



INSIGHT

THE BOLTON-EST MUNICIPAL BULLETIN | JANUARY 2023



Vibrant by nature

This is how Bolton-Est is defined and perceived. The phrase expresses the beauty of the natural environment that surrounds us, the municipal actions, the cultural, community, youth recreational events, the Public Market, the community gardens, the new sandpit trail... And above all, the citizens who cherish and respect this living environment. We wish you a very happy 2023, naturally!



The beginning of a year is an opportunity to highlight the important points of the year that has just ended and to look forward to the year ahead.



I would like to highlight the continued involvement of the volunteers on various committees, groups, associations, organizations, neighborhood etc. It is thanks to all of you that the Bolton-Est we want is evolving: a vibrant community by Nature.

The collaboration with committees and citizens in many initiatives allows us to realize projects and benefit from the diverse experience of each participant.

The environment mobilizes our efforts and yours. Several issues have been studied such as water quality, problem of old septic tanks, waste management and Ecocentres for which your work has been recognized with a nomination at the *Gala des Prix d'excellence* for the Eastern Townships region.

The dynamic occupation of the territory brings out issues such as the place to give to short-term rentals, the complex questions of how to reduce our ecological footprint with new construction, the year around maintenance of our roads, etc.

Since the start of our mandate, we have experimented with different ways to improve citizen participation through citizen forums, working groups, committees, formal or informal meetings at municipal events or recreational activities, through the improvement of the website, etc. This year, we will continue to propose actions to encourage your participation.

It is, together as a community, that we will meet the challenges that lie ahead.

What better way to celebrate and contemplate the diversity of our world than through **culture** in all its forms? It allows us to open our minds to new visions in a world that is undergoing extreme change.

As you must know from your professional and personal realities, it is not enough to have ideas, **the implementation is an integral part of success**. I would therefore like to acknowledge the work of the consultants, management and employees who work tirelessly to bring the realization of projects while not forgetting the day to day challenges.

For this year 2023, I hope that the actions we will take together will serve to build the "better" world we want for ourselves, the generations to come and for all the inhabitants of the earth.

My best wishes of health to you, your loved ones and to our beautiful planet!

Enjoy reading this Insight 2023.

NEW COLLECTION CALENDAR



The new calendar is available on the Municipality's website. If you are a Bolton-Est resident, you will have received a copy by mail. You can also get a laminated copy at Town Hall.

To consult the calendar or to obtain more information on waste material collection, visit boltonest.ca under Services/Waste residual.

WINTER FUN



This family celebration will be back on February 18, 2023, at Terrio Park, and is sure to delight young and old alike. Come and enjoy these free outdoor activities for the whole family. Details and a list of activities will be sent to you shortly.



BOOK HUTS

The Municipality has installed book huts across its territory to provide English and French books of all types, to suit all tastes. To find out where they are located, visit boltonest.ca under Culture and Heritage/Culture/Library.

Children's books

In winter, the hut of Terrio Park is set up under the gazebo. Happy reading!

BISTRO DU RUCHER

The Rucher Boltonnois is a non-profit social organization.

The Bistro du Rucher is a gathering place that encourages interaction between all Bolton-Est residents of all ages and backgrounds. It also is a place to meet residents of neighbouring municipalities.

The Bistro presents an eclectic program (shows, films, activities for children, etc.) on a varied schedule. It is open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for breakfast and lunch. To find out more, visit rucherboltonnois.net.



2022 Christmas Market

STAY INFORMED!

Check the website calendar, newsletters and the Municipality's Facebook page to find out more about upcoming activities.

MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

SANDPIT



The 72-acre former sand pit adjacent to Terrio Park underwent major work in 2021 - 2022. Since October, a two-kilometre trail shows the natural beauty of this site. This is a first step towards the natural conservation of an important part of the site.

At the same time, recommendations were made to the Municipality by the “Groupe de travail citoyen” on the sand pit concerning its development and its future.

