

CHELSEA EXPRESS

AUTUMN 2021

**New by-law for
private docks on
municipal property**

**Work on Chemin
du Lac-Meech to
be delayed**

**Urban planning
regulations
under review**



A word from the Mayor

Council's mandate ended on October 5th when we met together for our final public Council meeting. When this Council was elected in 2017, our main goals were to convert the former railroad into a community trail and to further the rebuilding of several major roads. After four years and much hard work, we now turn the page on this chapter with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Today, the community trail, renamed the Voie Verte Chelsea, has become a much-loved recreational link for residents. Many of you enjoy it, regardless of the season, and in all seasons! While there is still some work to be done, most of the work is now complete. Municipal roads were also a high priority for Council: not only did we want to invest in their rehabilitation, but we also wanted to add safe corridors for active transportation, where possible. As a result, Chemin Notch and de la Mine were rebuilt, and bike lanes were added, and work on chemin lac-Meech and chemin de la Rivière is well underway.

There were also other important concerns that we addressed during our mandate. The recently adopted by-law governing docks will regulate private docks on municipal land and will provide access to the Gatineau River to all Chelsea residents. Council started the revision of the Master Plan based on extensive consultations; the Master Plan will be finalized by the new Council. Several projects regarding the environment were launched. We adopted the Climate Emergency, followed with the creation of a Fonds Vert Municipal, the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, the electrical charging stations project and the greenhouse gas inventory. In addition, files such as the debt management policy and the standardization of the borrowing by-laws for the Centre-Village will provide the Municipality a sound financial management for the future.

It has certainly been a busy, exciting four years, especially within the context of a worldwide pandemic! I would like to thank the municipal staff who worked very hard to ensure that the priority projects were completed. I would also like to thank the many residents who have been involved in different committees and initiatives, giving so generously of their time and talents. It is thanks to all of you that Council ends their mandate with a sense of mission accomplished.

Kind regards,



Caryl Green
Caryl Green
Mayor
c.green@chelsea.ca
819-827-6217

News

New by-law for private docks on municipal property

The Municipal Council officially passed the By-law respecting docks and conditions of occupancy of municipal land bordering the Gatineau River at the council meeting on September 7. **It will come into effect on January 1, 2022. Until then, no applications for docks or occupancy permits will be accepted. Municipal staff are currently working on the application procedure.**

The purpose of the by-law is to regulate existing private docks on municipal land in order to provide all residents of Chelsea with access to the river and bolster shoreline conservation efforts. **The by-law does not affect docks located on private property.**

Council tabled the initial draft by-law in August 2020 to give residents an opportunity to voice their opinions and ensure the by-law is fair to everyone. After over a year of discussions, a revised version of the bylaw was tabled and adopted at the August 2021 meeting.

“Council thought long and hard about the issue and took over a year to discuss it with residents before passing the by-law,” said mayor Caryl Green. “We were committed to developing a fair by-law that would give all residents an opportunity to enjoy the river.”

Visit our website for more information on the by-law.

chelsea.ca/docks

When do you need your vaccine passport?

In keeping with Quebec’s public health regulations, the Municipality will require vaccine passports for:

- all indoor municipal events;
- all outdoor municipal events with 50 or more participants.

You will also be asked to show photo ID. Vaccine passports are required for people age 13 and up. Basic health guidelines will still be in force, including hand washing, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, and mask wearing (as required).

Make sure to check ahead of time to see if you need to register or show your vaccine passport at events held by the municipality.

Urban planning



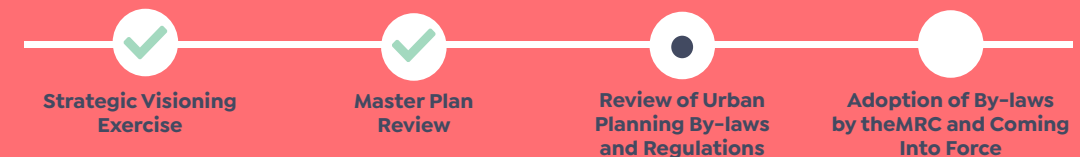
Urban planning regulations under review

The Master Plan review process continues to move forward. The strategic planning and master plan revision stages are now complete and work has begun on redrafting the by-laws. The aim is to bring the by-laws in line with sustainable development principles to address new challenges and the situation on the ground. The process will also ensure the by-laws are consistent with the MRC des Collines-de-l’Outaouais land use and development plan.

