



## **Environmental Policy**

**September 2005**

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## Foreword

The Town of Rosemère has traditionally taken a leadership role in the area of environmental protection. For example, it holds an enviable position with regards to the protection of its natural environment and boasts a recycling rate that ranks among the best in the MRC. What's more, it has always made its living environment the focus of its interventions. Once farmland, the generations that preceded us succeeded in developing the area while preserving large areas on which they planted many trees of different varieties, giving our territory a country flavour that contributes significantly to a quality of life valued by its citizens and to its fine reputation. Still today, Rosemerites and the municipal administration work together to preserve this outstanding living environment

Yet, we are well aware that, when it comes to the environment, it is possible for us to do much more. In the 2003 report, *Environment Quality in Canadian Cities: The Federal Role by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy*<sup>1</sup>, it was unfortunately noted that the performance of cities in terms of environmental improvement left much to be desired. In fact, according to this report, most of the key indicators reveal negative trends: the use of automobiles is still on the rise while the use of public transit continues to drop and cities make more or less efficient use of their land. Ozone concentrations at ground level — which can trigger a series of public health problems — are also growing. Urban centres contribute considerably to greenhouse gas emissions and their expansion is likely to encroach on highly productive agricultural land as well as on ecosensitive land. These are problems that the Town of Rosemère cannot ignore, as they are its problems as well.

### Encouraging observations

Rosemère has already done much in the area of environmental protection, but since there is always room for improvement, the Town considers it a priority to develop and adopt an environmental policy based on coherent measures — a policy that also includes measures facilitating its implementation.

**The implementation of an environmental policy will contribute to the protection of our environment, a key factor in municipal decision-making. It will also substantiate, in the eyes of all citizens, the municipal will to adopt measures consistent with the realities of our local situation.**

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<sup>1</sup> The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) was established to “play the role of catalyst in identifying, explaining and promoting, in all sectors of Canadian society and in all regions of Canada, principles and practices of sustainable development. The special role of this organization is to define the problems that have both an environmental and an economic impact, to analyze this impact and attempt to define measures that will make it possible to achieve a balance between economic prosperity and environmental protection.

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## The Town of Rosemère

Intent on offering the citizens of Rosemère an environmental policy that reflects the realities and challenges inherent in its own territory and the composition of its population, the Town of Rosemère seeks to take into account the characteristics that define it. Rosemère's population is slightly older than that of the MRC, although a third of its residents are under the age of 20. The population of Rosemère is, on average, much better educated and wealthier than the Québec average. Despite increased access to public transit, Rosemère's citizens still average more than one vehicle per residence.

More specifically, the statistical portrait of Rosemère's population presented below is distinguished by the following<sup>2</sup>:

### Population

Rosemère has a population of approximately 14,400<sup>3</sup>. Of its 3,850 or so families, approximately 450 are single-parent households. Like the Québec average, the median age of Rosemerites is 38.6 years, compared to 35 years for the MRC as a whole. In five years, the average age of Rosemerites has increased by 4.2 years. The fact that the proportion of 0-15 year-olds has remained stable leads us to believe that newly arrived citizens are most likely older.

It should be noted that close to a third of inhabitants are under 20 years of age.

The average educational level of Rosemère's population is much higher than that of the MRC. In each group above the age of 20, there is a positive 10% difference in the number of people with a university degree and a favourable difference of 6% to 10% among those who do not have a high school diploma.

French is the mother tongue of 76.3% of the population while English is the mother tongue of 15.9%. The difference with the MRC is more than 10% while only 4.4% of MRC citizens list English as their primary language.

The average income of full-time workers was \$58,400 in 2001 as compared to \$44,960 for workers in the MRC, or 23% higher. The difference with Québec workers, whose average income is \$39,150, was 33%. The average household income in Rosemère stood at \$87,477 in 2001.

Rosemère's population turnover rate was close to 40% between 1996 and 2001. Since the total population increased by 10.7%, we can conclude that our citizens' turnover rate is approximately 30%, which is similar to the MRC rate.

Of the Town's 4,495 housing units, some 4,000 are inhabited by the property's owners. This represents 89% of the Rosemère population. In comparison, only 57.9% of occupants in Québec are homeowners while the figure in the MRC is 72%.

In terms of transportation, it is rather remarkable to note that, for a population of approximately 14,000 (5,000 homes/apartments), there are currently some 11,000 cars<sup>4</sup>. For some 5,180 persons, the preferred mode of transportation is the automobile, as drivers. Only 435 persons expressed a

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<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada, 2001 census.

<sup>3</sup> *Official Gazette*, December 2004.