This year, the municipal council will create a permanent committee whose mandate will be to formulate recommendations on the actions to be taken for the development of the sand pit.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In 2022, the Community Development Committee has a more family-oriented focus to municipal activities (Winter Fun, Kayaks on the Lake, Family and Volunteer Day, Halloween Party and Remembrance Day). These activities were well received with a significant participation and the contribution of many volunteers.

Some improvements were also made to Terrio Park with better services (tables, trailer, sanitary facilities, drinking water, etc.).

In 2023, the committee plans to continue the development and improvement of municipal activities and make recommendations for a review of the municipal family reimbursement policy.

YOUTH LEISURE



In 2022, the Municipality has a new permanent gazebo dedicated to the youth section of Terrio Park. This allows us to offer activities for children (storytelling, crafts face painting, etc.) under the shelter from the elements. In addition, several thematic activities (Christmas, Easter, Halloween, etc.) were held during the year.

For 2023, the team wishes to continue its activities and increase the number of animators. Do you want to get involved? You will be welcomed with open arms!

CULTURAL



The cultural committee is very active in Bolton-Est (Arts Showcase, a major exhibition in the fall and four major shows during the summer). It also organizes occasional events throughout the year.

To give access to culture to the maximum number of people, the cultural committee wishes to relaunch the concept of “Culture en liberté” in the municipal park.

RÉSEAU BIBLIO DE L'ESTRIE



Following the results of the survey conducted among citizens in the fall, the Municipality of Bolton-Est has chosen to subscribe to the Réseau Biblio de l'Estrie by joining forces with the Municipality of Eastman. This will allow all residents of Bolton-Est to have access to a large collection of documents for adults and children in both French and English, an inter-library loan service on demand, digital on demand, free online digital resources and free resources and cultural activities.

For more information on this service visit
reseaubiblioestrie.qc.ca

URBANISM

This year, the Urban Planning Advisory Committee met eight times to deal mainly with requests for minor derogations. Most of these requests received a favourable decision from the committee. The recommendations were then submitted to the municipal council for approval.

In 2023, the committee will continue its mandate to provide advice on applications submitted to it and to accompany citizens in the realization of their project.

ENVIRONMENT

Washing Station



Inaugurated in 2022, the washing station for small boats (canoes, kayaks or boards) is intended to prevent the spread of invasive species in the lakes. The station is open from May to October. It is located at Misisquoi North Park at 37, des Pins Street South, Eastman.

Glass recycling



The intermunicipal agreement signed at the beginning of 2022, allows the citizens of Bolton-Est to use the glass recycling container in Eastman. It is located on the property next to the Appalachian Corridor

offices premises, at 450, rue Principale in Eastman.

Management of septic installations

The Municipality has adopted a new program that applies to septic systems that are 35 years old or older as well as systems not approved by the Municipality (steel, fibreglass or plastic septic tanks, cesspools, barrels, etc.). A notification letter will be sent to the citizens affected.

Lake Nick Outlet

There is a problematic situation at Lake Nick regarding the outlet of the lake. Following an analysis carried out by a firm of environmental experts and a meeting with the citizens in the area, the Municipality will proceed with the hiring of an engineering consulting firm. The firm will carry out the studies, and the specifications for the rebuilding of the outlet.

Invasive species



The Municipality will organize a conference on the common reed (phragmites) during National Invasive Species Awareness Week which will be held from May 15 to 20, 2023. The date and location of the conference will be communicated to you in the spring.

Mobile Ecocentres

Planned dates for 2023: Saturday, May 20 and October 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.





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The Eventful History of Bolton-Est

8. MINING BOOM: HUNTINGTON MINE, 1865

In memory of Maurice G. Sweet (1917-1956), the last fatal casualty of the mine

The orange-tinted mining waste along Route 245, between Eastman and Bolton Centre, bears witness to a major activity of our forgotten past.

