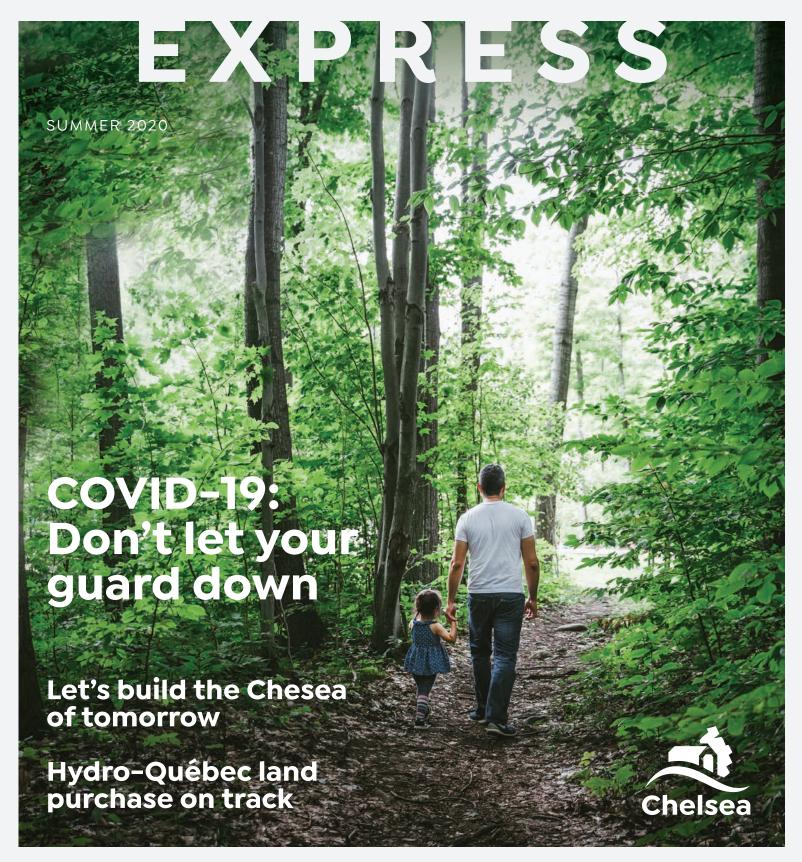
CHELSEA





A word from the Mayor

In recent weeks we've been facing an unprecedented challenge. Against all odds, we've saved lives through discipline and solidarity. I am deeply grateful for everything you have done and continue to do. In particular, I'd like to thank our community organizations for reaching out immediately to the most vulnerable and those in need of food. Once again our community has shown incredible strength and its ability to provide mutual support.

In the same vein, on May 15 UMQ issued a declaration of solidarity with Montréal to highlight the importance of supporting each in times of crisis, especially during the lockdown. You can read the declaration on our website. Now more than ever it is time to stand shoulder to shoulder as we remind ourselves that we will get through this together.

Despite the current situation, municipal projects are going ahead. In early April we launched the "I support Chelsea businesses" campaign to help business owners survive these difficult times. Many of you jumped at the chance to show your support. The "Buy local" page was the most visited section of our website for the month of April. Thank you!

We have also launched the Chelsea Master Plan review process. We've heard from community organizations and resident associations, and now we want to hear from you! See page 8 for details. Your comments are invaluable in helping us determine Chelsea's strengths and weaknesses before we forge ahead with the rest of the process.

This edition of Chelsea Express is packed with information, but things are constantly changing so please check the website often, sign up for our newsletter, and follow us on Facebook to stay up to date.

Stay well and, as always, buy local!



Caryl Green

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





LATEST NEWS

COVID-19: Don't let your guard down

A lot has changed since the World Health Organization declared a pandemic on March 11. Our lives have been disrupted, we've become reliant on technology to stay in touch with loved ones, and we've had to learn to slow down.

Meanwhile, healthcare workers are in the fight of their lives as they care for the elderly and those infected with the virus. Many of them are making tremendous sacrifices, putting their lives on the line and staying away from their own families while they take care of someone else's. On behalf of us all—a heartfelt thank you.

THINGS WILL GET BETTER, BUT IT'S NOT **OVER YET**

Although we are gradually getting back to normal, it's not over yet. With summer just around the corner, we need to continue to enforce health and hygiene recommendations to protect the vulnerable and relieve pressure on healthcare workers.

- Stay two metres away from other people and wear a mask in public when physical distancing is not possible.
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and warm water.
- · Cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- If you have cold or flu symptoms, stay home.