<sup>4</sup> CIMA study, based on the files of the Société d'assurance automobile du Québec. (Auto Insurance Board)

preference for public transportation<sup>5</sup>. However, this data goes back to 2001. The Blainville commuter train, introduced in 1997, serves the region with approximately 10 stations and 22 runs per day. These trains currently carry some 9,000 passengers/day<sup>6</sup>. Proximity to the station could change this data at the next census. Finally, still based on 2001 data, some 145 Rosemèrites get around on foot or by bicycle.



Photo: Éco-nature website

### Territory

According to the daily newspaper *La Presse*<sup>7</sup>, every year, in the Greater Montréal area, 1,100 hectares of forests and marshland are lost to bulldozers. This is an area equivalent in size to Mount Royal Park. And the pace of this phenomenon has

undoubtedly accelerated over the past three years. In fact, the suburbs are experiencing an unprecedented real estate boom. (...) As the agricultural zone is generally well protected, new houses, residential towers and industrial parks are increasingly going up in wooded areas or marshes that have never been of agricultural interest, but which are rich in animal life and vegetation.

The territory of the Town of Rosemère<sup>8</sup>, which is bordered to the south by the Mille Îles River and the Island of Laval, to the north by Autoroute 640 and the municipality of Blainville, to the east by the Town of Lorraine and to the west by the Town of Boisbriand, is not immune to environmental pressures.

Characterized by a unique country style that accounts for much of its charm, Rosemère has succeeded in preserving this proud image over the years, thanks to the active participation of citizens and the sustained involvement of its elected municipal officials in environmental issues. As a result, some 1.42 km<sup>2</sup> of the Town's 12.35 km<sup>2</sup> territory, or 11.46%, is devoted to parks and green spaces.

Bordered by the Mille Îles River, Rosemère also benefits from an outstanding environment in terms of aquatic life, fauna and flora. The Mille Îles River, it should be noted, extends along 42

<sup>5</sup> [[http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/regions/recens2001\\_15/mode\\_transport15/tottransp15\\_an.htm](http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/regions/recens2001_15/mode_transport15/tottransp15_an.htm)]

<sup>6</sup> Metropolitan Transportation Agency (AMT) in collaboration with the MADITUC Group of Montréal's École Polytechnique, Daniel Bergeron, *Portrait du réseau et de la clientèle du réseau métropolitain de trains de banlieu de la région de Montréal (Portrait of the network and clientele of the metropolitan commuter train network in the Montréal region)*, Fall 2004.

<sup>7</sup> CÔTÉ, Charles, « Quand la banlieue gruge la nature » (*When the suburbs encroach on nature*), *Actualités* insert in *La Presse*, April 24, 2004, p. A12

<sup>8</sup> The Town of Rosemère belongs to the Laurentian administrative region and the Thérèse-De Blainville MRC

km (four MRCs), touching nine municipalities inhabited by a total of more than 600,000 citizens, including those of Rosemère.

The Mille Îles River, which is known for one of the greatest biodiversities in Québec, houses four major ecosystems: a hickory-sugar maple forest, a marsh, a rare and precious silver maple grove, a swamp, an aquatic-grass bed and free water, an environment favoured by fish, much to the delight of fishermen. Ten exceptional forest ecosystems (EFE), rare forest groupings, and the refuge of endangered or vulnerable vegetal species have also been scientifically identified here. The Mille Îles River is also the habitat of more than 220 bird species, 40 species of mammals, 25 species of reptiles and amphibians as well as 60 species of fish<sup>9</sup>.

In addition to its value as a natural habitat, the Mille Îles River is a safe, accessible and natural playground lending itself to highly popular activities, at the heart of an agglomeration in constant growth.

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<sup>9</sup> Éco-Nature memorandum on the land planning in the Laval MRC, 2004

## Current situation

A leader in the area of environmental protection, it is important to know that currently, the Town of Rosemère has a number of intervention tools, including municipal by-laws, to protect the environment and provide Rosemerites with a superior quality of life. As a result, over the years, the Town has implemented various regulations and initiatives designed to improve the environment within municipal boundaries. These initiatives include recycling, recovery and reduction measures, transportation and urban planning, a reduction in the consumption of potable water, noise and other nuisances, as well as the improvement of air quality. It should also be mentioned that the Town of Rosemère communicates information on these issues, regularly, through its newsletter and website (for additional information, see the complete list of existing by-laws as well as various other initiatives of the Town of Rosemère, attached herewith).

