

CHELSEA EXPRESS

WINTER 2022

COVID-19: Getting back to normal

A realistic budget
of \$23 million

The revision of
the Master Plan
continues





A word from the mayor

Although 2021 is behind us, the last few weeks have reminded us that the pandemic is unfortunately still with us. Caution is still the order of the day, but the new relief measures announced by the Quebec government seem to offer us a return to (almost) normality, just in time for spring.

Until then, we are fortunate to have several facilities that allow us to get out of the house and enjoy the joys of winter in Chelsea. Whether it's skiing, snowshoeing or fat biking on the Voie Verte, or skating on one of our three groomed skating rinks, there are plenty of options for you to get out and about.

On another note, Council adopted the first operating budget of its mandate on December 21, including some great projects related to the environment and active transportation. I invite you to read the finance section on pages 10 to 13 for all the details.

In the budget, Council has planned an environmental characterization study of the banks of the Gatineau River to get an idea of their condition and evaluate the potential impact of the installation of public docks giving access to the river. In addition, significant funding is provided for active transportation through the construction of various trails in the Chelsea neighbourhoods and the VVC surface layer.

This budget will also ensure the sustainability of our infrastructure by investing in a road deterioration study that will help us plan for future work.

Finally, the budget will also allow for several major planning projects including the creation of a specific planning program for the Farm Point area and the drafting of a new conditional use by-law. The Urban Planning Department will be finalizing the revision of the Urban Plan and the urban planning by-laws during the year. Public consultations will be held to gather your comments on the new direction and bylaw provisions before final adoption.

Municipal committees have resumed and Council is to have enhanced the mandate of the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee and to have created the Active and Sustainable Mobility Committee. We thank the volunteers who assist in the municipal process through their involvement on the various committees.

As you can see, 2022 promises to be a busy year, full of projects, and your participation is key!



Pierre Guénard

Mayor

p.guenard@chelsea.ca

819 827-6217



Photo credit : Yves Geoffrion



LATEST

COVID-19: A return (almost) to normal for municipal life!

The COVID-19 situation has taken a turn for the better in the last few weeks and brings hope that things will be (almost) back to normal in time for spring. Our team has been working remotely during the latest lockdown and will be back in municipal offices on February 28. City Hall will reopen to the public on the same day, which will allow for the resumption of services like the H2O program, the radon detection program, in-person tax payment, and much more. That said, services requiring a meeting with municipal staff will still be by appointment only.

The Municipality strongly encourages residents to continue using the phone or email whenever possible to contact us, make payments or transmit documents.

To make an appointment:

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

By phone at 819-827-6210
By email at urbanisme@chelsea.ca

TAXATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

By phone at 819-827-1124
By email at taxation@chelsea.ca

RECREATION, SPORTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY LIFE DEPARTMENT

By phone at 819-827-6228
By email at loisirs@chelsea.ca

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

By phone at 819-827-1160
By email at travauxpublics@chelsea.ca

ADMINISTRATION AND MAYOR'S OFFICE

By phone at 819-827-6217
By email at d.generale@chelsea.ca

FOR ALL OTHER QUESTIONS

By phone at 819-827-1124
By email at info@chelsea.ca

chelsea.ca/covid-19-en

Municipal tax relief measures adopted

At a regular Council meeting held by video conference on January 11, elected officials unanimously decided to temporarily waive interest and penalties on outstanding tax balances once again this year as a way to offer relief to residents in these uncertain times.

This exemption is valid for the period between March 1 and June 30, 2022. Post-dated cheques already received will be cashed on the scheduled dates, unless otherwise advised by the resident. We encourage all those who are able to make their tax payments on the scheduled dates in order to maintain the Municipality's cash flow.

For more information, visit

chelsea.ca/taxation-en

NEWS

Your New Council

A new council was chosen in the municipal general election held on November 7. The mayor and district councillors have been at work for three months already to ensure the administration and development of your municipality.

A total of 44.7% of residents exercised their right to vote to elect the new municipal council.

