

THE MAJOR ISSUES



New permanent firefighters for Gatineau's East end!

The first stage in the implementation of the new fire safety cover plan has been completed: 40 employees have been hired by the Service de sécurité incendie to serve the Buckingham and Masson-Angers sectors.

Since March 5, 32 firefighters, including 8 officers, have been assigned to two temporary fire stations set up in the service centres. This move will ensure that response times will now be the same across all Gatineau sectors. Like all Gatineau firefighters, the candidates had to pass written and physical tests to be selected. ▶



Les Allumettières - a Tribute to Working Women!

In November 2006, Gatineau organized a public consultation exercise for its residents to find a name for Gatineau's new boulevard by the fall of 2007.

A first wave of consultations generated 72 different proposed names for this road, which stretches 13.7 km between rue Laurier in the Hull sector and chemin Eardley in the Aylmer sector. So far, the response from residents has been very encouraging. ▶

CURRENT NEWS



Réflexion – an artwork that evokes our history

On January 25, Gatineau inaugurated the majestic artwork called *Réflexion*, located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Maisonneuve and Sacré-Cœur boulevards, which will henceforth mark the entrance to downtown Gatineau. ▶



Third edition of the Ordre de Gatineau

Last month, the city launched its third edition of the Ordre de Gatineau, with a call for nominations. ▶

Long distance charges in Gatineau will soon be a thing of the past! ▶

Our snow business is bigger and better than ever! ▶

TAKE PART IN IT!



It is so easy for residents to take part!

Elected officials and municipal employees work to serve the best interests of the Gatineau community. To this end, they invite you to take part in the process of making the decisions that have an impact on your quality of life. Take part in the upcoming public sessions!

Upcoming Public Sessions

Commission Gatineau, Ville en santé
Thursday, March 15, at 7 p.m.
Maison du Citoyen, salle des Comités
Information: 819-243-2345, extension 2174.

Commission consultative sur l'environnement et le développement durable
Thursday, April 12, at 7 p.m.
Maison du Citoyen, salle des Comités
Information: 819-243-2345, extension 4088. ▶

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Dog and cat licences

Are you aware that, under the current by-laws, it is already time to renew your dog and cat licences? Once you have a licence for "kitty" or "fido", you no longer have to worry about a fine, which could be anywhere from \$100 to \$300.

Licences are \$30 per pet (\$20 with proof that the pet has been sterilized), and are valid from January 1 to December 31, 2007. For additional information, please check the Gatineau Web site.

WHAT'S NEW?

- [The Bureau de l'ombudsman is now open for business](#)



THE MAJOR ISSUES

New permanent firefighters for Gatineau's East end!



The first stage in the implementation of the new fire safety cover plan has been completed: 40 employees have been hired by the Service de sécurité incendie to serve the Buckingham and Masson-Angers sectors.

Since March 5, 32 firefighters, including 8 officers, have been assigned to two temporary fire stations set up in the service centres. This move will ensure that response times will now be the same across all Gatineau sectors. Like all Gatineau firefighters, the candidates had to pass written and physical tests to be selected.

Although these measures are part of the ongoing service improvements, it is important to mention the outstanding work done by the temporary firefighters who have been working in the Buckingham and Masson-Angers sectors over the past few years! These dedicated and experienced firefighters could always be counted on in dangerous emergency situations.

The fire safety cover plan also provides for the construction of a fire station in both the Buckingham and Masson-Angers sectors by 2009. The goal of the Government of Quebec in introducing the fire safety cover plan requirement is to standardize fire safety programs throughout the province.

THE MAJOR ISSUES

Les Allumettières - a Tribute to Working Women!



In November 2006, Gatineau organized a public consultation exercise with its residents to find a name for Gatineau's new boulevard by the fall of 2007. At its last meeting, on Tuesday, February 27, elected officials on Gatineau's Municipal Council chose the name *des Allumettières* for the new boulevard, in honour of the region's working women.

The five selection criteria:

- historical and logical significance;
- heritage significance;
- no names of people who are still alive or who died within the past year; and
- a sense of identification.

The Final Selection

The name *des Allumettières* was the first choice of 44.8% of respondents as well as of local women's, historical, labour and political organizations.

The term *Allumettières* designates a group of women who made matches for the E. B. Eddy Company until 1928. At the time, Hull was known as the nation's match capital. This female trade, practiced under difficult conditions, entailed a number of serious health risks. In 1919 and 1924, the *Allumettières* sparked the first workers' conflicts in Quebec involving a women's union. The *Syndicat catholique des Allumettières de Hull* won its case. This name serves as a reminder of the contribution made by women to the region's growth and to the Outaouais' working-class past

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, Gatineau is paying tribute to the area's working women. The *allumettières* were a shining example of solidarity and cooperation. One more reason to herald our pride as Gatineau residents!