SUMMARY OF HOW THE MUNICIPALITY HAS **RESPONDED TO THE PANDEMIC**

• A new COVID-19 page on the website, with all the important information and things you need to know, and a new buy local campaign to support Chelsea businesses.

- · Videoconferencing for Council meetings and certain committee meetings.
- Temporary library cards and contactless document loan service.
- N95 masks donated to the Outaquais CISSS.
- · Creation of a calendar with daily activities to do on your own or with your family.
- No penalties or interest charged on unpaid property tax balances through September 1.
- · Weekly check-in by phone with community organizations to make sure they have everything they need to help our vulnerable residents.

We invite you to take a look at the important information on the COVID-19 page of our website. Check back often at chelsea.ca/covid-19-en.

Reopening of Town Hall

Municipal offices reopened to residents on June 8. Please use the main entrance on Chemin d'Old Chelsea and follow the hygiene and physical distancing instructions in place. Masks are mandatory for all visitors.

We are operating on a normal schedule but if you wish to meet with a specific member of staff, please make an appointment before coming in. Only one resident at a time is allowed to attend appointments. This applies to all departments, including permit applications. The new procedure is designed to reduce the number of people coming and going at Town Hall and thereby reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.

Although our offices are open, we encourage residents to use online services when possible. Learn more at chelsea.ca/en.

Shoreline inspections

Due to COVID-19, the shoreline inspection program will not take place this year. Since the program began in 2016, non-compliant shorelines along Kingsmere, Meech, and Mountains (Beamish) lakes have been restored.

The Gatineau River shoreline inspection slated for 2020 has been pushed back to 2021 due to the health crisis. The inspection procedure on the Gatineau River is more complicated due to the numerous docks located on municipal rights of way.

The Dock Committee is still working on a policy for bringing docks into compliance. No decision has been made yet. Public consultations will be held before the end of the year.

Progress on the community trail



Work on the community trail is coming along nicely. Several steps will be completed this summer in preparation for the final foundation.

Projects to be completed this summer include stabilization, culvert repair and replacement, signage, guardrails, and the development of intersections. Development of the trail in its final form will take place in stages between July and October 2020.

The work will include sections between the southern end of the municipality and Chemin de la Vallée. between Chemin Wright and Chemin Wallace, and between Chemin Church and the northern city limits.

That's more than 18 km finished by the end of this year!



LATEST NEWS

Hydro-Québec land purchase on track

Since the February 17 information session on the purchase of Hydro-Québec lots, municipal employees have met with some 50 owners of lots adjoining the Gatineau River. Staff reviewed lot owners' location certificates or deeds of sale to provide reassurance that the Hydro-Québec lot purchases will not affect the boundaries or surface area of their property as currently listed in the Québec land register.

Most residents are not against the purchase but are concerned about the fate of their private structures on the riverbank or on the community trail right of way. The Municipality is working on a policy to address the situation. In the meantime the purchase of Hydro-Québec lots is moving forward and will be finalized this summer.

As a reminder, the three objectives of the Hydro-Québec land purchase are to:

- Provide public access to the Gatineau River for recreational purposes
- Carry out surveys and public works when required to ensure the new community trail is stable and properly drained
- Protect private dock ownership

On January 14 the Municipal Council approved the acquisition of 14 Hydro-Québec lots for a total of \$47,426 plus tax. These lots have a total surface area of 1,893,825.30 m2 and are located along the Gatineau River between Chemin Peter's Point and the northernmost municipality limits.

For updates on the purchase, visit chelsea.ca/access-river.

Dock policy

The Dock Committee is making progress on a dock policy. Public consultations will be held later this year.

Review of the active transportation plan

In the coming weeks the Municipality will start revising the Active Transportation Plan (ATP), with the goal of reaffirming the plan's vision and priorities.

The revision framework calls for public consultations by the end of the summer, giving you the chance to have your say and help us improve active transportation in Chelsea. We value your opinion! Keep an eye on our website as more details will be posted soon.



Dogs on leashes: A requirement in public places



When you take Fido out for a stroll, he must be on a leash at all times. The rule applies to all public places (streets, trails, parks, and so on) in the municipality.

Leashes must be no more than 1.85 m (6 ft.) long, and you must able to control and restrain your dog without letting them run at large or pull you along. It's the by-law!