The following statistics provide a brief glimpse of the results achieved by the Town of Rosemère in the area of recycling and recovery:

### Statistics

TYPES	QUANTITY – 2002
Green waste	Currently $\pm$ 1,300 tons a year
Curbside recycling	Currently $\pm$ 1,300 tons a year
Regular refuse	Currently $\pm$ 5,200 tons a year
Voluntary contribution – recycling	Waste depot: $\pm$ 35 metric tons
Recyclable materials (municipal offices, schools)	$\pm$ 15 metric tons
Branch pick-ups	$\pm$ 425 metric tons

## Challenges

Municipalities have access to a number of intervention measures allowing it to better protect their environment. However, maintaining and improving the environment is not something that requires occasional attention: it is an ongoing job. For this reason, in order to better plan environmental activities over the coming years, the Town of Rosemère and its partners identify the priority challenges that require additional efforts.

These include:

- Meeting government recycling objectives
- The municipal contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Protecting and revitalizing our soil, natural areas and wooded heritage
- Providing quality potable water and promoting its judicious use.



## Mission

The primary purpose of the environmental policy project is to provide, a concrete frame of reference for meeting citizens' expectations with regards to the improvement of their quality of life.

This policy will also serve as a guide covering the full range of municipal measures and decisions either carried out or in the process of being carried out.

Furthermore, it will bring together municipal and community resources to help guide the Town, based on clear principles of environmental responsibility.

Finally, this project seeks to involve residents of both urban and rural areas, in the protection of the environments as well as the health and quality of life of their fellow citizens.

Improving the management of environmental issues not only requires us to increase skills and expertise, it also calls for involving everyone in the process. Research has shown that it is important to link the environmental evaluation and management process to the decision-making process and the development of public policies.

To identify the actions and activities to be taken by the Town of Rosemère, this mission, whose objective is to clearly state the reason for the environmental policy, define the general framework for action and respond to the question *why adopt a municipal environmental policy* is as follows:

*“The Town of Rosemère’s environmental policy provides a frame of reference for the implementation of measures designed to improve the environment, protect its shoreline, preserve its assets as well as showcase its country flavour.*

*This is a global policy that defines interventions and decisions taken by the administration and integrates the full range of measures favouring the environment.*

*This policy is part of the Town’s long-term vision of its development, in partnership with the institutions and organizations present on its territory, most notably those involved with environmental protection and education.”*

## Orientations

It is important to set clear parameters for determining the measures and actions to be taken as well as ensuring greater cohesiveness of decisions pertaining to environmental issues.

The main orientations of the environmental policy must therefore enable both the administration and citizens to better understand the reasons for the measures adopted. In the case of Rosemère, these orientations must also reflect the Town's constant determination to ensure transparency in all environmental decisions. This transparency makes everyone's job easier by creating a feeling of belonging and mobilisation.

To provide a better framework for choices as they relate to the application of this policy, the following orientations have been proposed:

*“Measures contained in the environmental policy must serve, first and foremost, to improve the environment.*

*These measures must fall within the jurisdiction of the municipal administration. The policy must also take into account other government initiatives favouring the environment.*

*The policy applies to all sectors of the municipal administration.*

*It allows elected officials and the administration to make decisions in light of their environmental impact.*

*It supports the maintenance and development of partnerships with local organizations and institutions, in keeping with the primary mission of each of these, in order to improve the environment.*

*The environmental policy relies on the participation of Rosemère citizens.”*

## Frame of reference

The environmental policy must lead to the establishment and use of a frame of reference making it possible to gauge the impact of a given project or action on the environment. Regardless of the project's stage of development or the status of regulations, the frame of reference will provide a context for the ongoing evaluation of the relevance of the project, program or actions being contemplated, ensuring better protection of our environment.

Consequently, it would be appropriate to look at questions within the following frame of reference:

*How does the project, action, by-law or program fit with the improvement of our environment and our quality of life?*

How can this be achieved?

- Through the prior development of an environmental diagnosis
- Through the definition of environmental objectives, for example:
  - Expression of local and regional environmental solidarity
  - Attention given to the equitable sharing of ecological riches (between neighbourhoods, for example)
  - Rational planning of space
  - Quest for quality of life
- Through quality environmental management
- Through the creation of pertinent environmental regulations or measures
- Through a final overall evaluation of the environment

## Possible measures

### 1. Meet national objectives for the recycling of residual waste

Recycling and reducing residual waste is a major challenge for us all. If we fail to alter our habits and if our businesses, industries and institutions fail to do their share to reduce the production of waste at the source, protecting and improving our environment will become difficult. Our contribution which, until now, has been exceptional, must continue. To this end, we intend to meet the following objectives:

#### **OBJECTIVE No. 1.1 – Recycling 60% of our residual waste.<sup>10</sup>**

##### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 1.1.1 Meet government objectives set in the *1998-2008 Québec Residual Materials Management Policy*.
- 1.1.2 Implement the Montréal Metropolitan Community's *Metropolitan Residual Materials Management Plan*.
- 1.1.3 Educate and prepare the public for the implementation of a three-way separate collection system.
- 1.1.4 Recover putrescible matter (edible matter, leaves, grass clippings, etc.)
- 1.1.5 Pursue the information campaign raising awareness among residents as well as landscaping contractors to grasscycling and the use of orange or clear bags for the pick-up of green waste.

