



Walking with the Mayor

At this time of the year, it is a pleasure to be outside and I am fortunate that my dog, Cole, takes me for walks every day. When I walk I have time to see the state of Hampstead close up. It is painfully obvious that our roads and sidewalks are in terrible condition. It is not visible, but our sewers and water mains are in equally poor shape.

Realistic Expectations

Our infrastructure did not deteriorate overnight and it cannot be repaired in a few years. Before the merger, Hampstead's priority was to keep debt low and taxes stable. Roads and sidewalks were well maintained but sewers and water mains were mostly just patched when problems occurred. During the merger period, the infrastructure declined even further, as the town was dramatically under funded year after year.

This current situation is intolerable and Hampstead's new administration is committed to embarking on a multi-year plan to bring our infrastructure up to standards that we all have a right to expect. We have commissioned a study to examine our sewers, water mains, roads and sidewalks. The study will be completed in June and then we will develop a long-term plan for the proper, long-lasting, rebuilding of our infrastructure.

Some steps have been taken already.

We have passed a \$1.5 million by-law for the purchase of several pieces of equipment that we will need. This includes repaving equipment that will allow us to repave 14 foot widths of roads at one time. Previously, we had to use private contractors or Public Works employees would just do patch-work. We hope to have the new equipment in place before the end of the summer.

We have also passed a second loan by-law of just over \$1.0 million for road repairs. In addition, we will be getting extra money from the Federal and Quebec governments for infrastructure repairs. These are only the first steps and I will keep you advised of future developments as they occur.

Tennis and Pool improvements

Not everything requires major investment. The tennis area has been refurbished, for a modest investment, and a pleasant patio area has been created, where players can have a drink or snack while waiting for a court or after a game. We expect the food service to be substantially improved this year. I am also happy to report that the tennis courts opened on time, in spite of a fire in April that destroyed our nets and considerable other equipment. Our staff did a magnificent job of getting everything replaced very quickly.

This year, all Hampstead residents are automatically considered members of the Hampstead pool. As a member you may buy day passes or a season pass. Since we are no longer part of Montreal, we expect far fewer problems with overcrowding this year. We also have worked very hard to improve various problems including those with food service. By the time you read this, the pool should be open and in full swing. It is your pool. Come out and enjoy it.

Say Hello to your Mayor

This is the first of what will be regular mailings. I hope you find this and future mailings useful. Next time you are out with your dog, your children or your spouse, and you see me walking – just stop and say hello. I encourage and welcome your feedback

On Hampstead Day, June 21, I will be looking to meet the residents, in a centrally located tent. Come on out and, together, let's enjoy our town.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Steinberg
Mayor, Town of Hampstead