Out of consideration for others, pick up after your pet to keep our municipality clean and enjoyable for everyone. That's the by-law too!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PETS **AND COVID-19**

According to Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec, there is currently no indication that pets can be infected or that they can transmit COVID-19 to humans. But because the virus can survive for a number of hours on dry and damp surfaces, it is logical and prudent to assume it can survive on animal fur.

To avoid unnecessary risks, try to limit your pet's contact with other people. Also avoid petting someone else's animal or allowing others to pet yours. Remember, physical distancing applies to people AND their pets!

Chelsea Creek stabilization work to resume

Work on the stabilization of Chelsea Creek will start up again on June 15. The project was a preventive measure after Ministère de la Sécurité publique (MSP) determined the area was at risk of a landslide.

An initial phase was completed during the winter. The second phase includes seeding and planting shrubs and will run until August 20. We do not anticipate any road closures, but there might be more heavy vehicles on Route 105 south of Chemin Hudson.

Details at chelsea.ca/road-works.

Urban planning





Let's build the Chelsea of tomorrow

The Municipality of Chelsea is officially launching the review process of its Master Plan, an official document that allows the Municipality to plan and organize the development of its territory.

The review will adjust the municipal by-laws to the new revised land use and development plan of the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais that was adopted last February. It is also an opportunity to revisit the urban plan in effect since 2005 and the 2011 specific urban planning program for the centre-village and to modernize them according to the objectives and vision of today's community in a spirit of sustainable development based on low climate impact urban planning principles.

You can already take our online survey to help us identify Chelsea's strengths and weaknesses. This survey is only the first step as you will be invited to

share your vision and ideas throughout the process through public consultations, workshops and online questionnaires. As citizens of Chelsea, your participation is key to its success, ensuring that the new by-law reflects your concerns.

FOUR MAIN STEPS

The complete review of the urban plan is expected to take one and a half to two years and will include four main stages. The timeline and our methods of public consultation will be adjusted on an ongoing basis according to the preventive measures related to COVID-19. If necessary, public consultations will be held online using a variety of digital platforms.

- Strategic visioning exercise (April to June 2020)
- Master Plan review (Aprill 2020 to October 2021)
- Review of urban planning by-laws and regulations (September 2020 to July 2021)
- Adoption of Master Plan and by-laws by the MRC and coming into force (August/September 2021)

To make sure you don't miss out on anything and to take the survey, visit **chelsea.ca/plan-en**.

Short-term accommodations: Holding for provincial legislation

Private homes have been offering short-term rental accommodations on the sly in the municipality through Airbnb, Vrbo, Wimbu, and others, leading in some cases to serious issues for those living nearby.

However, the possibility of offering residents who wish to have the opportunity to earn additional income by renting out their main residence for short periods of time, within a legal and regulatory framework that is clear, simple and fair for all, is currently being studied.

Planning and Sustainable Development has been working on a set of regulatory amendments since 2019, seeking to balance competing interests through specific conditions and restrictions. The regulation will also include penalties for owners who continue to offer accommodations without authorization.

Public consultations will be held. If COVID-19 restrictions are still in effect, those public consultations will be held online using digital platforms.

AWAITING PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

Because new municipal by-laws have to comply with provincial legislation, Municipal Council has decided to put the amendment process on hold until the province passes its new bills.

Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation introduce its Bill 49 in November 2019 to amend the provincial laws governing short-term accommodations. It was supposed to be passed

in May 2020, but the National Assembly shutdown has put its entry in force on hold for an unspecified future date.

A regulation to amend the Regulation respecting tourist accommodation establishments took effect in May 2020. It added a new category of tourist accommodations: primary residence establishments. Also, it's now mandatory for any natural person (owner or tenant) to have a classification certificate from the CITQ Québec Tourism Industry Corporation, including a written notice and establishment number, before they can rent out their primary residence. Revenu Québec inspectors are in charge of enforcing the Act and Regulation respecting tourist accommodation establishments.

Chelsea residents can keep up to date on how the provincial government's guidelines are progressing on the Government of Québec website.



Finances



Cancellation of interest and penalties on outstanding tax account balances

At the regular Council meeting held by videoconference on June 2, 2020, Council unanimously decided to extend the period for cancelling interest and penalties on outstanding tax account balances. The cancellation now applies for the period extending from March 13 to September 1, 2020.

Postdated cheques already received will be cashed on the due dates unless residents request otherwise. We encourage all those who are in a position to make their tax payments to do so on the due dates in order to maintain the Municipality's cash flow. For details, visit chelsea.ca/taxation-en.

