

# INSIGHT

THE BOLTON-EST MUNICIPAL BULLETIN | JANUARY 2024



## Strength in numbers

Vibrant by nature, Bolton-Est captivates by its dynamism, which creates strong ties within its community. To all the invaluable volunteers who make this possible, we express our gratitude. You are a true source of inspiration! In this new year of 2024, let us continue to move forward together, with this powerful force of collaboration as our engine of prosperity. Happy New Year, united in harmony!



INTERESTED IN JOINING ONE OF  
THE MUNICIPALITY'S COMMITTEES?  
SEND AN E-MAIL TO  
[INFO@BOLTONEST.CA](mailto:INFO@BOLTONEST.CA)  
TO SIGNIFY YOUR INTEREST!

## COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Municipal life would not be as vibrant without the commitment of Bolton-Est citizens. Being a member of a committee means taking concrete action to get the community moving and to guide its values. These committees, epicenters of citizen initiative and open to all, are welcoming havens where new members are invited each year to forge links and shape together the very fabric of our collective values.

### **The five citizen committees are as follows:**

- > Community Development
- > Environment
- > Urban Planning
- > Culture
- > Landscape

In all, more than thirty volunteers are involved in these committees, organizing events, carrying out projects, protecting our environment and discussing the direction of urban planning.

Committees exert a direct and significant influence on City Council deliberations, even guiding certain crucial decisions and finely tuning the strategic choices that sculpt our community's future. They are the pathfinders who blaze the trail, the passionate architects who help build the shared vision of the municipal council, making the impact of every action resonate throughout our municipality.

Thank you for making a difference! And welcome to the next generation!

## POPULAR EVENTS

Several events are organized throughout the year to get together and enjoy what our municipality is offering: Winter Fun on February 24, Family Kayak on June 9, Family Fest on August 17, not to mention the Public Market at Terrio Park, open every Saturday from June to October.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2024, we will mark the 10th year of the *Vitrine des Arts*. Created in 2015 by two members of the Bolton-Est Cultural Committee (Ms. Ginette Breton and Mr. Robert Ledoux), this summer exhibition offers visibility to artists from "Missisquoi Nord".

To keep abreast of all the latest news from your municipality, subscribe to our **Mini insight** newsletter. Published every two weeks, this indispensable source of information reveals upcoming events and opportunities in the municipality. Visit our website at [boltonest.ca](http://boltonest.ca) today to sign up!



A WORD FROM THE MAYOR  
**Vinciane Peeters**

## A forward-looking municipality

Our aim is to live in harmony with our planet, taking only what we really need, while minimizing the production of pollutants and waste. We aspire to a level of well-being in balance with our environment.

I want everyone, whatever their place in our society, to feel valued in their role and to be able to flourish within the physical limits of our earth in terms of food, water, mineral and energy resources.

This won't always be easy, and will sometimes require concessions, because we've been excessively greedy. However, this new direction will give new meaning to our lives. Above all, it will be achieved with and for the benefit of all.

I would like to express my gratitude to those who are already working towards this goal, and I encourage everyone to participate in the momentum driving our community forward.

### CHANGE IN RESIDUAL MATERIALS

In order to limit the increase in costs (and GHGs), compost will now be collected every four weeks from the streets of Bolton-Est, year-round. The collection schedule is available on the website and in hard copy at Town Hall.

### ECOCENTER

Bolton-Est residents will have access to the Magog Ecocenter as of January 2024. This sorting center, located at 2300 rue Tanguay, is open 12 months a year. Interested citizens must register by filling out a form (available on our website [BoltonEst.ca](https://BoltonEst.ca)) to receive their access card free of charge.



### LOOKING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE? THINK GREEN CONE!

This new-style composter, heated in the garden by the sun, accepts all food waste, including meat, fish and bones, to literally fertilize the soil. As well as being less attractive to critters, it makes table scraps “disappear” in an environmentally friendly way in summer and winter alike.

In 2024, let's reduce the use of our brown bins by buying a traditional composter or a Green Cone! The municipality and the MRC subsidize the purchase of a Green Cone or home composter. See our Web site for details.





### SEPTIC SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In December 2022, the municipality of Bolton-Est adopted a by-law on the management of septic installations. As a result, all septic tanks that are 35 years old or older and made of steel, fiberglass, plastic or unknown materials are subject to an inspection to ensure that they are not polluting. This inspection is carried out by a firm appointed by the municipality. In 2024, pits in the Bellevue sector will be inspected.

