

INFOMERCIER

SPECIAL BULLETIN PUBLIC SECURITY

July 2017

We are very proud to present this special PUBLIC SECURITY edition of Info Mercier. After several years of analyses, studies, and hard work, things are finally starting to happen.

Through strict control over the city's spending and careful management of construction sites, the residents of Mercier are now the owners of two new buildings (fire station and police station) paid for in cash.

The acquisition of these two buildings will have no impact on citizens' future tax bills, not to mention that Ville de Mercier's long-term debt has decreased by close to \$6 M* since December 31, 2012.

Mercier's police department will also soon be up and running. The easiest solution for Mercier would have been to claim that there were no other options available and accept Châteauguay's offer of police services for more than \$4 M annually, which would have resulted in a 15.70% tax hike for Mercier residents starting in 2015.

In our view, paying more than \$4 M (2015) a year to be a client, with no say over how costs are managed or the types of services offered to our citizens, was irresponsible. After analyzing all our options, the decision was made to create our own police department, with our own building and equipment, while maintaining control over costs and local services for our residents, all for an operating budget of \$3.2 M (2017).

In closing, we wish to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to these exciting projects, which will help to engage the citizens of Mercier and create a real sense of community.

Mercier: a safe city where life is good!

*LONG-TERM DEBT

• December 31, 2012	\$19,845,100
• December 31, 2016	\$13,733,000
	\$6,112,100

“DESPITE THE LOAN-FREE ACQUISITION OF THE NEW FIRE STATION AND POLICE STATION, THE SURPLUS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2016, IS \$1.9 M.”

**START OF OPERATIONS OF
MERCIER'S POLICE DEPARTMENT:
JULY 17, 2017, AT 10 A.M.**



Lise Michaud
Mayor



Louis Cimon
Councillor, District 5
Responsible for
Public Security



RENÉ LARENTE
Fire Chief

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

NEW FIRE STATION TO OPEN ANY DAY NOW

MOVING

The firefighters will soon move to the new station at the corner of Saint-Joseph and Gaétan streets.

“TO BETTER SERVE ITS CITIZENS [...]”

ÉDIFICE GÉRARD-AMYOT

The building will be named the Édifice Gérard-Amyot, in honour of the founder of Mercier’s fire department. Mr. Amyot, a pioneer in Mercier, tried his hand at many trades and had many passions during his lifetime. He was entrusted by then-mayor Raymond Pitre to put together the city’s first fire brigade, of which he served as chief from 1959 to 1968.



1D rue Gaétan

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

It was essential to me that the new fire station feature major upgrades in terms of operating and safety standards. With a surface area of approximately 4,600 ft² on the ground level, it is equipped with a generator that would allow the building to be completely self-sufficient for 48 hours. The ground floor features a classroom for firefighter training, the officers’ offices, the kitchen, and the dormitory; the administrative offices are located on the second floor.

To better serve its citizens, the city also purchased a first responders’ truck equipped to handle a range of situations, with medical devices and respiratory masks, equipment for determining the causes of fires, a generator, scene lighting, pumping equipment, tools, etc.



CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FIRE STATION ON BUDGET

I am proud to announce that the initial budget for the construction of the fire station was respected. Estimated at \$1,893,000, this project was 86% funded by grants from the provincial and federal governments, with the remaining 14% paid for from Ville de Mercier’s surplus.

INAUGURATION AND OPEN-HOUSE DAY AT THE NEW FIRE STATION

The official inauguration will take place on Sunday, August 13, at 1p.m. The public is invited to join the employees and dignitaries to celebrate the occasion.

In order to keep citizens informed and up to date, an open-house day will take place on Saturday, September 16.

René Larente
Fire Chief



DANIEL ROUSSEAU
Chief of Police

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

DEAR CITIZENS,

Mercier's brand new police department is almost here! Our goal is to have the department up and running starting on Monday, July 17.

“VILLE DE MERCIER IS LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO RELY ON SUCH A DIVERSE TEAM.”

Since arriving here, I've been impressed by the amount of work already done by the city over the past few years to set up the new police department.

A list of major projects was drawn up in late 2016, and, with the invaluable collaboration of several municipal and outside partners, the following major achievements have already been made :

- Renovation of the police station located at 1049 boulevard Saint-Jean-Baptiste;
- Acquisition of physical and technological resources, such as vehicles, specialized equipment, communications equipment, computers, etc.;
- Recruitment, selection, and hiring of experienced police officers and new recruits, as well as two civilian employees;
- Follow-ups related to the creation of a level 2 police department (more complex police operations and investigations), at both the administrative and legal levels, and compliance with the prerequisites, with assistance from the Ministère de la Sécurité publique;
- Creation of the 911 emergency call centre, with support from Ville de Lévis.

