



## **TRANSFER OF MRC**

**Bromont, March 27, 2008**

**My Dear fellow citizens:**

On March 18th last, we advised you by letter that Council had decided to hold a consultative referendum on the subject of Bromont's transfer of MRC so that we would henceforth be included in the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi.

**The date for the referendum has been set for June 8th 2008. Should any significant events occur between then and now, be assured that you, the citizens will be informed promptly.**

**In order to better understand the reasons and the issues involved in this matter, we are including below a succinct informational text which was published recently in the newspapers and which gave rise to a number of favourable comments from citizens.**

**We are, of course always available to answer your questions and receive your comments.**

### ***A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY***

At the outset, we should remember that Bromont's wish to change MRC's has been in the forefront of the political scene for the last 25 years. In fact, since the creation of the MRC's in 1982 discussions regarding Bromont's presence in the MRC of the Haute-Yamaska have been on the agenda. When the MRC's were created, the municipal council of Bromont of the time asked that Bromont be included in the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi, but to no avail. It is without a doubt that mistake was made at that time, and as a result, uneasiness ensued.

Knowledge of the history of this matter is of prime importance in order to properly understand the true issues and to avoid that the debate flounder in emotion when reason should prevail. The debate should, above all not be brought down to a so-called personality contest between elected officials. The debate is too historically significant and too important to be summed up in this manner. Bromont's wish to change MRC's is part of a logical and natural desire, and goes well beyond the political players of today. Our inclusion in the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi constitutes a social, geographic and rational political reality, not only for Bromont, but for the region as a whole. Indeed, we should remember that the MRC of the Haute-Yamaska gave its unanimous consent to the change by resolution in March 2006.

### ***THE NATURAL LINKS BETWEEN BROMONT AND THE MRC OF BROME-MISSISQUOI***

For example, in the political field, Bromont has been part of the federal and provincial electoral districts of Brome-Missisquoi since their creation. Moreover, when the first draft of the new electoral map was produced, (in March 2008) Bromont remained in this riding. Staying in the « geopolitical » field, Bromont is already linked with the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi under a number of inter-municipal agreements: this has been the case for a number of years: an example is the agreement in the area of fire protection coverage. Bromont has agreements with the cities of Cowansville, Farnham, Sutton, Brome Lake and Saint-Alphonse. It must also be pointed out

the territory of Bromont is contiguous to that of Brome Lake and Brigham, both of which are in the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi.

In addition, the field of health care, the population of Bromont looks to the Brome-Missisquoi-Perkins Hospital for services and has established strong links with this institution. For their part, the young people get to know their Brome-Missisquoi neighbours as they attend secondary school in Cowansville. This neighbourliness is also found in the field of recreation and leisure as a result of inter-municipal agreements with the municipalities of Cowansville and Brigham. At a very young age, the youth of Bromont cultivates a sense of belonging with their friends from the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi. In a word, the ties that bind Bromont and the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi are explained by a feeling of affinity and similarity.

### ***BROMONT: AN ECONOMIC DYNAMO IN THE REGION***

But well beyond all of these considerations, all of which are very important, the City of Bromont, with the support of its citizens, has sought to exercise, for the last quarter century, its regional economic leadership within the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi where we find municipalities that are comparable to it in terms of assessment, population and economic and recreo-tourism development centres.

Since its creation in 1964 under the leadership of the Désourdy family, Bromont has always been faithful to its vision of being “the city of the year 2000”. The citizens of Bromont have therefore put into place and financed the services and infrastructures that were necessary to attract and support residents, industries, businesses and major international events. These investments have, without a doubt, benefited the entire region including both MRC’s.

It is therefore in the best interests of both MRC’s that Bromont continue to develop in a framework where it will be best able to assert fully its powers and economic strength. The political and economic context of the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi is more favourable to the continuing development of Bromont, and as a result of that of the entire region.

In closing, we hasten to state that our wish the transfer to the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi should not be interpreted as a rejection of the MRC of the Haute-Yamaska and of its values. On the contrary, because of its geographic situation, Bromont will continue to support exchanges between the two MRC’s. We simply wish to make official, through legal means our particular set of dynamics in a manner similar to that experienced elsewhere in Quebec. Experience teaches that such changes are possible and positive and can be accomplished in respect and dignity.

On behalf of the Municipal Council



Pauline Quinlan  
Mayor