In 2023, of the 58 pits inspected, 18 will have to be replaced. Financial assistance programs are available from the provincial government and the municipality, for those who so wish.

*A guide on septic systems will be available upon request at Bolton-Est Town Hall.*

### TERRIO: AN IMPROVED PARK, MORE USER-FRIENDLY THAN EVER

As a follow-up to the citizen consultations held in recent years, the municipality finalized a master plan for the development of Terrio Park in 2023. Assisted by the “Conseil Sport Loisir de l’Estrie”, a working committee completed the list of wishes and needs and entrusted its elaboration to the landscape architecture firm NaturEden. In addition to reorganizing the space, a permanent tent will be built on a concrete slab, along with a sanitary and storage block. The parking area will also be redeveloped. Eventually, the park will be home to a light sports field such as *pétanque*, islands of greenery and art display areas.

### URBAN PLANNING

With the support of our urban planner, the Council has begun revising the municipality’s zoning plan and bylaws. Citizens will be invited to discuss this project in the near future.





## SAND PIT

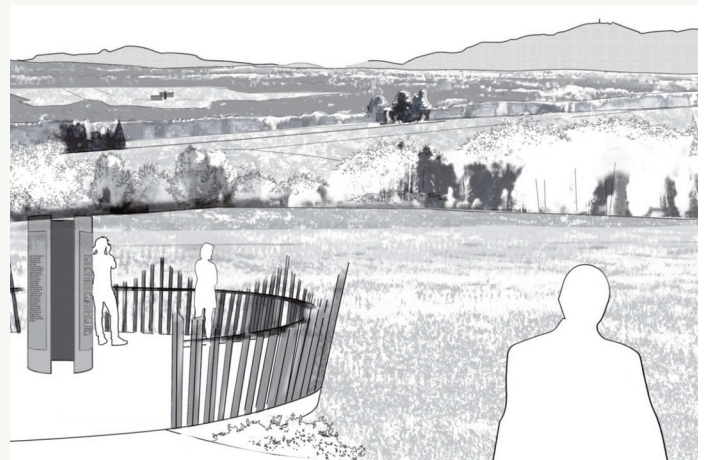
Located behind Terrio Park, the former sandpit was acquired in 2018 with the aim of withdrawing it from commercial and/or industrial development in order to develop a neighborhood integrated with nature, intended to be friendly, affordable in perpetuity and connected to the village. In 2023, a committee of elected officials and employees continued their discussions and recently commissioned a firm of experts who, based on all the reports and reflections of citizens' groups gathered over the years, will make recommendations for a construction start in 2025. A meeting is scheduled for 2024, before the final report is submitted, to inform residents and solicit suggestions once again.

## ROADS: NEW MUNICIPAL GARAGE

In 2024, a major project will get underway, namely the construction of a new municipal garage. Thanks to a grant for which Bolton-Est qualified, at least 70% of the costs will be financed by the government.

Road repairs, such as those completed on Bellevue and Lac-Nick roads, will also continue this year. Once government assistance has been confirmed, we plan to install a new culvert on Montée de Baker Pond to cope with major rains, such as those experienced last July.

We also plan to update the road master plan and street construction standards.



## LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

In 2023, a Landscapes Committee was set up as part of the Memphrémagog MRC's Landscapes Action Plan 2022-2026, with the aim of preserving and enhancing regional landscapes.



# Budget 2024 highlights

## Property value

When the budget was prepared, the Municipality's property value stood at \$581,491,900, a substantial increase over 2023. This increase is mainly due to the updated assessment roll, which resulted in an upward revaluation of the municipality's properties (+58.1%).

## Revenues and expenses

\$4,290,221

## Property taxes

The tax rate is set at \$0.3900 per \$100 of assessment, down 18.3% from 2023.

## Service taxes

We have withdrawn the fixed tax for snow removal and reduced the amounts billed for public safety and residual materials according to the following rules:

Public safety: 30% of public safety costs are divided equally among the Municipality's buildings. The amount is \$95.14, a reduction of \$72.80 compared with last year.

Residual materials: 50% of residual materials collection costs are distributed equally among the Municipality's targeted buildings. By reducing the number of brown bin collections, we were able to maintain the overall amount of these contracts. The final tax for this service amounts to \$142.47, \$31.96 less than last year.

