



News & Views

PUBLISHED BY THE BAIE D'URFÉE CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER, 1954

TURN OUT, TURN OUT, ONE AND ALL!

For most of us, summer holidays are over and it's time to get down to the serious business of every-day life and living. That includes thinking about the community in which we live, considering its progress and its problems, its advantages and its shortcomings, and offering constructive assistance, either verbal or physical, toward its betterment.

In addition to our town growing like mad, there've been lots of things happening here since the last Citizen's Association meeting some months ago, and thus plenty of potential topics for the first meeting since summer adjournment. It'll be in the town hall at 8.15 this Friday, Sept.17, and the Association's executive has several important matters, important to your community and to YOU, for presentation at this meeting.

Eighth Year
No. 82

- They include:
1. a community hall
 2. should Association meetings be held regularly, or only when specific, vital matters arise?
 3. Recreation
 4. Special Association-town council meetings
 5. Should the Association's fiscal year be made to confirm with that of the town?

Chairman Charlie Johnstone feels there is enough "meat" in the above topics, along with matters bound to come up out of town developments in the past couple of months, to provide not only one but at least a couple of most interesting meetings. He urges everyone to turn out this Friday, and bring along newcomers to the town, of whom there is a multitude.

Our Next Meeting

FRIDAY, SEPT.17, 8.15 P.M. in the Town Hall
SUBJECT: ALL SORTS OF IMPORTANT STUFF.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Council is to be commended for its judgment and foresight in deciding to purchase at \$15,000 the cluster of some seven farm buildings sitting on 70,000 square feet of former Binz Farm close to the Lakeshore road.

The day is coming-and perhaps not too far distant, at the present rate of growth-when Baie d'Urfee will require much more space and area than it presently has for municipal offices and housing of municipal equipment and services. Now, when the space is available, is the time to get it, not tomorrow, when we're suddenly confronted with a need for room for firetruck, or police cruiser, or snow plow, and realize there isn't a spot of land left not built on.

Out of this purchase, too, on a temporary basis, anyway, the townsfolk may get a community hall; something far superior to the limited quarters at the town hall.

Council are said to be prepared to lease one of the buildings to the Association on a sort of \$1 a year basis for the various community activities, subject only to the stipulation that when the building is required for municipal purposes, it will be yielded.

To get an idea as to what the buildings are like, members of the executive, including Chairman Johnstone, Frank Booth, Jack and Jessie Mitcham, Roy Cochrane, Harry Dixon, Amy Wickson, accompanied by Councillor Herb Brookhouse, toured the buildings Saturday and were apparently most favorably impressed.

They will report at the meeting Friday, and recommend formation of a committee of experts to inspect the buildings in detail, select the building most feasible, and report in detail on what could and would have to be done, and at what cost.

The buildings are all said in excellent condition, with concrete floors, electricity and water.

RECREATION

Responsibility for provision and maintenance of recreation facilities has been allocated to the Citizens' Association by the Council. Money available for such facilities is obtained as follows:

- (a) from general taxes: specific amount is generally included in each annual budget.
- (b) from the Association.
- (c) from donations in aid of one or another activity.
- (d) from membership fees from participants in a particular activity.

(e) from voluntary labour by relatively few residents .

Since we are unlikely to ever have sufficient funds to provide all that is desired, a definite policy regarding collection and allocation of funds for recreation is required in order to ensure that the maximum general benefit is derived from the money spent.

Funds from General Taxes

The amount available from general taxes is likely to vary from year to year, and it is reasonable to expect it will increase with growth of the Town. The Association annually submits a request to Council for a specific amount and Council decides upon the amount to be provided from general taxes. When requesting Council for funds we must bear in mind that recreation is not in the same category as essential services and that the interest in and benefit derived from recreation varies from family to family; it may be practically nil or considerable. Thus, we must restrain our enthusiasm for digging into not only our own but someone else's pocket. The money so obtained is used to assist various activities in paying for initial capital expenditures rather than maintenance.

Funds from the Association

In the past, membership in the Association has been made contingent upon the payment of a contribution in aid of one particular activity, the beach. This is wrong in principle, since a member may be primarily interested in quite an entirely different activity. This can be rectified by requiring various activities (beach, rinks, hockey, baseball, tennis, etc.) to be more self-supporting. Since the provision of recreation facilities is not the sole purpose of the Association, mandatory contributions for this purpose should not be included in the membership fee, nor should all revenue be spent on it alone .

Donations in aid of a Particular Activity

Timely donations toward a particular activity have saved the day on several occasions when prospects have looked rather dim, and the Association is very appreciative of this interest in younger Baie d'Urfee .