#### **OBJECTIVE No. 1.2 – Foster the reuse, reduction and recycling of materials not yet included in the regular management of residual waste.**

##### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 1.2.1 Pursue the recovery of batteries at drop-off points located in schools and municipal buildings.
- 1.2.2 Pursue the recovery of hazardous waste (paint, etc.) and implement the recovery of electronic units (computers, TVs, radios, etc.)

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<sup>10</sup> This is an overall percentage. In the case of some materials, the percentage is higher (consignment containers, oils, paints and pesticides). In the case of other materials, the percentage is lower (textiles and non-recyclable materials).

- 1.2.3 Favour the reuse of materials in place for building or repairing roads, or covering pipes (reducing the volume of materials to be buried or eliminated)
- 1.2.4 Pursue the rehabilitation of aqueduct pipes using the trenchless pipe rehabilitation method, in order to reduce the volume of materials to recycle or bury.
- 1.2.5 Obtain the certificate of authorization from the Ministry of the Environment for the reuse of dehydrated sludge, a project carried out in conjunction with the firm GSI Environnement (biosolids from the wastewater treatment plant, with 50% of sludge converted into fertilizer).
- 1.2.6 Use recycled paper for the Town of Rosemère's print documents (business cards, etc.) and mention it on the paper.
- 1.2.7 Implement the recycling of ink cartridges from photocopiers, printers, etc. in all departments.
- 1.2.8 Favour the use of durable materials (made of recycled matter if possible) that require minimum maintenance (concrete fences, sewers, PVC pipes, park benches, etc)
- 1.2.9 Require, whenever possible, that suppliers, institutions and municipal services use products made from recycled materials (for example, for road signs, building paint, etc.); encourage the use of materials produced from recycled matter for the Town's promotional materials (for example, polar fleece wear, scarves, plastic rulers, reusable bags, etc.).
- 1.2.10 Whenever a renovation or demolition permit is issued, encourage the recovery of materials that can be used and raise awareness of the reuse of materials among citizens
- 1.2.11 Develop a personalized approach in order to provide a framework for the largest producers of refuse.
- 1.2.12 Reintroduce notes to raise public awareness of the importance of recycling (for example: informative door hangers during refuse collection, etc.)

### **OBJECTIVE No. 1.3 – Reduce the production of residual matter at the source.**

#### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 1.3.1 Promote residential composting by focusing on training.
- 1.3.2 Pursue the campaign to disseminate information and raise awareness of grasscycling.
- 1.3.3 Identify and implement easy measures for reducing the production of residual matter at the source – by reducing mailings, raising awareness of merchants about store bags (types of recycled and biodegradable bags).
- 1.3.4 On a municipal administration level, develop a policy on the use of recycled paper, print documents front and back, use multi-refill pencils and, where possible, transfer documents between administrative departments by computer (to cut down on the printing of documents), etc.
- 1.3.5 On a communications level, study the feasibility of increasing Internet use in order to reduce the amount of paper the municipality uses to communicate with its citizens.

- 1.3.6 Give a second lease on life to books held by the municipality – donations to organizations, repairs, etc. — and, if need be, recycle these books.
- 1.3.7 In conjunction with business partners, take inventory of the residual waste of businesses that is not recycled, in order to come up with solutions.
- 1.3.8 Favour the reduction of over-packaging.

**OBJECTIVE No. 1.4 – Promote the use of the waste depot.**

**POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 1.4.1 Increase use of the waste depot by informing citizens of the services provided.
- 1.4.2 Develop measures for recovering bulky residual materials (sofas, mattresses, etc.).
- 1.4.3 When replacing mattresses, household appliances or other units, encourage citizens to dispose of their old units by having them picked up (for recycling) when the new are delivered.
- 1.4.4 Set aside a section of the waste depot for the recovery of electronic waste such as old computers, laptops, printers, fax machines, photocopiers, TVs, cell phones, etc.
- 1.4.5 In municipal buildings, give personnel access to personalized glass coffee cups and for visitors, cardboard rather than Styrofoam cups, and encourage the use of fair trade coffee.
- 1.4.6 Establish ties with a non-profit resource or organizations for the reuse of some of the materials brought into the waste depot (for example: furniture).
- 1.4.7 Provide citizens with more information on issues relating to the recycling and reuse of clothing.