As with the previous stages in the process, public consultations will be held. You will have an opportunity to comment on specific issues, including real estate development restrictions aimed at protecting the environment and architectural requirements intended to maintain Chelsea’s unique rural character. No date has been set due to the upcoming elections, but consultations are expected to take place in 2022.

chelsea.ca/plan-en

Four main steps



Municipal Council



A look back at what the outgoing Council has accomplished

The Municipal Council elected in 2017 met for the last time on October 5. During their term, the elected officials and the entire municipal staff worked on many different things.

Here are some of the major projects they completed in the past four years:

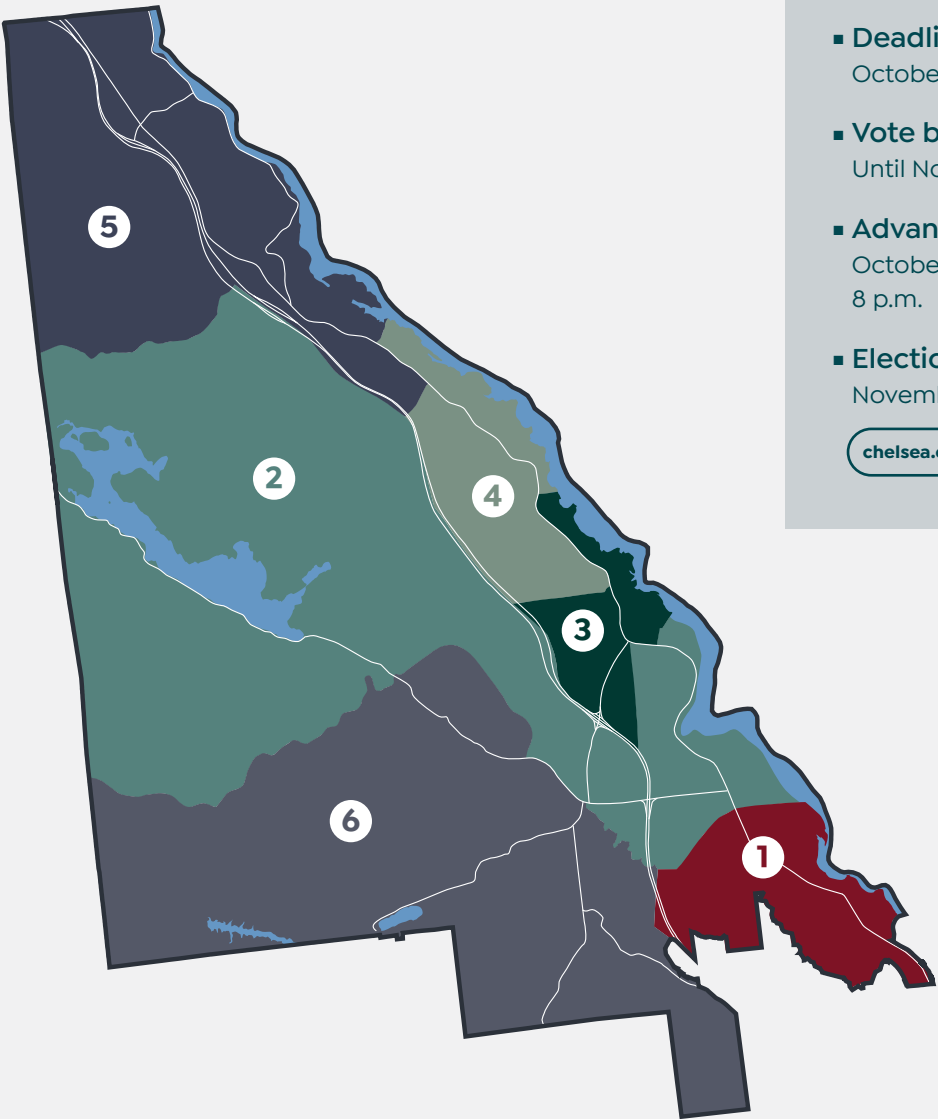
- Conversion of the old railway into a multi-use trail (Voie Verte Chelsea)
- Rehabilitation of Chemin de la Mine, sections of Chemin Notch and Chemin Kingsmere, and the addition of active transportation corridors
- Stabilization of Chelsea Creek
- Rehabilitation of Chemin du Lac-Meech and Chemin de la Rivière (ongoing)
- Updating of the Active Transportation Master Plan
- Reconstruction of the Russell Martin baseball field and installation of lights
- Installation of irrigation systems on some soccer fields
- Improvements to infrastructure in half of the parks in the area and addition of wheelchair access at Farm Point Community Centre
- Review of the master plan (ongoing)
- Creation of two conservation areas in the village centre around wetlands
- Climate emergency declaration
- Inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in the region
- Adoption and implementation of the Sustainable Development Action Plan
- Adoption of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Holding of multiple public consultations, notably for the co-design of the Voie Verte, public access to the Gatineau River, the tree policy, a visioning exercise, etc.
- Adoption of a bylaw concerning private docks on municipal land
- Implementation of a shoreline protection program
- Adoption of a debt management policy
- Redesign of the website and municipal newsletter
- Addition of communications platforms including Voilà! and Cocoriko