Council meetings

Council meetings are held every first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Due to the exceptional circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings are held via video conference through the Zoom platform. Sessions are always open to residents. Agendas are available on the website a few days before each meeting, and minutes are published when they are adopted by the board at the next meeting. Council meetings are also available for replay on our YouTube channel.

Committees

Committees occupy an important place in the democratic life of the municipality. Each committee has a mandate to analyze certain issues and make recommendations to Council. They are composed of elected officials appointed by Council, members of the municipal administration, and residents.

Interested in joining a committee? Keep your eyes open—the Municipality regularly seeks volunteers to sit on its various committees.



Christopher Blais
COUNCILLOR FOR DISTRICT 4
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613 808-2078



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819 664-6947

Urban planning



Where are we with the Master Plan Revision

The exercise of the Master Plan revision and by-laws is ongoing. The draft by-laws are complete and will be presented for the first time to the newly elected Mayor and Councillors for their comments and suggestions in February. Depending on the extent of the changes requested, the timeline for adoption will be revised and posted on our website.

Once Council is satisfied with the adjustments, it will proceed with the adoption of the proposed by-laws and Notices of Motion. It is at this stage that the plan and by-laws will become public documents and accessible to all.

Once the documents are available to the public, the Municipality will hold public consultations, the exact form of which will depend on the measures in force with respect to COVID-19. In any event, the Municipality wishes to give Chelsea residents a ample time to become familiar with the revised plan and by-laws and to submit their comments, recommendations and opinions on the new directions and by-law provisions.

According to the adoption procedures established by the Loi sur l'aménagement et l'urbanisme, we anticipate that public consultations will take place in April and that the various revised by-laws will all be in effect by September 2022.

chelsea.ca/plan-en

Dock by-law deferred



Photo credit : Michelle Ste. Marie

At its first meeting on December 7, Council postponed implementing the dock by-law. The by-law, originally scheduled for January 2022, will be delayed by one year and will come into effect in January 2023. Council members decided on the delay to allow them to thoroughly review and refine it over the next year.

Environment



Five projects accepted under the Fonds vert program

The Fonds vert program's second call for projects was launched last fall and received a total of eleven proposals for environmental, sustainable development, and active transportation projects. Among these, five projects were selected by the Council at its February 1 meeting and will be eligible for financial assistance and support from the Municipality. A total of eight projects received financial assistance from the Fonds vert in 2021.

Here are the selected projects:

Community projects

MAPPING OF MOUNTAINS LAKE AQUATIC PLANT COMMUNITIES

This project will inventory aquatic plants in Mountains Lake in order to develop strategies for invasive plant management and protection of vulnerable plants.

MONARCH WAYSTATION

This project will provide a breeding and feeding ground for monarchs to support their population and receive Monarch Waystation certification from Monarch Watch.

TREES FOR CHELSEA

This project will plant trees on the municipal sports fields.

Municipal projects

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION - ENCOURAGE CYCLING

The Municipality will install 7 bike racks and initiate an awareness campaign and events promoting active transportation.

INCENTIVE FOR THE PURCHASE OF CLOTH DIAPERS (PILOT PROJECT)

This project provides financial assistance for the use of cloth diapers to encourage waste reduction.

chelsea.ca/fonds-vert-en

New signs on the Meredith ecological interpretation trail

You may have noticed the new interpretation signage installed by the Municipality last fall on the trail near the Meredith Centre. As you walk the trail around a temporary pond, you can test your knowledge of wetlands with the help of seven interactive panels. An eighth panel has also been installed near the Curling des Collines Centre.

A dragonfly hunt for young and old alike! Four dragonflies are hidden along the trail. Can you spot them?

Public works



Do you need fill material?

This summer, the Public Works Department will be digging ditches at a few locations in the area. Excavation material will be available for backfill purposes. Residents of the Municipality wishing to obtain backfill material can make a request now.

To do so, residents must fill out the form provided at chelsea.ca/fill and email it to the Public Works Department at travauxpublics@chelsea.ca. Once the application is received, it will be reviewed by the Planning and Sustainable Development Department to verify the property (e.g. mass movement zone, proximity to a watercourse, etc.). Residents whose requests are in compliance will then be put on a list for possible delivery of backfill, depending on availability and the proximity of the work carried out by the Municipality.