COVID-19: No major impact for now

The Finance Department is assessing how the pandemic has affected the Municipality's finances.

Unlike other cities and municipalities, Chelsea does not rely on revenue from things like auditoriums, parking meters, swimming pools, or public transit so it is not being hit as hard financially.

The Municipality has maintained its lines of credit for short-term liquidity needs and has a surplus that could offset COVID-19 related losses this financial year. Changes in real estate development could have the biggest impact because it's hard to estimate what this year's revenue would be in the event of a slowdown. But for now, there's no reason to worry.

Highlights of the 2019 financial report

MAYOR'S REPORT

In accordance with Section 176.2.2 of the Municipal Code, I would like to present the highlights of the financial report and external auditor's report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019. The report was verified by Marc Boucher, partner at Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton LLP, who is of the opinion that the financial statements accurately reflect the financial position of the Municipality in all material respects.

The 2019 fiscal year ended with an operating surplus for tax purposes of \$1,489,062, bringing the unrestricted accumulated surplus to \$1,596,622 as at December 31, 2019.

The operating surplus was a result of:

- Higher than expected revenue, primarily from:
 - \$651,562 in additional transfer revenue;
 - \$62,329 in additional tax revenue;
 - \$144,465 additional in lieu of taxes:
 - \$58,072 in additional transfer revenues from MDDEP and Recyc-Québec;
 - and \$140,976 in additional interest and penalty revenue.

- Lower than expected expenses, primarily from:
 - lower salaries and benefits of \$313,655 due to non-hires or hires that happened later in the year than expected;
- \$89,250 in unrealized expenditures deferred to 2020.

Operating results for fiscal 2019:

- Operating revenue: \$19,391,612
- Operating expenses: \$18,929,199
 - Including the RCM share: \$3.4 million
 - Including financing costs: \$1.3 million
 - Including salaries and benefits: \$4.9 million
 - Including amortization: \$3.2 million
- Reconciliation for tax purposes: \$1,026,649
 - Including debt repayment: \$2.6 million
 - Including amortization: -\$3.2 million

Capital expenditures for fiscal 2019:

The Municipality invested in various projects during the 2019 fiscal year, many of which were funded by grants. These major projects include:

- Purchase of computer equipment, the Voilà!
 citizen platform, a new administrative server, and
 the municipal website: \$51,307
- Repair and construction of a bicycle path on Chemin de la Mine: \$2,237,955 (\$974,830 from FCCQ's small communities fund and \$300,000 from CCN in grants to repair Chemin Notch and Chemin de la Mine)

- Repair of Chemin Notch (final paving): \$255,145
- Repair of Chemin de la Rivière (professional fees): \$170 115
- Drainage and stabilization work on the community trail: \$98.950
- Development work on the community trail: \$539,967
- Slope stabilization work on two tributaries of Chelsea Creek: \$72,487 (\$5,400,000 grant or 75% of the actual cost of the work from Ministère de la Sécurité publique)
- Drainage work on various roads: \$210,789
- Purchase of various vehicles, machinery, and equipment (replacement): \$236,525
- Purchase of turn signals, speed cameras, and cutouts for road safety: \$39,391

The total cost of capital expenditures for the 2019 fiscal year was \$4,209,184. This amount includes various grants obtained by the Municipality to alleviate the tax burden on residents and reduce total expenses.

In conclusion, the financial report as at December 31, 2019, shows that the Municipality is in a good financial position. Once again, I'd like to thank the Municipal Council, the entire municipal administration, and the residents for their hard work and contributions to all these projects.

Environment



Public works





Tips and tricks or composting

Summer is here and sometimes some inconveniences regarding composting can appear during this period. Here is a reminder of a few tips and tricks to help you.

ODORS

- Avoid placing your bin in full sun and take it out every collection day
- Rinse your bin with soap and water or vinegar after every collection
- Use closable paper bags inside the bin or top it off with a layer of newspaper or leaves each time you add compostables.
- Freeze your leftover food and add it to the bin at the last minute.
- Let your leaves and grass clippings dry out before putting them into the bin

UNWELCOME ANIMALS

 Use the specially designed locking system or a bungee cord to keep the bin closed. You can also sprinkle the top of the bin with Cayenne pepper or spread some menthol around the edges. Take the same precautions as with household garbage. The safest place for your bin is in the corner of the garage with the door shut.

WORMS OR MAGGOTS

 Rinse your bin after your waste collectors empty it and leave the lid open in the sun to dry. You can also sprinkle them with baking soda or salt, spray them with vinegar, or rinse your bin with boiling water.