## **2. Contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**

The Kyoto Protocol involves us all. Without the contribution of the Town of Rosemère and that of its citizens, we would not be able to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We feel strongly about meeting the objectives we have set, since global warming has an impact on all of us. Our contribution is twofold: to set the example by modifying our practices and purchasing policies and by working to promote the use of public transit.

### **OBJECTIVE No. 2.1 – Launch projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the municipality and the population at large.**

#### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 2.1.1 Replace the municipality's road vehicles with low-emission, low-consumption vehicles (hybrid and electrical, ethanol-powered models or other more ecological choices).
- 2.1.2 Make municipal employees aware of the need to reduce idling of engines (addition of independent heating to avoid running the vehicle for heating, for example).
- 2.1.3 On municipal vehicles, install devices to stop needless idling of the engine when the vehicle is stopped.
- 2.1.4 If need be, develop and apply a by-law that would prohibit drivers from running their vehicle's engine when stopped.
- 2.1.5 Add bike racks.
- 2.1.6 Establish a green patrol — inspectors, municipal employees, etc. — getting around on bicycles or electric bikes.
- 2.1.7 Make the downtown and train station areas more accessible to bikes and pedestrians.
- 2.1.8 Study the feasibility and relevance of adding shuttle buses to the train station.

### **OBJECTIVE No. 2.2 – Make the population aware of challenges related to air quality.**

#### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 2.2.1 Raise citizens' awareness of the need to avoid the unnecessary idling of their vehicle's engine (when stopped close to schools, the train station, day care centres and stores).
- 2.2.2 During *Environment Week*, organize a *Transportation Challenge* or other activity to raise citizens' awareness of issues related to clean air (June 8 every year).
- 2.2.3 Look at the issue of wood heating, notably the type of installation required for the proper elimination of smoke and other harmful elements.
- 2.2.4 Make the public aware of regulations on outdoor fires.

- 2.2.5 In collaboration with the schools, install a weather station at the Public Hygiene Department to measure the quality of the air and the accumulation of snow and rain, in order to inform and educate the public as well as our young people.
- 2.2.6 Issue public smog alerts and implement measures prohibiting outdoor fires or wood heating during smoggy periods.

### **OBJECTIVE No. 2.3 – Improve public transportation services.**

#### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 2.3.1 Promote urban planning that fosters the increased use of cycling and walking as means of getting around in Rosemère.
- 2.3.2 Raising public awareness of the benefits of using public transportation.
- 2.3.3 In conjunction with partners, study the feasibility of improving public transportation services, given the large number of automobiles owned by Rosemerites and facilitate transportation to Montreal by commuter train (possible addition of weekend runs.)
- 2.3.4 In partnership with the parties involved, work to encourage suppliers of public transit services to use vehicles powered by ethanol, hydrogen, biogas, etc.
- 2.3.5 Install bike lockers at the train station and improve bus shelters to increase the comfort of public transit users.
- 2.3.6 Promote car pooling, using various incentives such as assigned parking spaces for vehicles used for car pooling, etc.

### **OBJECTIVE No. 2.4 – Improve the energy efficiency of municipal buildings and equipment.**

#### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 2.4.1 Promote energy efficiency in municipal buildings (lighting, heating, ventilation, water consumption, etc.) through the use of solar energy, biomass or geothermal energy, wherever possible.
- 2.4.2 Evaluate the pertinence of replacing the use of paper hand towels by a more ecological solution (dryer, fabric roll, paper produced from recycled fibres, etc.)
- 2.4.3 Use toilet paper with a recycled fibre content.
- 2.4.4 Pursue work targeting energy savings on the lighting of streets and parks, traffic lights and municipal parking lots.
- 2.4.5 Evaluate the possibility of reducing light pollution (through the types of beams, bulbs, etc. purchased).



- 2.4.6 Promote the construction of the “house of the future”, i.e., using solar energy, with a “green” roof.
- 2.4.7 Build an ecological chalet at Charbonneau Park, with recovered materials, a “green” roof, and solar and wind energy.
- 2.4.8 Optimize energy consumption in municipal buildings. Make the most of energy saving programs for public buildings to carry out relevant studies as well as plan for pertinent long-term modifications (solar collectors, biomass and geothermal energy, etc.) allowing the Town of Rosemère to save while reducing its GGEs.