Municipal elections 2021

The municipal election will be held on November 7. All registered Chelsea residents will have an opportunity to vote for a mayor and the councillors who will represent them for the next four years.

In addition, for the first time, the warden of MRC des Collines-de-l’Outaouais will be elected by popular vote. This vote will take place at the same time as the vote for Municipal Council.

Map of electoral districts



Important dates

- **Deadline to apply to vote by mail**
October 27 at 4:30 p.m.
- **Vote by mail**
Until November 5 at 4:30 pm
- **Advance voting**
October 30 and 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Election day**
November 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

chelsea.ca/election-en

Public works



Work on Chemin du Lac-Meech to be delayed



Rehabilitation work on Chemin du Lac-Meech between Chemin Dunlop and Gatineau Parkway took place in October 2020 and between May and July 2021. According to the original schedule, the project should have been completed in July 2021. However, a delay is to be expected before the finalization of the project.

During the project, some uncertainty arose regarding the stability of a slope adjacent to Chemin du Lac-Meech, approximately 400 m northwest of the intersection with Gatineau Parkway. The Municipality requested an additional geotechnical study to analyze the stability of this slope. The study results demonstrated the need for preventive stabilization at

this location. However, the slope in question does not pose any immediate danger to users. The Municipality is currently awaiting the authorizations required to begin this work.

To avoid damaging the new roadway during the project, a roughly 120 m section has been temporarily left as gravel. The Municipality will maintain the gravel surface until this section is completed. It is difficult to estimate how long rehabilitation work will be delayed, as it will depend on when the required authorizations are processed, but the Municipality very much hopes that preventive stabilization can be completed before winter.

In addition, significant and unusual delays in processing the request to relocate utility and telecommunication poles are further slowing things down. Most of the road repair and improvement work is complete, but only the first layer of asphalt has been laid to ensure that the final road surface is uniform. The final pavement layer and finishing touches will be added only after the poles are removed, and according to the information received, that could take six months to a year. In the meantime, the speed limit has been temporarily lowered to 30 km/h in the most critical area, and additional signage has been put in place to increase the visibility of obstacles in the roadway.

Public Security



Mark your calendar!

On November 30 the fourth annual blood drive organized by your Fire Department will be held at the Meredith Centre. Our goal is 80 blood donors! Stay tuned, sign-ups will open soon.

Prevention tips from your Fire Department

Fire Prevention Week was held October 3 to 9 with the theme “Fire prevention is your responsibility!” Here are some Fire Department prevention tips we can all use to stay safe.