Remember that the fill material is offered free of charge by the Municipality and is a mixed soil that can be used to level and elevate a lot. It is often used as fill material for ditches. It is composed of soil and other materials such as sand, stone, clay, etc.

chelsea.ca/fill

Make snow removal operations easier!



During the winter season, your cooperation is essential to facilitate snow removal operations.










- It is forbidden to throw or deposit snow or ice on public roads, even when you are clearing your driveway.
- During a snowstorm, do not park your vehicles on the roadside.
- Respect the ban on parking on public roads between midnight and 7 a.m. from November 15 to April 1 inclusively.
- Remember to place your bins in your driveway and not on the street so that they do not interfere with snow removal operations.
- Avoid building snow castles, tunnels, or forts near roads.





RESIDUAL MATERIALS COLLECTION SCHEDULE 2022

- Recycling
- Household waste
- Compost
- Christmas trees
- Hazardous household waste
- Branches (deposit at the municipal garage)
- Delayed to the next day

January							February							March							April									
			L	M	M	J	V				L	M	M	J	V				L	M	M	J	V							
		3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4							1		
		10	11	12	13	14			7	8	9	10	11			7	8	9	10	11			4	5	6	7	8			
		17	18	19	20	21			14	15	16	17	18			14	15	16	17	18			11	12	13	14	15			
		24	25	26	27	28				21	22	23	24	25				21	22	23	24	25				18	19	20	21	22
		31								28								28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	

May							June							July							August										
			L	M	M	J	V				L	M	M	J	V				L	M	M	J	V				L	M	M	J	V
		2	3	4	5	6							1	2	3								1				1	2	3	4	5
		9	10	11	12	13				6	7	8	9	10				4	5	6	7	8				8	9	10	11	12	
		16	17	18	19	20				13	14	15	16	17				11	12	13	14	15				15	16	17	18	19	
		23	24	25	26	27				20	21	22	23	24				18	19	20	21	22				22	23	24	25	26	
		30	31							27	28	29	30					25	26	27	28	29				29	30	31			

September							October							November							December										
			L	M	M	J	V				L	M	M	J	V				L	M	M	J	V				L	M	M	J	V
						1	2				3	4	5	6	7				31	1	2	3	4							1	2
		5	6	7	8	9				10	11	12	13	14				7	8	9	10	11				5	6	7	8	9	
		12	13	14	15	16				17	18	19	20	21				14	15	16	17	18				12	13	14	15	16	
		19	20	21	22	23				24	25	26	27	28				21	22	23	24	25				19	20	21	22	23	
		26	27	28	29	30				31								28	29	30						26	27	28	29	30	

The pick-up will be done from Monday to Thursday. However, for statutory holidays, the pick-up will be postponed to the next day.

For special collection dates
visit chelsea.ca

For units with curbside pickup, set waste out no earlier than 7 p.m. the evening before your collection day or before 7 a.m. the day of. Place it next to the sidewalk, curb, or road concession.

General information: 819-827-1124
Info 3R (waste management): 819-827-3547
Public Works: 819-827-1160

Emergency – Public Works: 819-827-9911
Emergency (fire, police, ambulance): 911
Police (administration): 819-459-2422

Animal Control Officer: 819-205-2908
Website: chelsea.ca

Finances



Budget 2022: A Word from the Mayor

It is now time to present this council's first operating budget. I am proud to present a realistic budget of \$23M focused on sound financial management, the environment and active transportation, including a 2.9% increase in the tax rate, which is less than the annual inflation rate for both residential and non-residential properties.

The tax rate increase is mainly due to the adoption of a \$30.2M budget by the MRC des Collines de l'Outaouais on November 24. In fact, the 5.18% increase in the MRC's budget automatically determines the Municipality's share, which will increase by 11.98% for the year 2022. This increase alone represents 2.76% of the general tax rate for Chelsea residents.

