

# SPOTLIGHT: *Anne Myles*

*The doyenne of municipal politicians.*

Anne was born in Hungary, and at age one, moved to Watrous, Saskatchewan, then Hespeler Ontario, before settling in Toronto. Soon after, Anne married Douglas Myles, inheriting two step children, and had two more children, Richard and Holly before moving to Baie-D'Urfé in 1961.

Before entering politics, Anne worked for McLean Hunter, then Canada's largest publisher of trade and consumer magazines. Anne's interest in civic affairs started when she had serious concerns about the safety of her children due to the high water levels in the ditch bordering her home on Devon Street. She began to attend town hall meetings, (was editor of the News & Views for seven years) and became a town councillor in 1978. In 1983, Mayor David Kennedy resigned mid-term to move to Toronto, Anne was acclaimed Mayor and held that position for several terms until her retirement in 2005.

Anne proudly represented the City of Baie-D'Urfé at many of the annual federation of municipality conferences, held in large Canadian cities from Halifax to Vancouver. In 1998, Anne represented the Montreal Urban Community and attended a trade mission along with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. She steered the city through a forced merger with the City of Montreal, and then four years later, helped to

negotiate a happy successful demerger. During those four years, Anne was also Mayor of the neighbouring City of Beaconsfield.

During her years in office, two unusual incidents leap to mind; being threatened by an irate citizen because the city had revoked the permit for his wife's illegal residential retail dress business, and on a lighter note, a midnight telephone call "Is this the Mayor? I have no water!" Answer, his pipes were frozen.

Name dropping time: Over the years, Anne had the pleasure of meeting several former leaders; Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, first when he was progressive conservative leader, then as Prime Minister, Hazel McCallion the long serving Mayor of Mississauga, as well as Premiers Robert Bourassa and Jean Charest. Anne also recounts having met Mayor Jean Drapeau, who loved to host wonderful social events. It was at such an event in 1992, that Anne met Boris Yeltsin, the first President of Russia, and his wife Naina.

Looking back, the worst day on the job was chairing that last meeting of the Baie-D'Urfé council in December 1999, prior to the forced merger. On a happier note, one of Anne's proudest accomplishments as Mayor was her involvement in the establishment of the Baie-D'Urfé industrial park, which has grown from 2 companies to almost 70 today.

When asked what she misses most about being in public office, the first word was "stimulation" from years of being involved in civic affairs. Although her frequent trips to Mexico have ended, at age 96, Anne keeps busy with frequent bridge games, occasionally scrabble, and rounds of golf at the nearby Braeside Golf Club in Senneville. Still civic minded, Anne remains an active member of the Rotary Club of Montreal-Lakeshore.

Submitted by **Bob Harris**

## THE GARDEN *at Fritz*

September is normally the peak month in the garden from harvesting our produce and sending it to the food banks that we support - this year however our harvests started earlier towards the end of July and built up rapidly throughout August. This is a good position to be in, especially during the Gardens tenth year of operation.

You will have noticed the enormous work that has gone into the garden layout this year with the refurbishment of access paths, the organisation of the work area where tools and compost are stored and the installation of professional growing frames for climbing plants. This is all down to the dedicated work of our team of volunteers lead by Robert Brown, Maggie Caron and Patricia Czarnowska, ably assisted by our summer students, and a small team of long time regular gardeners and delivery drivers. Support from our Town Council has enabled us to install more professional equipment for growing climbing plants such as beans and squash as well as fencing out the rabbits.

Crops to date have included Tomatoes, Eggplants, Onions, Beans, Summers squash, Winter squash, Cucumber, Cabbage, Garlic, Radish, Beets and Peppers. We even have some apples from the orchard this season.