- Do you use a wood-burning fireplace or stove? Have you had your chimney swept recently? To avoid the risk of a chimney fire, you should have your chimney swept once a year and checked frequently to make sure it's in good condition.
- When you change your clocks on November 6, change the batteries in your smoke alarms as well and make sure they're working properly. You should also check your smoke alarms frequently by pressing the test button.
- Do you use a carbon monoxide (CO) detector? These devices detect gas produced by burning wood, gasoline, oil, natural gas, propane, and much more. Carbon monoxide is colourless, odorless, and tasteless. Installing a CO detector is the best way to keep your family safe.

- Do you have an emergency evacuation plan for your family? Identify two emergency exits and a gathering point to evacuate your home fast if there's ever a fire. Never go back inside the home after you evacuate! Wait for the Fire Department to arrive.
- Watch out for kitchen fires! Did you know that more than one-third of fires in Quebec start out in the kitchen? That's why you should never leave the kitchen when you're in the middle of cooking.

Firefighter visits!

Firefighters will visit schools and daycares throughout October to teach children and grownups about fire prevention.

Environment



Call for projects underway for the Fonds vert 2022

The Fonds vert 2022 call for projects is now open as of September 1. Residents, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and public organizations have until October 31 to submit their projects planned for 2022.

Each selected project will receive a financial contribution representing up to 75% of the total value of eligible expenses for projects of up to \$5,000 and up to 50% of the total value of eligible expenses for projects from \$5,001 to \$25,000.

As always, the Fonds vert aims to provide financial and municipal support to environmental, sustainability, and active transportation initiatives in the community. Eligible projects include studies, awareness projects, structural work, environmental events, active transportation events, and large-scale standout ventures.

Please visit our website to see if your initiatives qualify for support under this municipal grant program.

chelsea.ca/fonds-vert-en

Chelsea goes all in for “nature solutions”



reduce our GHG emissions, but must also absorb the increasingly significant costs of adapting to climate change. Indeed, these costs are estimated to reach \$2 billion for Quebec’s 10 largest cities within the next 5 years.

“The Municipality of Chelsea’s participation in this project is in perfect continuity with the actions initiated several years ago to promote sustainable development and adapt to climate change. These nature climate solutions will help us improve our initiatives in numerous areas, including surface water management, heat island reduction, and the protection and conservation of local biodiversity. Nature Québec and Société pour la nature et les parcs (SNAP Québec) are essential partners and we are very pleased to join them and the other cities and municipalities implementing these pilot projects,” said Chelsea Mayor Caryl Green.

ABOUT THE NATURE SOLUTIONS PROJECT

Supported by Nature Québec and the Société pour la Nature et les Parcs (SNAP Québec) and backed by an advisory committee, the project aims to have nature based solutions recognized as a tool for fighting climate change in Quebec and document and promote their benefits compared to technological solutions. Through an awareness campaign and showcase projects implemented in municipalities, En mode solution nature aims to assess and publicize the ways in which ecosystems can help communities mitigate and adapt to climate change in Quebec. This project receives financial support from the Government of Quebec under the Action-Climat program and is in line with the objectives of the Plan for a Green Economy 2030. The project will run until spring 2024 and will benefit from several partnerships, notably with Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l’environnement du Québec, Fondation de la Faune du Québec, and Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec.

*Extracted and adapted from Nature Québec’s official press release.

The Municipality of Chelsea, along with nine other Quebec municipalities and MRCs, is participating in the Nature Solutions Project. Natural climate solutions (NCS) are a set of actions that utilize ecosystems to reduce GHG emissions. They apply to agriculture, water management, forestry, and urban planning and offer some of our best options in the response to climate change. And unlike “grey” technologies and infrastructure, they generate many co-benefits for biodiversity and human populations.

Since nature-based solutions could provide up to 37% of the global effort needed to mitigate the climate crisis by 2030, the Nature Solutions Project also aims to quantify the role ecosystems play in reducing GHGs emissions and document solutions adapted to local realities, with a view to meeting Quebec’s emissions reduction targets. Quebec municipalities are not only at the forefront of the actions needed to

Are you doing the necessary tests for your home?

