

## **FIRE PROTECTION ROSEMÈRE NOW SERVED BY BLAINVILLE**

March 2016,

Dear Rosemerite,

Following several months of reflection and analysis, on March 7, the Municipal Council decided to bring the activities of the Rosemère Fire Department to a close and conclude an agreement with the Town of Blainville. This decision is consistent with our desire to provide you with firefighting services 24/7, while achieving significant savings.

This measure echoes the analysis conducted in 2015 by the strategic working committee established by the Town to study the costs and performance of all municipal departments with an eye to optimizing the budget. This working committee was mentioned in the speech on the 2015 budget.

This is the context within which the towns of Rosemère and Blainville ratified a 20-year fire protection agreement according to which Rosemère will henceforth be part of the territory served by the Blainville Fire Department. This agreement has been in effect since March 7, and complies with all laws and standards applicable to fire protection.

This agreement ensures that Rosemerites will benefit from the presence of firefighters at the fire station 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As a result, firefighters' response time and your safety will be improved. Few of you were aware that the Rosemère Fire Department operated on a part-time basis, meaning that 50% of the time, firefighters were on call and not at the fire station.

Over the next 20 years, Rosemerites will save some \$30 million. In fact, Rosemère's financial contribution will be in the order of \$525,500 in 2016, \$675,250 in 2017, and \$798,775 in 2018. As of 2019 and until the end of the agreement, our financial contribution will amount to that of the previous year plus a 3.5% increase. It should be noted that the Rosemère Fire Department's operating budget for 2016 carried a projected price tag of approximately \$2.1 million.

This decision was taken in the best interests of the population: there is no doubt that the agreement is beneficial for Rosemère and its citizens.

The Municipal Council wants to make it clear that this was a difficult decision to make, given its impact on the personnel affected. Noting that they have done a professional job of ensuring the safety of our community over the years, it wishes to express its deepest gratitude for their commitment.

Please note that, should there be an emergency, citizens are to continue calling 911 to obtain the help of the fire department. For non-emergency issues, you can also contact the Blainville Fire Department at (450) 434-5200.



Madeleine Leduc  
Mayor