



Municipalité de/Municipality of SHEENBORO

SHEENBORO, QUEBEC J0X 2Z0

Mayor's Newsletter

August 2011

This summer has been an extremely busy one for our Community. We had a very successful Canada Day celebration with lots of excellent entertainment, a wonderful parade and fireworks in the evening to herald another year of our great Country. The Community of Sheenboro and its summer residents need to be congratulated for their support on this day.

Following that celebration came the Irish Heritage weekend on July 15th, 16th and 17th. The Irish Festival Committee has been planning this event for almost a year. The Committee should be congratulated for all of the planning and hard work that they and their spouses put into the preparation for such a fabulous celebration of Sheen's Irish Heritage. The many hours of planning all of the details for the entertainment, the site plan and setup of all the venues cannot be counted. The entertainment was excellent! People thoroughly enjoyed the music, the singing and the dancing. Highlighting the Festival was the visitation by the Irish, Ambassador to Canada Ray Bassett and his wife Patricia. Someone overheard the Ambassador saying to his wife, "This is just like home." We as a community should be proud of the Committee and the many volunteers that worked so hard to make this weekend such a success and as Mayor I want to let the Committee know that I appreciate the effort and support for an event such as this to take place in our small village. Thanks to Lorna Agnesi for bringing this idea to reality.

Alas, the weekend ended in a damaging storm that brought us all back to reality very quickly. How easy it is to forget what life is like without hydro and phones when we have been accustomed to having these services. In Sheenboro, we had no hydro, no phone services and no access to 911 other than by through cell phones. Quebec Hydro worked diligently to assist all communities where the destructive storm had hit. This damage was wide spread, not just in the Pontiac, but in many parts of Quebec as far as St. Jerome which is an hour from Montreal. Fifty one crews were sent from many parts of Quebec to assist in the repairs as well as separate crews to cut trees that were on the hydro lines. Other contractors were hired to replace Hydro poles.

The information we received from Hydro Quebec is as follows: 800 reported power outages, 90,000 customers without power in the Outaouais, 24 hydro poles had to be replaced, 9 transformers had to be replaced, the crews worked 16 hours a day in extreme heat conditions, and the majority of people had hydro on Wednesday and the others had hydro by Friday.

Many of our residents and cottagers were out Sunday night to help clear our roads for people who had to leave or emergency vehicles that might have to get through. Farmers brought equipment to help clear some areas and friends and neighbours helped clear laneways that had been blocked by fallen trees. Our community should be proud of the way it worked together in this emergency.

The Police sent two officers to Sheenboro all day Monday in case there was an emergency. The MRC Warden assisted me with advice and he came to Sheenboro to observe the damage first-hand in order to report at a regional level. Mr. Souci from the Campbell's Bay Hydro office was very helpful as well. Denise from Mme L'Ecuyer's office also supported my efforts in getting assistance to our area.

We were very fortunate that no one was injured. Several cottages and barns were severely damaged or destroyed and several cars were damaged as well as the destruction of some of our forested areas.

Emergency numbers: Report outages to Hydro Quebec 1-800-790-2424 (if using your home or cottage phone, press 9 for English, this services picks up your address from your telephone number; if you use a cell phone, press 9 for English and you will need to provide your civic address and postal code J0X 2Z0 or your Hydro Quebec account number for the service to find your location). This is an automated service.

The roads are finally getting hard topped this week!!