### **3. Protect and revitalize the soil, natural spaces and our wooded heritage**

Rosemère has a country flavour that is highly valued. Our wooded heritage is majestic and aging. Our green spaces, both public and private, are many. Added to these are marches and shorelines along parts of our territory that also require development and protection. All of these constitute additional responsibilities in the area of environmental protection. This natural wealth carries additional responsibilities in the area of environmental protection. In an effort to better equip the Town of Rosemère and its residents to protect and revitalize our various spaces, the following objectives are proposed:

#### **OBJECTIVE No. 3.1 – Reduce sources of contamination on the territory.**

##### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 3.1.1 Eliminate the residential and commercial use of pesticides for landscaping and extermination.
- 3.1.2 Provide residents with support on the use of alternatives to pesticides, notably through the services of an eco-consultant providing information on ecological lawn maintenance and natural fertilizers.
- 3.1.3 Introduce a *Lawn Challenge* to change practices (recognition of untraditional lawns such as flowered lawns, etc.).
- 3.1.4 On the matter of the West Nile virus, pursue the ecological approach favoured by the Town to control insects, such as the well-timed use of low-impact larvicides.
- 3.1.5 Raise public awareness of personal insect protection that does not present a health threat and promote the use of natural, pesticide-free (DEET) insecticides and insect repellents.
- 3.1.6 Analyse the possibility of using alternatives to treated wood.
- 3.1.7 Test ecological methods, such as burners, to replace paint for tracing lines on sports fields.
- 3.1.8 Educate the population about the importance of not throwing out contaminants that could end up in our waste water (ex.: paint).

#### **OBJECTIVE No.3.2 – Dealing with the aging of trees and cedar hedges on our territory.**

##### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 3.2.1 Ensure the protection and showcasing of natural spaces.
- 3.2.2 Implement a plan to replace trees and cedar hedges, based on the “right tree at the right place”, notably through a support and information program designed to maintain a high rate of trees on the territory.

- 3.2.3 Continue to make the most of “Back to the Earth Day”, with its environmental facet, to distribute tree seedlings to regenerate the urban forest.
- 3.2.4 Optimize the planting of trees along the highway and public areas.
- 3.2.5 Proceed with the “Salix” project (double row) that serves as a sound barrier on the south side of Autoroute 640.
- 3.2.6 Identify a solution to the deterioration of the wooded area located behind the Community Centre.
- 3.2.7 Pursue the development and creation of an arboretum at Charbonneau Park.
- 3.2.8 Continue to hold public awareness and information campaigns on issues relating to arboriculture (replacement, maintenance, planting, etc.).
- 3.2.9 Ensure, prior to any residential or commercial construction, that extra protection has been provided for our existing wooded heritage (for example, installing fences around the wooded section before a construction permit is issued, etc.)
- 3.2.10 Pursue the planting program and the application of the “One birth, one tree” program and continue work on the Heritage Trail on the south side of Lefrançois Street.

### **OBJECTIVE No. 3.3 – Develop the wetlands.**

#### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 3.3.1 Allow better oxygenation of the water, by working with partners to provide expertise to riverside residents wishing to restore the shoreline’s ecosystem.
- 3.3.2 Maintain a natural strip along the shoreline (for example, at Charbonneau Park).
- 3.3.3 In compliance with established standards, develop and facilitate access to water locations of public interest.
- 3.3.4 Pursue projects for the clean-up of the Mille Îles River and Dog River shorelines in collaboration with citizens (for example, on Back to the Earth Day).
- 3.3.5 Pursue the program for the acquisition of shorelines and islands.
- 3.3.6 Limit places where mosquitoes can reproduce (stagnant water).
- 3.3.7 In partnership, pursue the development of easement agreements on the territory, whenever it is appropriate to do so.

### **OBJECTIVE No. 3.4 – Retain and develop green spaces.**

#### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 3.4.1 Favour the organization of birdwatching activities in the Town’s green spaces.

- 3.4.2 Pursue and improve the *Faites la cour aux oiseaux* (*Attracting birdlife to our backyards*) competition.
- 3.4.3 Increase use of the *Rosa Blanda* variety, the Town of Rosemère's floral emblem, in existing green spaces and continue to offer new residents a rose bush.
- 3.4.4 Continue planting perennials suited to periods of drought in urban landscaping.
- 3.4.5 Educate the public on respect for natural spaces (cleanliness, clean-up squads, etc.).
- 3.4.6 Promote the use of low-maintenance lawn seeds (ex.: clover).
- 3.4.7 With regards to Dog River, add trees and revitalize access to this waterway by cleaning it regularly and by completing the trail located on the west side of Montée Lesage.
- 3.4.8 With regards to the Year 2000 Trail, contribute to efforts seeking to extend it and see to snow removal from the Tylee and Bouthillier footbridges in winter.
- 3.4.9 Identify green spaces, notably the park located behind the Externat.
- 3.4.10 Develop a park on the former snow depot.
- 3.4.11 With regards to the Miller Marsh, ensure its regular cleaning and seek to open it up to the public, notably by connecting it to Charbonneau Park
- 3.4.12 Build a footbridge or trail accessible year-round connecting the Community Centre, the Tylee March and Corona Street.
- 3.4.13 Complete the Green Route that connects Rosemère, Lorraine and Sainte-Thérèse as far as Delorme Street.