Réflexion – an artwork that evokes our history

Before

After

On January 25, Gatineau inaugurated the majestic artwork called *Réflexion*, located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Maisonneuve and Sacré-Cœur boulevards, which will henceforth mark the entrance to downtown Gatineau.

In February 2006, a selection jury consisting of residents, artists, well-known architects and municipal representatives reviewed the 21 proposals received as part of a nation-wide contest.

The wood industry, a symbol of our history

Réflexion was the unanimous choice for its depiction of Gatineau's economic history, firmly rooted in the wood industry, which to this day remains an important component of the region's economy, with its forest products sector.

The artwork's 64 elements, all of the same size and made of steel, wood and reflective acrylic, provide a point of reference. In the daytime, the many vertical elements create a marker indicating the entrance to the city's downtown, while at night, the numerous light sources reflecting from these structures create a constellation guiding the way.

Integrating with the site and the surroundings through interaction

In addition to fostering interaction with pedestrian traffic and encouraging residents to walk, *Réflexion* offers several different perspectives: it provides a gateway into the downtown area (the view changes depending on where you are).

Public art also carries tremendous benefits for communities. Economists, sociologists, urban planners and many other professionals agree that arts and culture nurture a society's development and contribute to the growth of cultural tourism.

Public art: significant economic benefits

Public art attracts many tourists every year. Cultural tourism is a highly lucrative industry, representing several billion dollars a year. However, if a municipality is to make the most of the economic impact of cultural tourism, it must stand out and have a strong cultural identity. One need only think of the many controversial works in major cities that are now their identifying symbols.

The artists behind *Réflexion*: Simon Bouffard, Claude Chaussard and André Fournelle

Born in England in 1939, **André Fournelle** lives and works in Montréal. To date, he has exhibited his works in Quebec, the rest of Canada, the United States and Europe. This sculptor's work revolves around installations and inventions. He has had a hundred solo and group exhibitions. His best-known achievements include the "ombre rouge" exhibit in the Chapelle Saint-Louis in the Salpêtrière, Paris, the fire curtain at the pont des Arts, Paris, the neon spiral in Death Valley, California and the tree monument in Taipei, Taiwan.

Simon Bouffard is a member of the Association des architectes paysagistes du Québec and has contributed to landscape projects in the Faubourg Québec and structures on île Sainte-Hélène and place Émile-Gamelin.

Finally, **Claude Chaussard**, a graduate in architecture (DPLG), is a development and public art project manager. He has done several projects in Canada, India and Japan, including the installation of fountains and environmental sculptures. He has developed expertise in urban art and serves as a consultant for architectural firms involved in public urban development contests.

ORDRE de
GATINEAU

2007

Third edition of the Ordre de Gatineau

Last month, the city will launched its third edition of the *Ordre de Gatineau*, with a call for nominations. As the highest distinction given out by the city, the *Ordre de Gatineau* is a way to honour residents who have made a significant contribution to the city's reputation. Gatineau residents will be able to nominate potential candidates—some of whom may not be that well known by the public at large—for the scope of their work, their dedication, and their commitment to the community. These *Grands citoyens*, proud residents of the great city of Gatineau, make outstanding ambassadors for our fine city.

Last year, three *Grands citoyens* were acclaimed by Gatineau residents: Jean-Pierre Blais, founder and Director General of the *La Ressourse* rehabilitation centre, Hugo Girard, known on the provincial and international stages as the strongest man in the world, and Antoine Grégoire, a major builder in Gatineau, who has given 50 years of his life to community and economic development projects. In their respective fields, each was—and continues to be—a source of inspiration for their fellow residents.

If you know a Gatineau resident who deserves to be nominated, you can submit his or her name to the selection committee by preparing a nomination package that meets the three selection criteria indicated on the municipal Web site and in service centres and libraries. The nomination must be recommended by two people and endorsed by a third person who is not an immediate family member of the candidate. So, starting this month, be sure to keep your eyes open for the advertising campaign, which will provide details on the selection criteria. The deadline for nominations is **Friday, March 30, 2007**.

Together, let us celebrate excellence in Gatineau! For more information about the recipients of the 2007 awards, visit: <http://www.gatineau.ca/ordreGatineau2007.htm> (only in French).

CURRENT NEWS

Long distance charges in Gatineau will soon be a thing of the past!

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has approved Bell Canada's proposal to expand its local calling area within Gatineau. This means that, starting this summer, residents in the eastern and western parts of the city will be able to call numbers at the other end without paying long distance charges.

In order to compensate participating long distance providers for their losses, all Bell Canada residential subscribers in Gatineau will have to pay a temporary supplement of 20 cents a month over three years, starting from the date the decision takes effect, for a total of \$7.20. Bell Canada business subscribers will have to pay 18 cents a month, for a total of \$6.48 per line. After this initial three-year period, the supplement will no longer apply.

Gatineau will be the second city, after Ottawa, within the Bell Canada area, to obtain approval for the expansion of its local calling area.