Membership Fees

Since it is the participant who benefits from the facilities provided it is only reasonable that, where possible, he should pay for a good part of the total cost. With a view to providing better facilities and organization, it is proposed that the Association should set up several self-contained committees composed of persons primarily interested in developing a particular activity. The Association will assist each group financially by means of funds provided by the Town and will provide any other assistance possible. However, each activity should attempt to be self-supporting and should raise funds by means of fees, raffles and special projects.

Voluntary Labour

This is the most difficult problem of all, for it invariably happens that a few do the work for all. While there is no complete solution to the problem, a well-organized group may be able to induce more participants to participate in the donkey work as well as the fun. Few realize that voluntary labour represents a large part of the total cost of some facilities and, if added to our general tax bill, would amount

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to quite a sum. In effect, the few who do the work are paying the taxes of those who do not.

Skating Rinks

During the next few weeks plans for skating rinks should be completed. The rink on Morgan Road, which is the largest in Town, is equipped for hockey and it is intended that the present facilities should be improved. All those interested in the use of this and other rinks for either skating or hockey should attend the next meeting in order that a representative committee may be formed to plan for the coming winter.

Swimming

The beach is still an active project and will continue to be until all the gear is out of the water. Planning for next year can start this winter, and another committee for this purpose should also be set up at the next meeting.

Survey of Interest in Various Activities

Information obtained from the following questionnaire will indicate to the Association the number of families and children interested in various activities and the extent to which residents are willing to support them. Since the consensus of opinion expressed at a single Association meeting is often not representative of the Town as a whole, this survey provides an opportunity for everyone to state his views on the subject. Regardless of whether you have ten children or none, please provide the information requested below. Failure to send in your views must be construed as being in agreement with the common opinion of those who do.

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Indicate interest in activity shown and number of persons who will participate, e.g. Skating 1, Beach 3

What would you be willing to contribute (per participant) for properly organized facilities for each activity?

Activity	No.	\$1	\$2	\$3	\$4	\$5	No Interest
Use of Beach							
Swimming Lessons							
Skating							
Figure Skating							
Organized Hockey							
Baseball Field							
Organized Baseball							
Football Field							
Sailing	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yacht Club	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curling							

X For general information.

Send completed form to Frank Booth, 70 Oxford Road by September 22, 1954

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BUDGET 1954 (JULY TO DECEMBER)

REVENUES

Taxes (at 12 mills; 1-2 year)		
Current Roll		\$ 9,100
Supplementary Roll		1,300
Bond Interest		100
Other Revenue		
Bldg. Permits; Interest on Overdue		
Taxes, etc.		500
		<u>\$ 11,000</u>

EXPENDITURES

Salaries		
Sec-Treas. (estimated)	\$ 2,000	
Superintendent	<u>750</u>	2,750
Wages - casual labour		500
General Expense		
Postage, telephone stationery		
Town hall grounds maintenance		
Bank charges		700
Roads		
Maintenance	1,700	
Sanding & Salt	<u>200</u>	1,900
Road Lighting		
Power	300	
Fixtures	<u>300</u>	600
Garbage Removal	1,560	
Increase	<u>140</u>	1,700
Legal, Audit & Assessment		
Legal (J.W.L.)	500	
Audit	500	
Assessment	<u>-</u>	1,000
Miscellaneous		
Office Furniture	500	
V.O.N.	100	
Baie d'Urfee Day	100	
Road Signs	300	
Insurance	200	
Canadian Shade Tree	300	
Sundries	<u>350</u>	1,850
		<u>\$ 11,000</u>

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SPECIAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Periodically we elect a Council to conduct the affairs of the Town on our behalf, that is, we ask certain residents to contribute their time and effort in looking after matters which, in the larger towns, are for the most part taken care of by paid civil servants. In some instances a Councillor finds that he is attempting what is practically a full-time job in his limited spare time and is often required to deal with matters with which he has had little experience. Lack of appreciation of the limitations of such a volunteer administration often results in undue criticism, which on occasion may further complicate its work.

With a view to providing an opportunity for members to obtain first-hand information on the basic policy which our Council has adopted with respect to such major considerations as finance, town administration, town planning, building regulations, etc. and for Councillors to report on matters which they believe will be of general interest, the Association will arrange three or four special open meetings a year attended by Council, which will be conducted as follows:

1. Any member interested in obtaining information on any subject of general interest will send his questions to the Secretary, Mr. Roy Cochrane, 40 Lakeview Road. (See examples below). If considered necessary, these questions should be supplemented by a brief commentary indicating which aspects of the subject you are particularly interested in. The inquiry should be signed in order that the Secretary may obtain additional information if required.
2. All questions relating to a particular subject will be coordinated by the Executive Committee and a new set of questions, designed to cover all points raised, will be prepared. This list cannot, and therefore will not, indicate the origin of the questions.
3. The consolidated list of questions, or subject for discussion, will be distributed to members and Council several days in advance of a meeting.
4. The Chairman of the meeting will invite members of the Council to discuss the various subjects listed and will endeavour to see that all points raised in questions submitted by members of the Association are adequately covered.
5. In order that the maximum benefit may be derived from a meeting of this type, it is important that it proceed in an orderly manner, and questions from the floor cannot be accepted during the discussion. Time permitting, a general question period following the discussion of each item may be possible.