### **OBJECTIVE N° 3.5 – Ensure the management of waste snow and icemelters.**

#### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 3.5.1 Favour the sound management of flood zones in natural environments, particularly as it relates to the accumulation of waste snow by the shoreline and make riverside residents aware of existing by-laws.
- 3.5.2 Implement regulations to ensure that shopping centres transport and dispose of waste snow on authorized sites.
- 3.5.3 Be at the forefront of new, less environmentally damaging methods, in order to reduce the use of chemical icemelters.
- 3.5.4 Raise public awareness of acceptable winter habits that take into account the type of icemelters used.

#### **4. Provide quality potable water and promote its judicious use**

Here in Rosemère, and in Québec, we are surrounded by water. While we have one of the largest reservoirs of water in the world, this resource is not unlimited, demanding that we protect it and rationalize its use. We must take whatever measures we can to reduce the needless use of potable water and minimize the number of litres of wastewater forwarded to our filtration plants. Too often, we rely on our sewer system to dispose of matter that should be disposed of in another manner. Together, we must attempt to reduce our impact on this resource, notably through the adoption of the following objectives:

##### **OBJECTIVE No. 4.1 – Reduce residential and commercial use of potable water.**

###### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 4.1.1 Continue to monitor compliance with existing water saving measures (S.O.S. program) by everyone.
- 4.1.2 Raise public awareness of the impact of washing the exterior of houses, cars and yards, since this leads to over-consumption, and make residents aware of the importance of complying with existing standards, to avoid a shortage of quality potable water at critical times
- 4.1.3 If need be, check water consumption to identify major consumers and adjust the water tax, if necessary.
- 4.1.4 Inform citizens of the quality of the water, particularly during droughts.
- 4.1.5 Make citizens aware of the possibilities of beautifying residential green spaces using less water.
- 4.1.6 Study the feasibility of regulating the use of residential garburators, since these contribute to an increase in residual sludge in wastewater.

##### **OBJECTIVE No. 4.2 – Reduce the consumption of potable water by the municipality.**

###### **POSSIBLE MEASURES:**

- 4.1.7 Study the feasibility of installing water-saving devices in municipal buildings.
- 4.1.8 Retain the program for the rehabilitation of the aqueduct system.
- 4.1.9 Restore the domestic sewer network in order to reduce the infiltration of rain water.

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Louise Pelletier, citizen

Jean De Grandmont, citizen

Employees of all municipal departments

Members of the Municipal Council

# Appendix I – Current by-laws and initiatives

## 1. Pesticides

### CURRENT BY-LAWS

By-law strictly regulating the use of pesticides in the Town of Rosemère.

### INITIATIVES

Biological insect control program and the Info-Insect line providing information on such things as the Bti product, a biological insecticide, and a guide published by GDG Environnement that was distributed throughout the town.

Use of 100% natural fertilizer in public areas.

No pesticide has been used in the Town's public areas for the past 15 years.

## 2. Residual matter

### INITIATIVES

Battery collection	Drop-off points in municipal buildings, schools, etc.
Green waste pick-ups	Pick-up of Christmas trees as well as branches placed along the side of the road on pre-determined dates. General green waste pick-ups are currently carried out weekly (April to November)
Compost	Distribution of compost on Back to the Earth Day (April)
Communications	Publication of a pamphlet <i>Curbside Recycling: a Sound Investment</i> , providing citizens with information on matters relating to the types of recyclable materials and pick-up dates. Publication and distribution of a bilingual door-hanger <i>Grass clippings enrich your lawn</i> . Distribution by the Town of a pamphlet: <i>Déchets Domestiques Dangereux, ce que vous devez faire... et ne pas faire</i> published by the Association québécoise des techniques de l'eau and the Water Pollution Control Federation Publication and distribution of a special edition of the <i>Rosemère News Express</i> dedicated to environmental issues, including: good reasons for leaving grass clippings on the ground, the pick-up of residual waste, the 1-800 green line, composting, potable water, Back to the Earth Day, the preservation of trees and other green projects in Rosemère, etc. The Town regularly reminds citizens of the objectives targeted by curbside recycling, i.e. 60% of the quantity of the territory's recyclable matter. In terms of recycling, it should also be noted that the Town congratulated citizens and reminded residents to keep recycled materials from being blown away (small bins).
Waste depot	Establishment of a waste depot providing a number of voluntary disposal services: branches, green waste, metal, tires, and hazardous domestic waste such as paint, oil, batteries, etc. (free), while the disposal of other materials can cost from \$10 to \$60 depending on the load.
Recycling and recovery	All metal, asphalt and concrete waste, and the recovery of oil, batteries and liquids from mechanic workshops as well as automotive filters, cardboard and boxes (roads department)
Reuse	Excavation debris where the material allows, for levelling ditches (Roads Department).
Reduction	Whenever possible, the administration favours electronic communications between various departments and individuals, as part of its ongoing efforts to reduce the use of paper.
Recycled paper	The <i>Rosemère News</i> is published entirely on recycled paper (schools and municipal buildings). The Town is currently extending its use of recycled paper internally.