To limit the tax rate for residents, all sectoral rates, except for septic tank emptying, will decrease in 2022, which will mean that the increase in the tax bill of an average residence that has not experienced a change in its assessed value will be less than the 2.9% announced.

Sound financial management

It is important for our Municipal Council to ensure sound financial management in order to plan intelligent investments, limit new expenses and allow for a faster repayment of existing debts, while maintaining the flexibility to deal with exceptional situations that may arise.

Throughout the budget process, particular attention was paid to compliance with the policy on managing long-term debt and accumulated surpluses. Council has ensured that it respects the ratios established by the policy and that it carries out its investment projects while limiting the increase in long-term debt.

Drainage work (\$210,000) and various equipment (\$143,750) will be paid for out of the operating budget, while a vehicle (\$110,000) and part of the expansion of City Hall (\$150,000) will be paid for out of the unrestricted surplus. In total, \$613,750 will not be added to the debt, in addition to the \$710,000 that has been set aside for debt repayment during the year 2021.

When the audited 2021 annual financial report is tabled, an additional amount will be paid, if possible, into a surplus allocated to the redemption of long-term debt.

Finally, an amount has been budgeted for a strategic planning exercise that will allow us to establish our needs and priorities and develop essential guidelines for good financial planning, better internal management, but above all, informed decision-making for the well-being of our citizens in the short and medium term.



Investments in the environment and active transportation

Several initiatives have been included in the budget in relation to the environment and active transportation, which are priorities for City Council.

PERMANENT POSITION OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Because of its dedication to the fight against climate change, the council would like to encourage more environmental projects in the municipality. The new environmental and sustainable development officer position will allow the council to support the environmental consultant and carry out the Municipality's numerous environmental projects, including the sustainable development action plan (PADD) which will be revised and updated in 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERIZATION STUDY OF THE BANKS OF THE GATINEAU RIVER

Council has planned for an environmental study to characterize the state and health of the banks of the Gatineau River. This will allow us to evaluate the potential impact of the installation of public docks giving access to the river.

PURCHASE OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL PROBES

In 2022, the Municipality will purchase two multifunctional probes that will allow us to continue studying and monitoring the water quality of the Gatineau River and the three lakes in Chelsea.

NEW TRAILS

To promote active transportation, the municipality, in collaboration with the SCT, will continue working on creating trails in the neighbourhoods. The current budget will allow us to continue marking the Chelsea Greenway for cross-country skiing. The Three-Year Capital Plan (TCCP) includes a connection between the Chelsea Greenway and the Highway 5 East and West Trail.

Public Works: Investments in infrastructure and road safety

The Public Works budget also includes several studies and work projects that directly affect the environment and climate change, including changes to practices such as cleaning machinery between work sites to prevent the spread of invasive plants and cleaning and seeding the lower third of our ditches.

This budget also allows us to ensure the sustainability of our infrastructure by investing in a study on the deterioration of our roads so we can better plan the necessary work. Further to the growth of the Centre-Village sector, the Municipality will develop a Master Plan for the stormwater network to confirm the potential of the current network and to plan future interventions long term.

Finally, it is important for our council to ensure the safety of the roads on our territory. Therefore, the public works team will carry out a study this year to determine the safety needs on Route 105 at the intersection of Cross Loop and St-Clement.



Finances

Urban planning: Citizen consultation and innovative projects

Investments to improve public consultations related to urban planning and the environment have been included in the budget for the Urban Planning Department. Several other urban planning projects are planned for 2022, such as the creation of a special urban planning program for the Farm Point sector, which will make it possible, among other things, to specify the types of uses that will be authorized in the various areas and better supervise developments around the commercial zones. A new bylaw on conditional uses will be drafted to make the regulations somewhat more flexible.

Return of your favourite events

The budget presented today provides for the return of recreational activities such as Magical Christmas, Défi ensemble tout va mieux, CIEC, Chelsea en fête, Plaisirs d'hiver, Mardis en Musique, Éveil artistique dans les parcs and many others. In addition, the Municipality will help the FAB set up in their new premises and carry out their cultural programming. Finally, over the course of the year, the Municipality will continue updating its cultural policy, created in 2005.

