957 631

ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

The accumulated surplus is \$ 1,984,853 on December 31, 2013.

• Tax-free surplus:	\$ 1 209 853
• Reserved surplus:	\$ 775 000

INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Capital expenditures (investments) totaled \$ 4,432,819 and are detailed as follows :

Replacement of water mains (TECQ II)	\$ 2 848 031*
Construction of a parking lot at Raymond-Pitre Park	656 580
Paving and asphaltting works on some streets	238 365
Projects - Housing developments	179 413
Rebuilding of the tennis court at parc des Hironnelles	178 047
Complete repair of the roof and Installation of a ventilation system at City Hall	128 387
Construction of sidewalks (Beauchemin and Saint-Jean-Baptiste)	90 787
Installation of a ventilation system at the fire hall	49 929
Purchase of various goods (phone system, computer equipment and furniture)	32 620
Purchase of a vehicle by fire department	30 660
	\$ 4 432 819

* Works carried out in 2013, but the portion of the funding, for a total of \$ 1,080,000 will be funded in 2014 so the impact will be on the debt 2014. Grant paid in cash by the federal government to the amount of \$ 1,772,122.

LONG-TERM DEBT

The status of the long-term debt is \$ 18,914,700 and is divided as follows:

	2013	2012
Balance available	\$ 169 573	\$ 119 760
Government	2 774 840	3 328 292
Sector or basin	5 900 335	5 909 205
At all	10 069 952	10 487 843
TOTAL :	\$ 18 914 700	\$ 19 845 100

WORKING CAPITAL

Working capital balances on December 31 is as follows :

Committed capital:	\$ 119 000
Non-committed capital:	\$ 581 000
TOTAL :	\$ 700 000

PARKS AND PLAYGROUND FUND (RPTJ)

The parks and playgrounds fund totals at December 31, 2013, a free amount of \$ 126,472.

QUARRIES AND SAND-PIT FUND

On December 31, 2013, this fund represents a total of \$ 153,764.

CONCLUSION

We wish to acknowledge the cooperation, dedication and support of all service managers and their staff allowing us to provide relevant and reliable financial information.