In order to meet our very tight deadline, everyone at the city pitched in and pulled together to help us achieve our goal of offering you a police department whose motto will be **“Security — Integrity — Proximity.”** One of the key steps in fulfilling our mission was to hire the best possible people to serve you.

Ville de Mercier is lucky to be able to rely on such a diverse team. Some of the police officers are highly experienced, with anywhere from 26 to 33 years of police experience, and come to us from the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) and the Montréal police department (SPVM). Also, many of them live in Mercier or the surrounding area.



1049, Boulevard Saint-Jean-Baptiste

As for myself, I have more than 35 years of police experience with various police departments in Québec, mainly the Montréal police department, where I developed substantial expertise in police operations as an officer.

I look forward to meeting you all at the inauguration on August 13, at 3 p.m., and at the open house on September 16.

Daniel Rousseau
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT – ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Director

Daniel Rousseau

35 years of police experience including
21 years in management
with the Montréal police department

Neighbourhood policing department

Responsible for specialized
law enforcement operations

Responsible for citizen relations and prevention
Head of Montréal 911 call centres



Assistant Director

Steeve Boutin

23 years of experience with the
Trois-Rivières police department

Specialist in investigations
and major crimes



Secretary

Josée-Anne Mallette



Clerk – Reception and
police information

Anne Létourneau

MANAGEMENT / ADMINISTRATION TEAM

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

Crimes against
persons



Sergeant-detective

Chantal Cayer

30 years of experience with the
Montréal police department
Specialist in investigations and
court liaison

Crimes against
property



Sergeant-detective (investigator)

Sylvain Marquis

Serial and organized crime
30 years of experience with
the Montréal police department
Investigator
Police intelligence specialist

TEAM 6

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT DIVISION

Forensic
identification
section



Forensic identification
specialist

Marc Bessette

Exhibit management
28 years of experience with
the Sûreté du Québec
Forensic identification
specialist

Community relations



Community relations officer

Francine Duval

30 years of experience
with the Montréal police
department
Community relations and
crime prevention specialist

Collision and traffic
investigation



Accident investigator
and accident scene
reconstitution expert

Pascal K. Quiles

27 years of experience
with the Montréal police
department
Accident investigation and
traffic management
specialist

TEAM 7

POLICE DEPARTMENT – ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

TERRITORIAL SURVEILLANCE DIVISION





RENÉ CHALIFOUX
Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL DIRECTOR

LOCATION OF OUR NEW FIRE STATION

The decision to build a new fire station on the land next to the existing fire station was made following the analysis of several different options presented to the city. The first option was to renovate the current fire station, which no longer met the health, safety, and hygiene standards required of a fire station.

The second option was to demolish the existing fire station and build a new one on the same land.

Finally, the third option was to purchase a property and build a new fire station on it.

The first two options would have required temporarily relocating the firefighters and their equipment, resulting in high costs and operational issues for the fire department during the renovation or demolition/construction period.

For this reason, the decision was made to build a brand new fire station on the property next to the old one. This option also allows us to maintain ownership of the land and the existing building, which could be used for other purposes once the necessary analyses have been performed.

Since the chosen location was determined to be ideal

based on our studies of the territory covered by the fire department, it was decided to purchase it.

“DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF CONTAMINATED SOIL ON THIS LAND, WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THIS OPTION WAS THE LEAST COSTLY AND THE MOST BENEFICIAL FOR THE CITY.”

Despite the presence of contaminated soil on this land, we remain convinced that this option was the least costly and the most beneficial for the city.

Note that the soil remediation costs are also eligible for the 55% grant from the Québec government, and that the balance of these costs payable by the city were paid for in cash from the surplus. As with every decision we make, we were guided in this decision by the best interests of the residents of Mercier, which will continue to be the case moving forward.

UPDATE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

After having built a new fire station, acquired a new first responders' vehicle, and created a brand new municipal police department that meets all of the requirements of the Police Act, Ville de Mercier's next step in enhancing its public security is to update its civil protection plan, commonly called an emergency response plan. Mercier's municipal administration is responsible for managing public security on its territory and is subject to the Civil Protection Act (CQLR, c.S-2.3), the aim of which is “the protection of persons and property against disasters.” Being exposed to a variety of risks, Ville de Mercier wants to be prepared to confront them on four levels: prevention, preparation, response, and recovery.

This new technology, combined with the development of a plan that meets the requirements of the Civil Protection Act and all recognized best practices in emergency measures management, will be an important asset.

“VILLE DE MERCIER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME THE FIRST CITY IN THE PROVINCE TO TEST A LEADING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY, WHICH ALLOWED IT TO UPGRADE ALL OF THE MEASURES TO BE INCLUDED IN ITS CIVIL PROTECTION PLAN.”

As our city's emergency measures coordinator, I'm pleased with the importance that all the members of the municipal administration are giving to the safety of our population.