Challenge to the NCC

Council continues to work to recover the payments in lieu of taxes owed to us by the National Capital Commission (NCC), but more importantly, to ensure our fair share of these revenues in future years.

The hearing before the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Dispute Resolution Advisory Panel took place in late November 2020. The panel's recommendations, received in February 2021, largely vindicated our assessors as to the taxable values of NCC properties.

Despite these recommendations, the NCC still refuses to accept the values retained by the committee and therefore the Municipality is still waiting for the amounts owed by the NCC. Given the importance of this file for the financial future of the Municipality of Chelsea, the new Council has decided to continue the work done by its predecessors and an appeal to the Federal Court was filed on November 16 to overturn the NCC's decision.

Key projects in the 2022-2024 ITP

The Three-Year Capital Plan (TCP) adopted last October by the former Board includes long-term capital expenditures, as opposed to the operating budget, which focuses on current year expenditures.

Since the TCP adopted by the outgoing Council is realistic for Chelsea's current growth, the members of



the new Council have chosen to keep it. In order to maintain local services to the population, we will have to invest in expanding the municipal garage and City Hall and upgrading the wastewater treatment plant. In addition, the ITP provides for the rehabilitation of the River Road, the Meech Lake Road (between Dunlop and O'Brien Place) and the finishing work on the Chelsea Greenway Trail in 2022. It also provides for investments in priority infrastructure and the continued renewal of vehicles and equipment essential to the services provided.

However, we will re-evaluate the investment projects for 2023 and 2024 after the strategic planning exercise, which will allow us to make better long-term decisions.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of our Director of Finance, Ms. Gauthier, and to thank the Executive Director and the Directors of our departments. The new Board worked many hours with the management team in a respectful atmosphere to produce a balanced budget that will allow us to begin our mandate with elements that reflect our vision. Passing the budget at the end of the fiscal year allows us to be accountable.

The budget provides for environmental protection and active and sustainable mobility projects and you can expect to see an increase in concrete initiatives in this area during our mandate.

Short version. For the long version, visit our website

chelsea.ca/budget-en



Public Security

Fire prevention: a few tips

To ensure your safety and the safety of those around you, the Municipality of Chelsea's Fire Department invites you to take note of the following information and prevention tips. They could save your life!

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Portable generators must be used in temporary situations only and must be located outside buildings at least 4.5 metres (15 feet) from any opening (door, window, air intake, etc.).

You must have your chimney swept at least once a year.

Firewood must not obstruct any escape route, passageway, door or stairway at any time.

Ashes and chimney sweepings must be deposited in a metal container with a lid located outside on a non-combustible surface at least one metre away from any building.



At least one smoke alarm must be installed on each floor including the basement.

Exits from all buildings must be kept clear of snow and obstructions to ensure safe evacuation of occupants and access for firefighters

A working ABC fire extinguisher with a minimum capacity of 2.2 kg (5 lbs.) must be installed in each residence

It is strictly prohibited to surround or conceal a fire hydrant with snow, ice, etc

