



To Arundel's Citizens, Aug. 2010

We, Mayor Julia Stuart, and councillors Joanna Nash, Ann Poirier and Bernard Bazinet, came into office with a mandate to combine services with neighbouring communities whenever this would be advantageous to Arundel's citizens. Our studies regarding the «merge» showed this to be the case and we agreed to an Entente with Huberdeau, Barkmere and Montcalm.

We have entered an Entente with our neighbours in a very open, cooperative spirit, and far from losing our firemen; we have been given the opportunity of increasing and expanding their services. Yes, the name "Arundel Firemen" will change to a name indicating a regional fire corps into which those firemen, who want to continue serving Arundel as firemen will join and remain as important to Arundel and valued as ever... Yes, our fire trucks will be housed in neighbouring fire halls, both of which conform to the necessary regulations (ours does not), and are within the required distance from our citizens so that insurance rates will not increase (I believe there are one or two exceptions to this but this is the case already). And yes, management of the Fire Service will be handled by Huberdeau-Montcalm, while that of the First Responders, which will be serving all four municipalities for the first time, will be handled by Arundel at reduced costs. Arundel is a bilingual community as are the Fire and First Responder Services. Some of Arundel's citizens are already members of the Huberdeau or Montcalm Firemen.

There are people who have never wanted Arundel to join services with neighbouring communities, who were no doubt behind the decision not to merge in 2005, and who are strongly opposed to this coming Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>'s amalgamation (Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> is the date set for the official merge, all being well, instead of July 1<sup>st</sup> because of transitional requirements). Until the merge is official, the Sécurité Incendie d'Arundel will continue to be responsible for Arundel's welfare. However, the ideas we expressed in our election campaign such as "cutting costs ...pooling resources with neighbouring municipalities, maximizing the use of what we have ..." which is what the merge is all about, won us our votes and we are committed to honouring these.

We are serving the best interest of Arundel citizens by merging our services with Huberdeau, Montcalm and Barkmere, and I have no doubt people will come to realize this that haven't already done so. Neil Swail, in his letter to Arundel citizens, has asked to know who does not believe in the Entente. This is a fair question. Equally, I invite people who do agree with it to let us know by voicing your encouragement in person, or by email to [juliamstuart@yahoo.ca](mailto:juliamstuart@yahoo.ca). Your support is always appreciated!

There is a bright future ahead if we are willing to recognize the emerging possibilities before us and work together to bring them about.

Julia Stuart

"In the previous version of my Aug. letter to citizens, 'elected Mayor and councillors' was intended to signify those of us on council who had campaigned with a common vision i.e Mayor Julia Stuart, and councillors Joanna Nash, Ann Poirier and Bernard Bazinet. Unfortunately it did not, with the result councillor Guylaine Berlinguette wrote: "... Je vous ferai remarquer que je ne figure pas parmi les membres du conseil qui appuis cette lettre ni la fusion tel qu'elle a été présentée..... Je vous demanderais de faire des excuses publics et d'aviser la population que je ne fais pas partie des membres du conseil qui ont écrit cette lettre", and councillor Lee Ann Brandt wrote: "I am AGAINST this merge and DO NOT think it is in the best interest of the town...I expect you to immediately remove from the website my name from your post about neils letter because as a councillor I am not for it so you CAN NOT include from mayor and councillors"

I wish to express my apologies for this error.

Julia Stuart