In 1860, Bolton-Est was a peaceful, isolated community engaged in farming and forestry. The township's deeply forested and mountainous north was only sparsely populated. However, after studies by geologist William Logan unleashed a mining boom in the Townships, many Bolton residents set about digging up their land.

In 1865, a seam was discovered between Long Pond (or Dillon Pond) and the North Missisquoi River. Bought on the cheap by politician and speculator Lucius Huntington, the site offered two advantages. First, ample timber was available for tunnel roof supports, the heating of boilers and building construction. Second, two bodies of water were present: the Missisquoi to power sawmills and the lake to wash the crushed ore. In addition, a steep grade made possible transshipment by gravity. On the downside, the site lacked ready access to rail and manpower.

Operations started with little delay, as mines benefited from a free-mining system that favoured owners of the subsoil without restriction and mining techniques were still largely artisanal at the time. Within mere months, horse teams were transporting ore to the railway at Waterloo. A train on wooden rails (*sic*), meanwhile, was a failure for want of funding. Rail service was finally inaugurated in 1877.



Huntington Mine, 1866, by William Notman

For 90 years, mining activity was difficult at the Bolton-Est mine. The last owner abandoned the toxic site, leaving behind an orphan mine.



Huntington Mine, 1956, now called Quebec Copper Mine

Dillonton, a typical “company town” where the bosses were English and most miners were French Canadian. Around 50 buildings sprang up for copper processing and employee lodgings. Growth was rapid, with a population reaching 400 by 1873. But life was hard: working men, women and children received meagre pay and sometimes none at all; the hours were long (10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week); and working conditions were cramped and dangerous. Frequent accidents drove families into poverty. Deaths were ruled accidental, with no liability assigned to the company. In one case, a deceased worker was accused of culpable negligence. Collusion ran rampant among owners, authorities and the clergy.

Encompassing Eastman, Bolton-Est (with three mines) became a major mining centre. The benefits spilled over to Bolton Centre, henceforth the county seat, with its post office, town hall and model school. Alas, the boom was not to last, as copper prices bottomed out after the American Civil War. What's more, the Huntington seam was mined out and shut down by 1883. Over the next 75 years, high copper prices and new technologies led to sporadic relaunches, with the last round lasting from 1954 to 1958.

The mine had a devastating impact on the environment. In 1937, French geographer Raoul Blanchard remarked on its lunar appearance. By 1958, the last owner abandoned the deposit and contaminated lake. Provincial authorities assumed the cost of a toxic cleanup of the site from 2002-2005.

2023 Budget Highlights

Property Value

When the budget was prepared, the Municipality's property value was \$353,257,174, an increase of \$4,019,474 over 2022. This increase is due to new construction and the reassessment of homes that have undergone major renovations.

Revenues and Expenses

\$3,513,429

Property Taxes

The property tax rate is set at 0.4775 per \$100 of assessed valuation, a 3% increase over 2022.

Fees for Services

As last year, utility fees are charged at a fixed value among residents according to the following rules:

- > Snow removal: 30% of the snow removal fees are divided equally among the building units of the Municipality. From \$86.16 to \$92.67, an increase of \$6.51.
- > Public security: 55% of public security costs are distributed equally among the Municipality's properties. Considering the increase of imposed fees, this tax has risen by \$18.53 for a total of \$167.95. Note that this increase is justified by an improvement in the first responder service for the residents of the Municipality.
- > Residual materials: 60% of the costs of collecting residual materials are divided equally among the properties of the Municipality. Considering the increase in government subsidies, despite an increase in the waste collection contract, a slight decrease of \$2.01 per building was made, bringing this tax to \$174.44.

Overall, for all these services, the increase in fees is 5.6%.

Combined rate for all municipal property value taxes

If we combine the average of the taxes charged for the entire Municipality and compare it to the total property value, we obtain an overall tax rate of 0.6464 per \$100 of assessment, an increase of 4% compared to 2022.