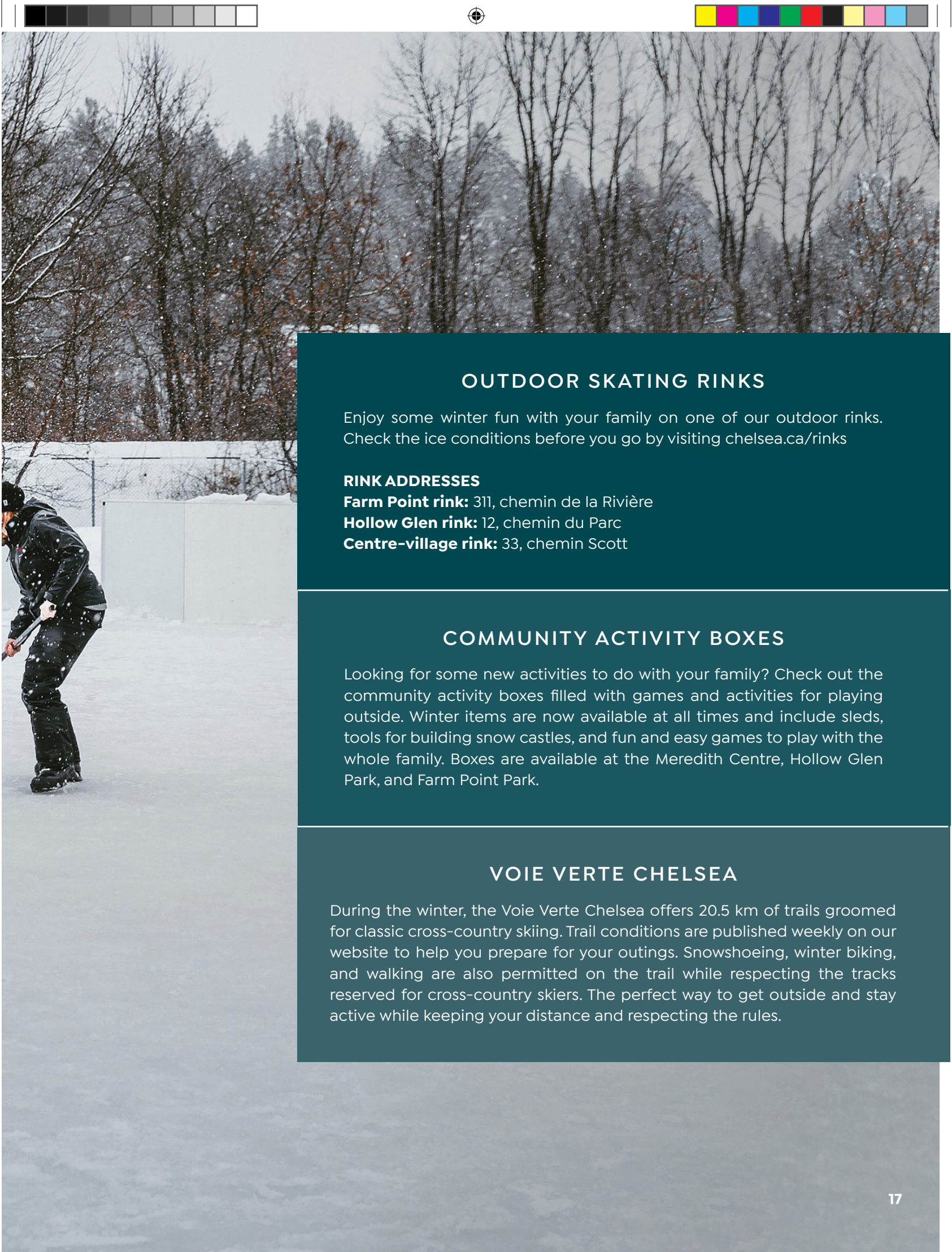
At least one carbon monoxide alarm must be installed when a garage is added to a residence and/or in the presence of a fuel burning appliance (wood, gas, oil, etc.).

Exits to the backyard and other sides of buildings must be provided with an access corridor with a minimum width of 60 cm (24 inches)





Leisure



OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS

Enjoy some winter fun with your family on one of our outdoor rinks. Check the ice conditions before you go by visiting chelsea.ca/rinks

RINK ADDRESSES

- Farm Point rink:** 311, chemin de la Rivière
- Hollow Glen rink:** 12, chemin du Parc
- Centre-village rink:** 33, chemin Scott

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY BOXES

Looking for some new activities to do with your family? Check out the community activity boxes filled with games and activities for playing outside. Winter items are now available at all times and include sleds, tools for building snow castles, and fun and easy games to play with the whole family. Boxes are available at the Meredith Centre, Hollow Glen Park, and Farm Point Park.