DENIS FERLAND
Director - Clerk

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

VILLE DE MERCIER'S MUNICIPAL COURT

On the heels of the creation of Ville de Mercier's police department, the municipal court will be set up by this fall. The Règlement établissant une cour municipale (2017-944) [Bylaw establishing a municipal court] has already been approved by Mercier's city council and sent to the Minister of Justice for approval.

"[...] THIS WILL ALLOW EASIER ACCESS TO A LOCAL COURT [...]"

A new person was also hired in the position of municipal court clerk to oversee the set-up and operations of the future municipal court.



Magali Loisel was hired on April 10, 2017. Called to the Québec Bar in 1996, she began her legal career by opening her own firm. In 2008, she made the transition to Ville de Trois-Rivières as the municipal court clerk.

Residents may be wondering why we decided to create our own municipal court. The goal was to ensure local justice throughout Québec, thereby ensuring that residents have easier access to the legal system.

The city will also facilitate access to the municipal court by locating it inside City Hall, specifically, inside the council chamber. While this court's main jurisdiction will be criminal matters, over the years, it will expand its jurisdiction to encompass civil cases.

As such, it will have jurisdiction over all violations prosecuted under the Code of Penal Procedure and concerning Ville de Mercier's municipal bylaws, as well as the laws of Québec that grant it this jurisdiction.

As you can imagine, this will make it easier for you to access a local court, but will also reduce judicial costs and costs related to the administration of justice on our territory.

"MOVING FORWARD, THE SERVICES OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT AND THE MUNICIPAL IMPOUND LOT, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY OPERATED BY THIRD PARTIES, WILL BE RUN BY VILLE DE MERCIER, AND WILL ALLOW THE CITY TO GENERATE APPRECIABLE PROFITS."

MUNICIPAL IMPOUND LOT

A driver who is pulled over by a peace officer for violating certain provisions of the Highway Safety Code (CQLR, c. C-24.2) is subject to having his or her vehicle seized. As part of the creation of Mercier's municipal police department, the administration is currently working on setting up a municipal impound lot, which will be located behind the police station at 1049, boulevard Saint-Jean Baptiste. This initiative corresponds to the Council's efforts to offer more local services.

Denis Ferland
Director - Clerk

POLICE DEPARTMENT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT PAID IN CASH	LOAN	PAYABLE ANNUALLY (OPERATING BUDGET)
• Operating and labour expenses <i>Including salaries, building and equipment maintenance, electricity, etc.</i>			\$ 2,791,000
• Acquisition of building at 1049 St-Jean-Baptiste			
- Purchase of building	\$ 892,394		\$ 0
- Improvements/renovations	\$ 328,070		\$ 0
- Professional services	\$ 56,701		\$ 0
	\$1,277,165		\$ 0
• Professional fees	\$ 195,571		\$ 50,000
• 911 service agreement - Ville de Lévis			\$ 175,000
• Equipment and computers			
- Firearms	\$ 16,922		\$ 0
- Fibre optics	\$ 22,241		\$ 0
- Computer servers	\$ 50,069		\$ 0
- IT architecture	\$ 23,811		\$ 0
- Radio-communications	\$ 44,620		\$ 0
	\$ 157,663		\$ 0
• Financed expenses - Bylaw 2016-938			
- Patrol cars		\$ 398,310	
- On-board equipment		\$ 322,352	
- Specialized equipment		\$ 29,320	
- Computer equipment		\$ 39,528	
- Office furniture		\$ 24,168	
- Security system		\$ 22,819	
- Various equipment pending and financing fees		\$ 338,503	
		\$1,175,000	\$ 184,000
TOTAL			\$ 3,200,000

This project creates opportunities for revenue, which could reduce annual costs.

The budget of \$3,200,000 does not include any revenue. Sources of revenue that will be implemented in 2017 2018 include:

- The municipal court
- The municipal impound lot
- Leasing of the second floor of the police station

Note: In order for Ville de Mercier to remain a client of the Châteauguay police department, the cost for 2016 was \$3,673,361 + approximately \$367,840 = \$4,041,201, which would have represented a 15.70% tax increase.

Decision: For less money, Ville de Mercier decided to acquire its own assets, allowing it to maintain control over expenses and the type of services it offers to its citizens.

Several times in the past few months, I have been challenged by citizens about the cost of creating and operating our own police department.

Throughout this whole process, our objective has always been to come up with the most realistic financial scenario possible in order to avoid unpleasant surprises.

As executive director, I can assure you that this analysis was carried out with the utmost professionalism by all parties involved. Since 2014, we have been controlling our budget very tightly, which has allowed us to significantly reduce our debt.

I can guarantee you that this same careful management will be applied to all aspects of the Mercier police department.

René Chalifoux
Executive Director