It is recommended that you test:

 your **well water quality** once or twice a year

 the **air for radon** on each inhabited floor of your home

Often, radon and water contaminants have no taste, no odor, and no color. That’s why it’s essential to do the necessary testing.

Get the tests at Town Hall.



chelsea.ca/h2o-en

chelsea.ca/radon-en



Dear residents,

Municipal Council has adopted its three-year capital expenditure plan (PTI) tonight for 2022 to 2024. The PTI covers the various projects that the municipality plans to carry out within the next three years, including scheduling and financing through various revenue streams. Council has been adopting its PTI in October for the past few years. This allows us to issue our calls for tenders early, which not only helps us secure the best prices, but also ensures contractor availability for the work.

The PTI includes a total investment of \$43 million divided into annual phases. Only \$30 million of the total \$43 million is new investment, \$13 million was already budgeted for in the 2021–2023 plan but has not yet been used. In addition, since the \$14 million plant expansions are paid through a sector tax, only \$16 million in new investments will be taxed to the general public.

Council’s priority projects

CHEMIN DU LAC MEECH: \$4.6 MILLION, INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY \$1.3 MILLION IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Most of the roadwork along Chemin du Lac-Meech between Chemin Dunlop and the Gatineau Parkway was completed this year. Unfortunately we’re still waiting for the utilities companies to relocate the power and telecommunications poles. Once the poles are moved, the municipal team will be able to complete the work on that section. That will leave the sections between Chemin Dunlop and O’Brien Beach and between O’Brien Beach and the end of Chemin du Lac-Meech.

CHEMIN DE LA RIVIÈRE: \$7 MILLION, INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY \$2.4 MILLION IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The first phase of the roadwork along Chemin de la Rivière got underway in September. We have applied for \$2.4 million in financial assistance and expect to have an answer in the next few weeks.

VOIE VERTE CHELSEA : 1,6 M \$ INCLUANT UNE SUBVENTION DE 287 000 \$

The vast majority of the work has now been completed, but there is still all the finishing work to be done. Some of the work planned in this ITP for the next few years includes finishing the stone dust surface (2022), signage (2022) and stabilization of some sections (2022-2024).

Major works

The main investments in this PTI are mostly for infrastructure and buildings. With our growing population and planned real estate developments, particularly near the village centre, expanding our drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities has become an urgent priority. We’ll be investing a total of \$14 million to that end over the next three years. Of that amount, an estimated \$6.7 million should be in the form of government subsidies. The rest will be paid primarily by system users through a sector tax, as well as through royalties billed to new users connecting to the system. In addition to expanding our wastewater plant, we also need to upgrade our sewage treatment plant. We’ve known since the beginning that we would need to upgrade the system to keep it running smoothly.

Other investments

The PTI also includes investments in the quality of life and safety of our residents, with funds allocated to

parks and recreation and the fire department.

- Infrastructure for teens (2022 to 2024)
- Emergency generator purchases (2022 to 2024)
- Replacements for an emergency vehicle (2022) and a ladder truck (2023)
- Redevelopment of the New Chelsea sector located on Route 105 north of chemin Old Chelsea (2022-2023)
- Various works related to parks, playgrounds and trails (2022-2024)
- Various works on Voie Verte Chelsea (2022-2024)

Estimated outstanding debt based on adopted PTI

The significant increase in taxpayer debt in 2022, which is mostly due to the Chemin de la Rivière and Chemin du Lac-Meech roadwork, brings our total taxpayer debt to more than \$40 million. However it’s important to keep in mind that the Municipality’s growing property wealth generated by the new developments will lessen the impact on municipal taxpayers.

The Municipality has invested nearly \$27 million in major essential roadwork since 2013. The work done has an estimated lifespan of 15–25 years. Annual preventive maintenance will be done to extend the lifespan of the roadwork carried out in the past few years and reduce the cost of future roadwork on those same roads.