The City Council has opted to reduce the fixed portion of the tax, in favor of the variable portion. In so doing, cost pressures will affect lower-value properties less.

## Variation in tax rate

A property with a value of \$375,000 in 2024, which has seen its value increase by 57% on the new assessment roll, will see its taxes rise by 7.8 % in 2024, an increase of \$123. However, with the major adjustment to the assessment roll, tax variations for citizens will sometimes be negative (a tax decrease) and sometimes higher.

## Sectoral taxes

Sectoral taxes are added to members of the Association des propriétaires des berges du lac Nick (APBLN) (surveying) and to all properties having access to Lac Nick (search of solutions to contain the lake outlet).

## Septic tanks

Since 2023, the Municipality has been verifying the efficiency of targeted septic systems. It is also committed to supporting citizens who need to modify their septic systems. The budget therefore includes \$150,000 in revenue and environmental health expenses.

## Roads

The government subsidy program for road maintenance (TECQ) has not been renewed for 2024. This will result in lower operating subsidies, and consequently higher road maintenance costs.

## Projects

Several projects are planned for 2024, but these will be heavily subsidized, and we will use the various reserve funds to offset the balance of costs. In this way, these projects will not affect the tax burden on citizens.

These projects are as follows:

- > Construction of a marquee in Terrio Park
- > Construction of a sanitary and storage block in Terrio Park
- > Restoration of the culvert on Montée de Baker Pound
- > Preparation for the construction of a municipal garage in the sand pit
- > Development of a walking trail in the Bellevue sector

## Transfer taxes

In the last two years, transfer taxes have grown significantly. However, in 2023, property sales returned to normal, forcing us to reduce our revenue projections for this item by \$125,000.

## Human resources

We have welcomed a new resource to handle communications. Furthermore, the people in support of the environment, roads and urban planning will be granted a more hours in 2024.

## Telecommunications

The municipality has chosen to entrust the maintenance and hosting of its website to the specialized firm Kezber. This entails additional costs, mainly in the administration section. A budget has also been set aside to refresh the website.

## Payment of municipal taxes

The tax bill will be payable in four installments on March 5, June 4, September 3 and November 5, 2024 under the usual terms and conditions.

## Additional information

The taxation by-law is available on our website [BoltonEst.ca](https://www.boltonest.ca), under the Municipality/Taxation tab.

# Budget 2024

## TAXES

|                            | 2023                 | 2024                 |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>VALUATION ROLL</b>      | <b>\$353,257,174</b> | <b>\$581,491,900</b> |
| GENERAL TAX*               | \$0,4775             | \$0,3900             |
| SNOW REMOVAL (FIXED)       | \$92,67              | \$-                  |
| PUBLIC SECURITY (FIXED)    | \$167,95             | \$95,14              |
| RESIDUAL MATERIALS (FIXED) | \$174,44             | \$142,47             |
| WASTE CONTAINER (FIXED)    | \$2 025,67           | \$2 025,67           |
| <b>GLOBAL TAX RATE*</b>    | <b>\$0,6464</b>      | <b>\$0,4428</b>      |

\* PER \$100 OF EVALUATION

## REVENUES

|                                  |                    |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| PROPERTY TAXES                   | \$1,706,443        | \$2,293,901        |
| SERVICES TAXES                   | \$596,862          | \$306,119          |
| SECTOR TAXES                     | \$23,317           | \$53,401           |
| MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMPENSATIONS | \$28,925           | \$50,694           |
| SEPTIC TANKS                     | \$65,800           | \$216,000          |
| DRAWBACKS & GRANTS               | \$500,368          | \$307,259          |
| PROJECT' SUBVENTIONS             | \$60,000           | \$649,247          |
| TRANSFER TAXES                   | \$376,000          | \$250,000          |
| OTHER REVENUES                   | \$155,714          | \$163,600          |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>            | <b>\$3,513,429</b> | <b>\$4,290,221</b> |