Sectoral taxes

Two sectoral taxes have been added to the budget, the first one is for the members of the APBLN (surveying) and the second one is shared among all properties having access to Lake Nick, for the search of solutions to contain the lake outlet.

Municipal Services Compensation

An increase of \$10,000 is foreseen in the estimated revenues generated by the gravel pits/sand pits on our territory.

Septic tanks

In addition to verifying the need to empty all septic tanks on the territory, starting in 2023, the Municipality will undertake the verification of the efficiency of certain targeted septic tanks. This work will be billed to the citizens concerned at the actual rate paid by the Municipality.

Roads

The improvement of our municipal roads will generate additional expenses in roads; however it will also generate an increase in grant revenues.

Human Resources

A reorganization of tasks, and therefore of budgetary items, explains the variances in the urbanism and environment sectors.

Recreation, Culture and Community Development

The addition of a resource to handle communications and the Municipality's registration with the Réseau Biblio de l'Estrie explain most of the variance in this sector.

Three-year capital plan

In 2023, we plan to sell the large tent and replace it with a fixed structure, providing users with a healthier and safer environment. This acquisition will be largely offset by grants. Also during the year we plan to develop a new walking trail that will be located on the other side of the Municipality, in the Bellevue sector.

As for the sand pit, the amount budgeted in 2023 will allow us to prepare the project's deployment plan, so we have not entered any amount for the next two years because it will vary too much depending on the chosen orientations.

The Municipality plans to undertake the construction of a municipal garage in 2024.

Payment of municipal taxes

The tax bill will be payable in four instalments on March 1, June 1, September 1 and November 1, 2023 under the usual conditions.

Additional Information

The taxation by-law is available on the Municipality's website. To consult the document, visit boltonest.ca under Municipality/Taxation.

Plan triennial immobilisations / Three-year capital expenditure plan

2023-2024-2025

	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
ADMINISTRATION				
HÔTEL DE VILLE / TOWN HALL	15 000 \$	25 000 \$	25 000 \$	65 000 \$
ÉQUIPEMENT DE BUREAU / OFFICE EQUIPMENT	6 000 \$	6 000 \$	6 000 \$	18 000 \$
GARAGE MUNICIPAL / MUNICIPAL GARAGE	— \$	560 000 \$	— \$	560 000 \$
CENTRE ST-PATRICK / ST-PATRICK CENTER	10 000 \$	10 000 \$	10 000 \$	30 000 \$
TOTAL	31 000 \$	601 000 \$	41 000 \$	673 000 \$
ENVIRONNEMENT ET LOISIRS / ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION				
ACHATS BACS / PURCHASE OF BINS	8 500 \$	8 500 \$	8 500 \$	25 500 \$
SENTIER HORS SABLÈRE / TRAILS (EXCEPT THE SANSPIT TRAIL)	75 000 \$	25 000 \$	25 000 \$	125 000 \$
PARCS / PARKS	100 000 \$	30 000 \$	30 000 \$	160 000 \$
TOTAL	183 500 \$	63 500 \$	63 500 \$	310 500 \$
VOIRIE / ROADS				
VÉHICULE / VEHICLE	10 227 \$	10 227 \$	10 227 \$	30 681 \$
INFRASTRUCTURE DES RUES / ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE	5 000 \$	5 000 \$	5 000 \$	15 000 \$
PROGRAMMATION TECQ / TECQ PROGRAMMING	235 352 \$	150 000 \$	200 000 \$	585 352 \$
TERRAIN SABLÈRE / SANDPIT LOT	25 000 \$	— \$	— \$	25 000 \$
TOTAL	275 579 \$	165 227 \$	215 227 \$	656 033 \$
TOTAL PLAN TRIENNAL D'IMMOBILISATIONS / THREE-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN				
	490 079 \$	829 727 \$	319 727 \$	1 639 533 \$