CASH REIMBURSEMENT

Thanks to our policy for managing long-term debt and accumulated surpluses, the Municipality was able to pay \$1.2 million of these investments in cash in 2021, thereby reducing its debt. Once the financial results are in for 2021, the Municipality will be able to use the accumulated surplus to make other cash payments in 2022. Property and transfer tax revenues generated by the new developments is already expected to exceed our projections for 2021.

CONCLUSION

You will no doubt have noticed that the PTI does not include any investments for our river access project, the feasibility of which is still being evaluated. The amounts needed to move that project forward will be included in the Municipality’s operating budget. Rest assured, it is still very much on the table. It’s just that the amount will be paid for in cash.

I would like to thank all the municipal staff and councillors for their work. The adoption of the ITP is a lot of work and we could not achieve it without everyone’s involvement.

Sincerely,

Caryl Green

Voie Verte Chelsea

At the time of writing, the municipal team has issued its recommendations, but the outgoing municipal council was unable to agree on a system before the end of their mandate. It will therefore be up to the next council to decide on the system chosen to secure the pathway.

FINAL STONE SCREEN FOUNDATION

The work to install the final stone screen foundation is planned for 2022. This will result in full and partial closures of the trail. Information concerning the work will be communicated in due time.

INSTALLATION OF DRY TOILETS

In order to meet the needs of the growing number of Voie Verte users, dry toilets will soon be installed at Farm Point Park and near the Chelsea CLSC. A contract has been awarded to a private company for the maintenance and upkeep of these toilets. They will be accessible all year long.

GAZIFÈRE

Gazifère is currently extending the gas network in the municipality and will be doing some work on the Voie Verte Chelsea. This will result in the closure of the trail between Chemin Wright and Chemin des Artisans from October 18 to 31 and between Chemin Wallace and Chemin Fleury from around mid-November. As the work is being carried out by Gazifère, we invite you to consult their website for full details.

gazifere.com/en/chelsea

For regular updates on all the work that's happening, see our website.

chelsea.ca/voie-verte-en

Work in progress on the Voie Verte Chelsea

GUARDRAILS AND CULVERTS

Work is currently underway on the Voie Verte Chelsea, forcing the temporary closure of certain sections. The work is being carried out by engineering firm EXP with the purpose of installing guardrails in several curves and replacing culverts. This work will be completed in the fall of 2021.

The guardrails will make the pathway safer by eliminating the risk of tumbling down the slope on the curves. These installations are necessary because of the river and steep slopes. The barriers are made of wood, for a minimalist and natural look. They will be installed in several places on the trail, mainly in the following sectors:

- Northern part of Chemin Loretta
- Chemin Welka and Chemin Wallace area
- Chemin Fleury area
- Chemin Hudson area
- Area between Chemin Church and Chemin Station
- Chemin Hellard area

INSTALLATION OF CHICANES OR BOLLARDS

With the safety of Voie Verte Chelsea users in mind, the municipal team is continuing to work on the installation of chicanes or bollards at intersections in order to minimize the risk of cars inadvertently entering the pathway. The choice of system will be based on three essential criteria: to prevent vehicles from passing, to allow the passage of all active users, including families with carts, and to facilitate the passage of municipal maintenance vehicles.



Respect others when on the Voie Verte Chelsea



See the complete code of conduct

chelsea.ca/voie-verte-en



Leisure

DISCOVER THE WORK OF A LOCAL ARTIST

The next time you're in the Hollow Glen area, be sure to check out the work of Denis Charrette at the community centre at 12 chemin du Parc. Inaugurated on September 25, MAKWA PIKWATINA MITIKO, or "The tree that tells us about Bear Mountain," was selected from among a number of works in the Of Hills and Water Route contest held by MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais.

decollinesetdeau.com

ANOTHER GREAT SEASON FOR CICE YOUTH!

Once again this year, the Chelsea Youth Entrepreneurship Initiation Cooperative (CICE) gave 15 young people age 13 to 17 the opportunity to gain real-life work experience for when they enter the job market. Over seven weeks, coop members completed 42 contracts, representing 252 hours of work and 558 hours of volunteer work in their community.

The Municipality of Chelsea would like to warmly thank the gold and silver sponsors for their generous support, which allowed these young people to gain some great work experience.