### 3. Transportation and urban planning

#### CURRENT BY-LAWS

*Policy regulating the use of icemelters* to keep roads safe, at a lesser cost, while respecting the environment: using a new icemelter, Clearlane, to reduce the impact of chlorides on the environment and eliminating chemical anticaking agents found in regular deicing salts. In addition to this icemelter, the Town of Rosemère uses various other means as needed (salt, gravel, sand, etc.)

*Planned development.* This regulation applies to all zones. It requires the planting of trees, establishes minimum green space requirements for new developments and outdoor leisure areas. It also sets development deadlines, the clearance required to ensure visibility, the obligation to protect trees during work, standards with regards to the felling and preservation of trees. It also has a section on standards applied to earth berms and retaining walls as well as filling and excavation work.

The by-law on *The protection of the shores and coastline of protected waterways* stipulates standards specific to the natural restrictions, which the Town imposes on residents living along the shoreline and waterways.

#### INITIATIVES

The Town informed residents that it had adopted the use of a less polluting icemelter for its roads. In addition, in order to properly control the spread of this icemelter, the Roads' Department uses a state-of-the-art computerized system.

Publication and distribution of a pamphlet on trees, advising residents on ways of maintaining, protecting and trimming trees, and providing information on tree varieties in their neighbourhood.

Every year, the Town publishes information on the *Rosemère in Bloom* competition.

The *One birth, one tree* program.

Easement for the protection of the Bleury-Bouthillier Marsh shared by Eco-nature and the Town of Rosemère.

### 4. Hazardous waste and contaminated soils

#### INITIATIVES

Recovery of hazardous waste	It is mandatory to take hazardous materials such as batteries, laboratory reactants and other out-of-date products to the waste depot. Waste oil is recovered by Ecocycle.
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Reuse of sludge	Planned for 2005: the reuse of 50% of dehydrated sludge (biosolids from the wastewater treatment plant) to be transformed into fertilizer.
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Guideline	With regards to contamination from biological or chemical agents (under the authority of the police department): the handling of suspicious packages or envelopes that could hold dangerous materials are subject to internal measures ensuring effective intervention in collaboration with all parties involved.
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### 5. Water

#### CURRENT BY-LAWS

Potable water outlets: the by-law includes norms specific to some construction projects with regards to potable water outlets and clearance areas to be maintained around potable water outlets.



Construction: the by-law includes norms specific to some construction projects with regards to wastewater treatment (prohibition and use of land close to a wastewater treatment facility).

## INITIATIVES

Publications: “*I’ve had my fill of water wasting*” and “*Drinking water shortage: time is running out*” (in French and English), distributed to residents.

Communications: advice on reducing consumption of potable water in newsletters published and distributed by the Town.

The use of new technologies by the Technical Services Department, notably for the rehabilitation of water pipes using the trenchless pipe rehabilitation method, which minimizes the need for excavation.

## 6. Air

### CURRENT BY-LAWS

Classification (zoning) of principal uses with regulations specifying prohibitions and nuisances (smoke, dust, odours, light, emissions, storage, etc.) for businesses and community groups (including municipal, institutional, school properties, etc.).

Standards relating to outdoor fireplaces

By-law relating to the prevention of fires and explosions. This is a fire prevention code applicable to the entire territory, in order to protect lives and property. It deals with lighting fires, campfires, ashes, barbecues, abandoned buildings, etc. It also includes standards relating to heating with combustibles and chimney sweeping.

## INITIATIVES

Vegetal sound barrier – installation of an earth berm covered with willow shoots capable of absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by vehicles in the area of Autoroute 640.

Publication of information in the Town’s newsletter: Sound barrier – absorbing willow shoots (CO<sub>2</sub>)

Promote, through the Roads Department, a policy to turn off engines of municipal vehicles in the field.

## 7. Others

### INITIATIVES

The Town’s celebration of Back to the Earth Day includes a guided tour of the water treatment plant.

The Town also publishes a special *Environment* issue of its newsletter, with tips on lawn care, how to avoid the proliferation of insects, water conservation, the maintenance of trees and the biological control of biting insects, etc.

The Town makes bags available to citizens for picking up after their dogs.