Survey on fireplaces and wood-burning stoves

Chelsea's Sustainable Development Action Plan sets out a number of priorities for the 2018–2021 timeframe. One of the priorities is to ensure a healthy living environment for households.

Fine particles reduce air quality and can affect the health of seniors and people who have asthma or respiratory or cardiac disorders.

The Municipality wants to collect as much information as possible on the quantity of fine particles released in smoke from fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. The data will be used to create an overview of the situation in Chelsea and to educate residents on the impacts of using fireplaces and wood-burning stoves.

To participate in the survey, visit **chelsea.ca/survey**.

Plan ahead for summer road trips!

Use our road works page to plan your route ahead of time. It has the latest information on current and future projects so you know which areas are affected and where you can expect traffic restrictions. Check back regularly for updates.

Details at chelsea.ca/road-works.

New speed limits on Route 105 and Chemin McNally

Following recommendations from the Public Works and Infrastructure Advisory Committee, the Municipal Council recently approved lower speed limits on a section of Route 105 and Chemin McNally to keep motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists safe.

ROUTE 105 (effective immediately)

New speed limit

50 km/h (previously 70 km/h)

Section

Route 105 between Chemin Station and 829 Route 105

CHEMIN MCNALLY (coming into effect in 30 days)

New speed limit

30 km/h (previously 40 km/h)

Section

Chemin McNally at municipal park

Septic tank emptying: Stay back 3 m!

On May 11 the Public Works Department began the latest septic tank emptying program. Due to COVID-19 and in partnership with Épursol, the Municipality has implemented measures that will keep workers safe:

- Stay at least 3 metres away from workers since they are constantly on the move and operating equipment
- Do not touch equipment used by Épursol and the Municipality
- All employees will be provided with protective equipment and disinfecting and antiseptic products

In the event of non-compliance, Épursol and Municipality employees are authorized to leave the job site and empty the tank at a later time.

For more details and the schedule, visit **chelsea.ca/septic**.

Communication



Public Security





I support Chelsea businesses

The Municipality of Chelsea has launched a campaign to encourage residents to support Chelsea shops and businesses at this difficult time. The "I support Chelsea businesses" campaign was rolled out on April 6, with materials available online and in print.

The Municipality has also created a page on its website listing the names and contact information of all shops, service providers, and other businesses taking part in the campaign. We hope that it will also help vulnerable residents who cannot leave their homes.

If you can afford to do so, please support local businesses while following physical distancing guidelines.

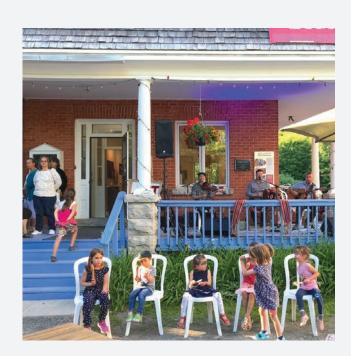
Learn more at chelsea.ca/buy-local.

Photo contest

The Municipality is launching its annual photo contest for your free municipal calendar. This year's theme: Chelsea in beauty.

Send us photos that show the beauty of Chelsea through your eyes. You might photograph a landscape, a family activity, neighbors helping neighbors, or a cultural or sports event, to mention just a few possibilities. Take a look back through your albums! The winning photos will be published in the 2021 municipal calendar distributed to all residents. Deadline for sending your photos: August 31, 2020.

See all the details at chelsea.ca/contest.





Bonfire ban lifted

The ban on outdoor fires is no longer in effect. Now that trees and bushes have come into leaf, vegetation has grown, and humidity levels have risen, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs has lifted the ban that had been in place since mid-April. Open fires smaller than one metre (without a permit) and fires in a firepit with a spark arrester are now permitted in Chelsea. However, the ban on open fires bigger than one metre (with a permit) still applies because they were only allowed up to April 30.

The Fire Department reminds residents to check the SOPFEU website for any restrictions before enjoying a bonfire.

Reducing false fire alarms

In Québec nine out of ten fire alerts received at monitoring centres are false alarms. They might be caused by an incorrectly installed alarm system, poor maintenance, or a defective part. In most cases false alarms are triggered by things like steam, cigarette smoke, smoke from heating appliances, or even dust.

In the event of a false alarm, you have 90 seconds to enter your access code and cancel the alert to the monitoring centre. But before you do that, check what triggered the alarm. Was it a real fire, user error, light smoke, etc.? Always assume alarms are genuine until proven otherwise.