GOLD



SILVER



A STEP CLOSER TO HEALTHY LIFESTYLES!



Photo credit: Grande marche Pierre Lavoie

La Grande marche Chelsea took place on Sunday, October 17 this year. More than 320 walkers joined us on the new 5 km route through Meredith. We were happy to see so many people enthusiastic about walking with us to promote healthy lifestyles. See you next year for the fourth edition of this event.

Thank you to our partners!



Love Reading



STORYTIME

Come hear stories and songs at one of our bilingual activities for kids ages 2 to 4. It's free! Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Tickets must be reserved in advance for parents or guardians and their children. Participants must have a Chelsea Library card.

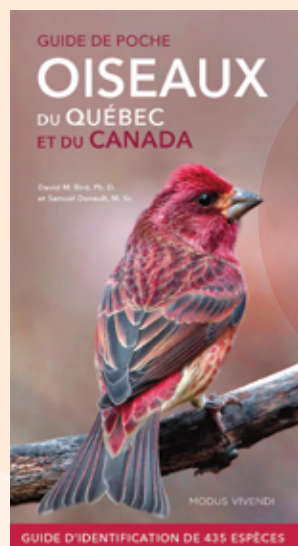
Space is limited: Maximum 10 persons per group

October 22: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

November 19: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

December 10: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Reserve your spot at chelsea.ca/library.



Pick up
a book

Fall is the perfect time to learn all about the different species of birds in our region.

Oiseaux du Québec et du Canada by David M. Bird and Samuel Denault (in French only)

LOCATIONS SET TO REOPEN

After being closed for some months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hollow Glen and Farm Point locations are set to welcome you once again!

Hollow Glen

Open November 3 and December 1

12 chemin du Parc

Regular hours: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month

Farm Point

Open October 26, November 24, and December 14

311 chemin de la Rivière

Regular hours: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month

Events



OCTOBER

30

7 P.M.

HALLOWEEN DRIVE-IN

Get into the Halloween spirit with your family at the showing of the movie *Hotel Transylvania 2* at Farm Point Park. Hurry, places are limited.

[Details at chelsea.ca/drivein](https://chelsea.ca/drivein)



OCTOBER

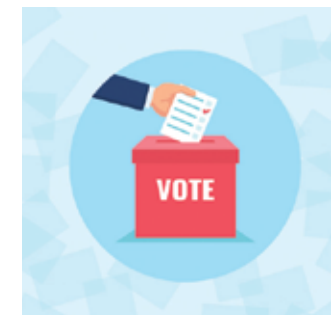
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AND OCTOBER 31
9:30 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

ADVANCE VOTING

You will have an opportunity to vote for a mayor and the councillors who will represent you for the next four years. Voting for the MRC warden will take place at the same time.

[Details at chelsea.ca/election-en](https://chelsea.ca/election-en)



NOVEMBER

7

9:30 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

ELECTION DAY

You will have an opportunity to vote for a mayor and the councillors who will represent you for the next four years. Voting for the MRC warden will take place at the same time.

[Details at chelsea.ca/election-en](https://chelsea.ca/election-en)



DECEMBER

4

AND 5

CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Halloween may not be here yet, but the municipal team is already planning the annual Christmas event. Save the dates!

[Details at chelsea.ca/christmas](https://chelsea.ca/christmas)

Winter Parking



Between November 15 and April 1, overnight parking on a road is not permitted.
chelsea.ca/by-laws



YOUR
COUNCILLORS

**The new council will be known
at the election on November 7.
Stay tuned!**

chelsea.ca/election-en

Municipality of Chelsea

100, chemin d'Old Chelsea
Chelsea, QC J9B 1C1
info@chelsea.ca
chelsea.ca

Main numbers

Town Hall 819-827-1124
Public Works 819-827-1160
Public Works (after-hours
emergency) 819-827-9911
Fire (general information)
819-827-6200

MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais
819-827-0516
Transcollines 819-456-1114
Emergency 911
Police 819-459-9911
Chelsea CLSC 819-459-1112
Info-Santé 811