The following are examples of types of subjects which might be discussed at the first meeting:

- (a) How long can we afford not to have a Town Manager ?
- (b) What steps have been taken to encourage the building of better-looking (not necessarily more expensive) homes, i. e.; what do we

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have in place of an Architectural Committee common to many other municipalities?

- (c) Does the Town have a complete master plan, i.e.; where will a waterworks be located if and when required, where will industry go, where will the Town offices be located, is a large town park planned, etc.
- (d) What is the future policy regarding the maintenance of playgrounds and parks?
- (e) Are we likely to be forced to install water and sewage systems? What is likely to bring this about? Can we avoid it?
- (f) Has the Council discussed with the local School Boards the possibility of building into schools, facilities which can be used by the Town at a cost lower than if built separately by the Town?

These are only examples of subjects which may be considered. If you are interested in having any of them discussed, please let the Association know, indicating any particular aspect you would like to have covered. Let us have your suggestions for additional topics.

Send in your questions by September 22, in order that the Executive may have adequate time to plan the first Special Meeting.

THE HONEYMOON IS OVER

The saying "the old order changeth, yielding place to new" was never so applicable as it is going to be with respect to Baie d'Urfee's tax rate for 1955.

For years Baie d'Urfites have been favored with a municipal tax rate among the smallest in the land. But Baie d'Urfee has been growing at an unprecedented rate, and so the tax rate honeymoon regretfully is about to end. Even with the anticipated boost for 1955, however, Baie d'Urfee will still have comparatively low taxes, although admittedly Baie d'Urfites will also continue to have a minimum of municipal services.

For the last six months of this year, council has kept to the old tax rate, but to do that it has had to put over until next year, at least, the following bills and charges:

No provision made in the budget for:

(a) Outstanding accounts		
Cost of Charter	\$ 4,000	
Road Repairs	1,450	
Moving Poles	870	
Road, etc. re level crossing	<u>5,230</u>	\$ 11,550

(b) Items normally in budget			
Recreation (1-2 year)		\$ 500	
Tree Planting	"	100	
Snow Ploughing	"	1,500	
Quebec Charities			
Act & Sanitary Unit"		200	
Assessment	"	800	\$3,100
			<hr/>
(c) Future Items			
Moving Poles - Cambridge		1,200	
Legal costs re Comber and Carriere		400	
Transformer		5,000	
Raising telegraph wires re level crossing		1,400	8,000
			<hr/>
			\$22,650

BAIE D'URFEE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CHILDREN'S GARDEN COMPETITION

Prizes were presented to successful junior gardeners at a ceremony in the Town Hall Sept. 10, when Stuart Kinmond, of Morgan Road, was named grand champion.

Prizes were presented by D.W. MacDonald and Mrs. N. Temple, leading girl guide official. The competition had been conducted by Ewing Tait and Erskine Kinmond, and Mr. Tait, Councillor Brookhouse and Mrs. Leigh Capreol decided upon the grand champion.

Thirteen qualified for their Gardener's Badge in either Guides, Cubs or Brownies.

Results:

("GB" Indicates also earned Gardeners Badge)

Girls 8 to 10-

1.	Sandra Willetts	GB
2.	Patricia Ware	
3.	Linda MacDonald	GB

Hon. Mention	Bronnie Evans	
	Valerie Booker	GB
	Leslie Coulter	GB
	Dorothy Cavell	GB

Also completed	Doreen Morrison	GB
	Marlyene Burns	GB
	Diane Comber	

Lorna Morrison
Cheryl Irving GB
Elizabeth Hutt
Rosemary Ellis
Judy Hutt

Boys 8 to 11 -

1. Stuart Kinmond
2. Trevor Kinmond
3. Malcolm MacDonald

Hon. Mention Jimmy DeWitt GB
Ian Edward
Duncan McNab GB

Also completed

Eric Walter GB
John Fenton
David Brown
Douglas Van Loan
Ted Wickson

Boys 12 to 17 -

Completed Bruce Davidson

Girls 11 to 17 -

1. Karen Merritt GB
 2. -
 3. Pat Powrie GB
-

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