If you see smoke or fire, direct everyone outside to the meeting point and then call 911. Do not go back inside without permission from firefighters.

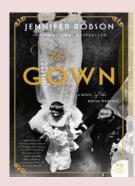
We've posted some tips for avoiding false alarms on our website at **chelsea.ca/alarm**.

Source: Ministère de la Sécurité publique



Love Reading

EBOOK RECOMMENDATION FROM SAM



eBook

THE GOWN Jennifer Robson

London, 1947: Besieged by the harshest winter in living memory, burdened by onerous shortages and rationing, the people of postwar Britain are enduring lives of quiet desperation despite their nation's recent victory. Among them are Ann Hughes and Miriam Dassin, embroiderers at the famed Mayfair fashion house of Norman Hartnell. Together they forge an unlikely friendship, but their nascent hopes for a brighter future are tested when they are chosen for a once-in-a-lifetime honor: taking part in the creation of Princess Elizabeth's wedding gown.

Toronto, 2016: More than half a century later, Heather Mackenzie seeks to unravel the mystery of a set of embroidered flowers, a legacy from her late grandmother. How did her beloved Nan, a woman who never spoke of her old life in Britain, come to possess the priceless embroideries that so closely resemble the motifs on the stunning gown worn by Queen Elizabeth II at her wedding almost seventy

years before? And what was her Nan's connection to the celebrated textile artist and holocaust survivor Miriam Dassin?

With The Gown, Jennifer Robson takes us inside the workrooms where one of the most famous wedding gowns in history was created. Balancing behind-thescenes details with a sweeping portrait of a society left reeling by the calamitous costs of victory, she introduces readers to three unforgettable heroines, their points of view alternating and intersecting throughout its pages, whose lives are woven together by the pain of survival, the bonds of friendship, and the redemptive power of love.

PHASED REOPENING PLAN FOR THE LIBRARY

To comply with guidelines announced by the Québec government for the first phase of reopening for public libraries, the contactless borrowing system rolled out on May 7 continued through June 13.

Residents were able to reserve books by email and pick them up by appointment at the outdoor canopy on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Since June 20, the library gradually reopened on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for contactless borrowing inside the building. Residents can visit the library without an appointment to learn about staff recommendations and borrow documents. Users who want to make an appointment on Saturdays can still do so and pick up their books inside. Thursdays are still for contactless pickup outside, by appointment only between 2 and 6 p.m.

As part of the reopening plan, the library cleared an aisle for users to use inside the building. The entrance is now the main Town Hall entrance on Chemin d'Old

Chelsea and the exit is via the door to the parking lot. Users also have to use hand sanitizer at the entrance, maintain physical distancing, and wear masks when visiting the library.

We are continuously monitoring guidelines issued by the Québec government. The library reopening plan could change at any time depending on the situation in Québec and the Outaouais region.

A NEW VISUAL IDENTITY FOR THE LIBRARY

Have you noticed the library's new visual identity?
Rolled out in spring, it features a series of illustrations highlighting the slogan "I love to read" and the creative and educational space libraries represent.
The graphic charter was designed to attract new audiences through the development of promotional tools showcasing everything the library has to offer.

While the old logo used the Municipality's official colors, it has been tweaked to correct a few defects and will now be dark purple. The goal of the update is to create a cohesive and unique ecosystem that ties in with the new visual identity.

As an inclusive space where education and imagination exist side by side, the library seeks primarily to meet residents' information, education, culture, and leisure needs by providing free access to knowledge and reading materials for all.

The new identity was created with financial support from the Québec government under the Chelsea Cultural Development Agreement.



TD SUMMER READING CLUB: GAME ON!

This summer, children can visit the reading club website starting June 15 to sign up and do things like:

- Read ebooks
- Vote in the Battle of the Books
- Review books and stories
- Answer the trivia question of the week
- Watch author and illustrator videos

For more information, visit **tdsummerreadingclub.ca**

Let's continue to protect ourselves!



Cough into your sleeve



Wash your hands



Keep your distance



Cover your face (if less than 2 meters)



Limit your travel



Québec.ca/coronavirus

© 1-877-644-4545



Councillor district 1

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Councillor district 5

Jean-Paul Leduc 819-827-2782 jp.leduc@chelsea.ca

Councillor district 6

Kimberly Chan 873-354-6742 k.chan@chelsea.ca

Municipality of Chelsea

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

Main numbers

City 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