## EXPENSES

|                           |                    |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ADMINISTRATION            | \$628,524          | \$706,105          |
| PUBLIC SECURITY           | \$480,330          | \$500,772          |
| ROAD TRANSPORTATION       | \$907,119          | \$960,278          |
| ENVIRONMENT HEALTH        | \$657,712          | \$888,539          |
| URBANISM                  | \$126,754          | \$148,621          |
| RECREATION                | \$270,206          | \$303,659          |
| FINANCING CHARGES         | \$20,946           | \$22,932           |
| FIXED ASSETS              | \$315,079          | \$79,000           |
| IMMOBILISED PROJECTS      | \$175,000          | \$1,099,000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>\$3,581,670</b> | <b>\$4,708,906</b> |
| ALLOCATION TO FOUNDS      | \$31,418           | \$31,315           |
| APPROPRIATION FOR PROJETS | \$(99,659)         | \$(450,000)        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>     | <b>\$3,513,429</b> | <b>\$4,290,221</b> |

## THREE-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN

|  | 2024               | 2025               | 2026             |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| ADMINISTRATION                           | \$27,000           | \$39,000           | \$34,000         |
| MUNICIPAL GARAGE                         | \$70,000           | \$1,000,000        | \$-              |
| TRAILS (INCLUDING TECQ)                  | \$75,000           | \$25,000           | \$25,000         |
| PURCHASE OF BINS                         | \$8,000            | \$8,500            | \$5,000          |
| ROADS (INCLUDING TECQ)                   | \$439,000          | \$805,000          | \$605,000        |
| SANDPIT                                  | \$17,000           | \$-                | \$-              |
| PARK (INCLUDING MARQUEE ET TOILET BLOCK) | \$542,000          | \$30,000           | \$30,000         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                             | <b>\$1,178,000</b> | <b>\$1,907,500</b> | <b>\$699,000</b> |



Serge Wagner  
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# The eventful history of Bolton-Est

## 11. BOLTON-EST: 215 YEARS OF MUTUAL AID AND VOLUNTEERISM

*For over a century, mutual aid was essential in Bolton-Est, as the population was left to fend for itself.*

### FAMILY SUPPORT AND WOMEN

Mutual aid began within the family. Around 1808, the pioneers who settled in the Missisquoi-Nord forest could only survive through intense mutual aid within the nuclear family, then the extended family (uncles, cousins, etc.). Frequent intermarriage increased the support network. Orphaned children are taken in by relatives.

Women are at the heart of family mutual aid. Together with their daughters (especially the eldest), they take care of the sick and elderly. They generally perform these traditional tasks with generosity or fatality. The extended family will lose its importance, but family mutual aid will still rely heavily on women.

### COMMUNITY MUTUAL AID

Hamlets sprang up, and survival also depended on neighbors helping each other in various situations, including crises (epidemics, fires). Burned-out buildings are often rebuilt by bee-work. At harvest time, neighbors help out those who are overwhelmed. In winter, men often went to the woods in groups for safety and efficiency. The skills of some (blacksmithing, shoes, clothing, etc.) benefit the others, who compensate by bartering or volunteering their time.

Community mutual aid is also festive. For example, the hulling of corn between neighbors lightened the load and turned into a feast. Or, until the 1970s, the famous Christmas Tree celebrations relied on contributions from the whole community.

### MUTUAL AID

Created in 1855, the municipality provides assistance to the needy without family support. The municipal council adopts an interesting formula: the funds are managed by another citizen, who provides direct support and ensures that the funds are used correctly.

### ASSOCIATIONS

Associative life is diverse. Some associations are pious, others focus on morality and public health (temperance). Others, like the volunteer fire department, are concerned with collective safety. The list goes on: Bible Society, Women's Institute, Sunday School, Red Cross, Fire Brigade, sports organizations, orchestras, etc.

### CHURCHES

The three main churches (United Methodist, Anglican and then Catholic) are a major focus of mutual aid and volunteerism. Male ministers or priests often take center stage. In fact, women's groups (Ladies' Aid, Guil, etc.) are often the great voluntary animators of religious, social and community life. Their enduring legacy is the common message of Christian (human) charity, encouraging people to do good for others. This value still inspires volunteer work today.

### SUPPORT FOR THE DESTITUTE

*In September 1876, the City Council granted \$7 to a handicapped person. The sum was entrusted to a fellow citizen who was also responsible for taking care of him.*

### CONCLUSION

Mutual aid and volunteering generated a social dynamic that increased sociability and welded together the small, tightly-knit communities of Bolton-Est. After the 2nd World War, demographic, economic and social changes disrupted the mutual aid network. Traditional mutual aid practices withered away. Today, mutual aid and volunteering are once again vigorous, but their forms have changed radically.