CURRENT NEWS

Our snow business is bigger and better than ever!



At the public consultation sessions last spring, residents provided comments and suggestions about snow clearing. The new snow clearing policy came into effect this winter! Gatineau is harmonizing its services right across the territory, and efficiency and safety are the order of the day!

A big difference in residential neighbourhoods

Gatineau's focus is clearly on safety and efficiency. You can see the difference in the residential neighbourhoods, with an increase in the frequency of interventions, which helps avoid the build-up of snow on the ground from light snowfalls and ensures that street conditions are kept under control.

Clearing sidewalks: 100 more kilometres!

This winter, Gatineau has been maintaining 100 more kilometres of sidewalks and additional pathways for pedestrians. This essentially means at least one more sidewalk per street being cleared. As well, two sidewalks are being cleared along the main arteries and along some collectors and side streets that meet the following criteria: high pedestrian traffic, businesses, schools, churches, health care residences and centres, bus stops, etc.

Snow is cleared off sidewalks continuously once the accumulation reaches three centimetres. Operations are completed no more than 24 hours after the snow stops falling.

More efficient snow clearing!

In the interest of protecting the environment and in order to harmonize procedures across the territory, snow is now blown to the side of the road wherever possible.

On public roads, snow blowing is much faster than hauling away the snow in dump-trucks. This leaves streets cleared and safer in less time. It also means transportation and energy savings, since there are fewer heavy vehicles on the road. This is better for the environment, as well as for our roads. And it also means that there is less likely to be a need to expand or add snow dumps. It is important to keep garbage bins off the sidewalks so these can be properly cleared for pedestrians.

Safe driving conditions

Once streets have been cleared, they are widened by a grader, which ensures better visibility and safer driving conditions. Given the municipal administration's responsibilities and the current by-laws, this grading reduces windrows (small snow banks) to no more than 450 millimetres (18 inches) in front of private driveways. This windrow will not prevent you from getting in and out of your driveway.

Priorities based on your safety

Snow clearing and road maintenance operations follow strict criteria. First, work crews plan their work proactively based on weather reports received three times a day.

The top priority is the clearing of the arteries. These are the city's main road axes, including the roads connecting the different municipalities and the ones linking up to them.

Next, come the collector roads, which provide the links between the side streets and the main arteries. These include public transit bus routes, commercial and institutional roads, and those used to get to schools, churches, health care centres and day care centres.

Third, come the side streets. These include all residential streets. Streets are cleared within 16 hours after the snow stops falling.

Snow patrol

When residents push snow onto the street or sidewalks, they slow down snow clearing operations quite a lot and, in so doing, interfere with the safety of residents. Gatineau would like to remind you that leaving snow on public rights of way, either streets or sidewalks, is strictly prohibited. It is your responsibility to ensure that your snow clearing contractor also complies with this by-law.

After every storm, a snow patrol will cruise through the streets, and tickets will be left for owners who contravene this by-law.

Parking

Gatineau also reminds you that winter parking is prohibited between midnight and 7 a.m. from Monday to Friday, and between 3 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

Next steps

This is the first year for the implementation of this new policy. In the spring, there will be an end-of-season report in anticipation of any adjustments that may be required in the spirit of continuous improvement.

For additional information about snow clearing routes, timeframes for intervention and other information, visit www.gatineau.ca or call 3-1-1.

TAKE PART IN IT!



It is so easy for residents to take part!

Elected officials and municipal employees work to serve the best interests of the Gatineau community. To this end, they invite you to take part in the process of making the decisions that have an impact on your quality of life. Take part in the upcoming public sessions!

Upcoming Public Sessions

Commission Gatineau, Ville en santé

Thursday, March 15, at 9 a.m.

Maison du Citoyen, salle des Comités

Information: 819-243-2345, extension 2174

Commission jeunesse

Saturday, March 17, at 10 a.m.

Maison du Citoyen, salle des Comités

Information: 819-243-2345, extension 2174

Municipal Council

Tuesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Centre de services d'Aylmer, salle du Conseil

Information: 819-243-2345, extension 7180

Commission des loisirs, des sports et de la vie communautaire

Wednesday, March 21, at 7 p.m.

Maison du Citoyen, salle des Comités

Information: 819-243-2345, extension 2110

Commission consultative sur l'environnement et le développement durable

Thursday, April 12, at 7 p.m.

Maison du Citoyen, salle des Comités

Information: 819-243-2345, extension 4088

Commission consultative sur les choix stratégiques

Tuesday, April 24, at 7 p.m.

Centre de services d'Aylmer, salle du Conseil

Information: 819-595-7140

Question period open to the public

For the dates, public hours and locations of upcoming meetings of the *Comité consultatif agricole*, *Commission permanente sur l'habitation* and *Comité consultatif d'urbanisme*, call 819 243-2345, extension 7333.