



Ville de Saint-Lazare



Mayor Office



Saint-Lazare (Québec)
June 10, 2010

A word from the Mayor

Improving on a promise

I am proud of the work done by members of Council and the Urban Planning and Environment Department in the new school project. This week, we are finally able to announce the transfer of a lot to the Lester-B.-Pearson School Board (LBPSB), putting an end to the crisis in our English schools, as well as the negotiation of an agreement that will benefit both our community and all LBPSB schools in Saint-Lazare.

The Town has negotiated an agreement with the school board in which the school board commits to upgrading the new school playground with additional up-to-standard recreational equipment for an amount of approximately \$80,000 and to invest in our Town. Through this agreement, the school board commits to:

- reimburse the Town for the real cost of a future pumping station on Rue des Explorateurs (\$20,000);
- invest \$80,000 in additional recreational equipment at Forest Hill Senior;
- invest \$20,000 in additional recreational equipment at Evergreen School;
- invest \$20,000 in additional recreational equipment at Forest Hill Junior.

These infrastructures represent an additional investment of more than \$200,000 from which all Saint-Lazare youngsters will benefit.

The school board answered all our expectations about accessibility and named by resolution 2 members of the Town of Saint-Lazare to the committee responsible for making recommendations on the registration criteria.

Our result-driven Council gave the Town the mandate to identify the areas and properties most suitable for an elementary school based on our urban development plan, urban planning standards and demography as well as on the Ministry's criteria, recommendations from educationalists and the school board's requirements. I am convinced we have made the best choice in the public interest. The new elementary school will be located in a residential area which promotes "active transportation" – cycling or walking to school – and community spirit; in addition, it will be served by a water supply network at no extra cost to residents in the area. Furthermore, the property was bought by the Town at a cost similar in price to the price paid last year by the developer– therefore the lot's real appropriation cost is minimal for residents especially when the negotiated additional investment is taken into account.

The Town Council is achieving the mandate it has been given by the residents of Saint-Lazare. We must make difficult choices and most members of Council want to make responsible decisions that will lead to action and results. Our families need services; our quality of life and environment must be protected. We are keeping our promises and holding true to our values.

The Mayor,

Pierre Kary