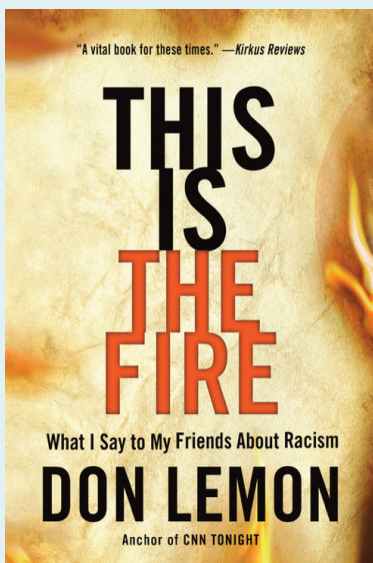
VOIE VERTE CHELSEA

During the winter, the Voie Verte Chelsea offers 20.5 km of trails groomed for classic cross-country skiing. Trail conditions are published weekly on our website to help you prepare for your outings. Snowshoeing, winter biking, and walking are also permitted on the trail while respecting the tracks reserved for cross-country skiers. The perfect way to get outside and stay active while keeping your distance and respecting the rules.

Love Reading

SUGGEST READING

MOIS DE L'HISTOIRE DES NOIRS



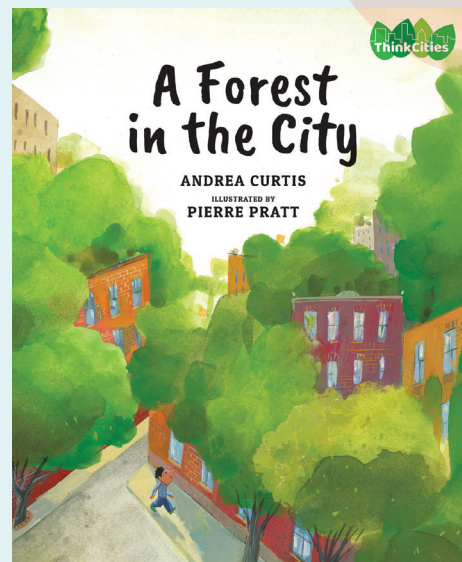
For
Adults

This is the Fire : What I say to my friends about racism by Don Lemon

The host of CNN Tonight with Don Lemon is more popular than ever. As America's only Black prime-time anchor, Lemon and his daily monologues on racism and antiracism, on the failures of the Trump administration and of so many of our leaders, and on America's systemic flaws speak for his millions of fans. Now, in an urgent, deeply personal, riveting plea, he shows us all how deep our problems lie, and what we can do to begin to fix them.

SUGGEST READING

For kids



A forest in the city by Andrea Curtis

"Imagine a city draped in a blanket of green. Is this the city you know?"

Trees make our cities more beautiful and provide shade but they also fight climate change and pollution, benefit our health and connections to one another, provide food and shelter for wildlife, and much more. Yet city trees face an abundance of problems, such as the abundance of concrete, poor soil and challenging light conditions.

So how can we create a healthy environment for city trees? Urban foresters are trying to create better growing conditions, plant diverse species, and maintain trees as they age. These strategies, and more, reveal that the urban forest is a complex system—A Forest in the City shows readers we are a part of it.



WALLY EDUCATION KIT

Everyone can learn programming and electronics!
Wally is a learning kit designed to teach kids and young adults the foundations of coding.

Users will be guided through an interactive story and learn to use the materials in the kit.

A Wally kit is available for loan at the library.

Functioning

The Wally Education Kit is an educational learning game that can be borrowed and renewed by members.

Age group: 8 and up (with an adult) or 10 and up (without assistance)

Language: Bilingual

Loan period: up to 3 weeks



LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Librairy

100, chemin d'Old Chelsea.

**Monday from 10:00 a.m
to 5:00 p.m**

**Tuesday to Thursday from
1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Friday from 1:00 p.m.
to 5:00 p.m.**

**Saturday from 10:00 a.m.
to 2:00 p.m.**

Sunday, closed

Hollow Glen Branch

12, chemin du Parc

**Open every first Wednesday
of the month from 6:30 p.m.
to 8:00 p.m.**

Farm point branch

331, chemin de la Riv  re

**Open the last Tuesday of
the month from 6:30 p.m.
to 8:00 p.m.**

Winter Parking



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



Councillor district 1

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Councillor district 5

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YOUR
COUNCILLORS

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