



Municipalité de  
**RUSSELL**  
Township



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 3, 2020

I am extremely proud of our 2021 budget. Council continues their commitment to a future Recreational Complex and surrounding outdoor activities area, as well as to the reduction of our Asset Management shortfall.

The 2021 budget includes:

- 2.5% tax increase: This represents an increase of \$42.77 for the average household.
- A reduction of 20% in the water flat fee rates (\$69.00)
- A reduction of 18% in the sewer flat fee rates. (\$66.00)

Therefore, the majority of taxpayers will actually see a net reduction when you factor in both taxation and water/sewer rates.

Some notable projects included in the 2021 budget:

- Community Hub Development (near Sports Dome);
- A new fully accessible play park will be created and dedicated in memory of Jonathan Pitre;
- The Design and planning of a new sledding hill for the winter months and hill training in the summer; months for 2022 construction;
- The creation of new outdoor basketball and tennis courts;
- The resurfacing of the Russell Tennis Courts;
- 11.7 km of road maintenance/rehabilitation
- 1% of the tax increase is specifically dedicated to road rehabilitation through our infrastructure fund;
- 1% of the tax increase is specifically dedicated to increasing our Recreational Complex Reserve Fund.

While an organic waste program (Green Bin) was high on the list of public requests, the majority of Council was not ready to support such a program at this time, as it would equate to an approximate 52% increase in our waste / recycling fees. However, Council did give direction to the administration and the Environmental Advisory Committee to search for alternate less costly options, including potential partnerships, and to report back to Council in early 2021 for a 2022 implementation solution.

By continuing to increase the investment in our Infrastructure Fund, we are speeding up the elimination of our asset management shortfall, which in turn increases the amount of road work that can be completed every year. Investing in core services and outdoor recreational options is the most prudent course of action in these unprecedented times.

Pierre Leroux  
Mayor