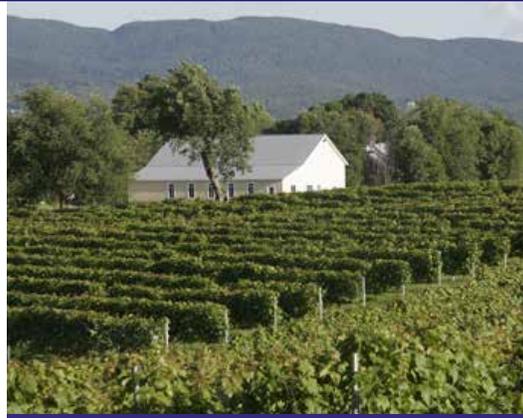




AUGUST 2020
VOL. 21



TOWN OF SUTTON MUNICIPAL BULLETIN

MAYOR'S MESSAGE - THE ABILITY TO ADAPT

There is an expression in English used ironically during periods of turbulence: "May we live in interesting times."

We are certainly passing through difficult times, a period of profound transformation on many fronts as we face an environmental crisis, uncertainty linked to the pandemic, a recession, the loss of our planet's biodiversity—to mention to mention just a few challenges.

The ability to adapt is an absolutely necessary trait in order to handle change. As naturalist Charles Darwin wrote, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change."

My goal here is not to moralize, but just to point out that the size of our

town is just right: not too big and not too small, the perfect size to be able to adapt regularly and rapidly to change. The vital force that keeps us riding the wave of change is our citizenry: people of all ages who are propelled by the desire to maintain our quality of life.

Every new day offers us an invitation to test our ability at home with our children, at work with our colleagues, or elsewhere... The more aware we are of the importance of being adaptable, the more we will appreciate the benefits of our way of life.

In the name of Sutton's Town Council, I wish you all a beautiful—and safe—summer.

Michel Lafrance, Mayor of Sutton



The Blue Muse
FUN
TOUR

A new one for Sutton's cultural circuits!

Are you looking for a great outdoor activity to do, which easily complies with public health guidelines?

And are you aware that Sutton has laid out several tours for residents and visitors to take on foot, by bike or by car?

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i KEEP INFORMED

To keep track regarding important dates, various activities, administrative hours, etc., you can also:

- follow Sutton's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/VilleDeSutton>)
- subscribe to the town's weekly newsletter *Sutton Updates!* (<https://sutton.ca/en/#newsletter>)
- subscribe to CITAM's system of mass alerts and notifications on the town's home page (www.sutton.ca/en) or by phone at 1 (844) 642-3540 so that you can receive all the alerts on your home phone or your cell
- keep an eye out for public notices on the bulletin boards around town and on the front doors of various commercial establishments.

August 2020

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IMPACT OF PANDEMIC URBAN AND LAND-USE PLANNING

On March 13, 2020, government officials (supported by Quebec's public health department) issued their first directives for dealing with COVID-19 (coronavirus). Since then, these directives have been revised and adapted as the pandemic evolved. In keeping with these directives, direct access to the Town Hall was (and still is) prohibited or restricted.

Each of Sutton's departments has reviewed how employees work in order to find the safest way to continue providing services to the town's citizens. At the Urban and Land department, we divided our employees into two groups: one to telework from home (not on site but connected virtually), the other to remain on site.

Most correspondence is done by telephone, email, or snail mail. Fortunately, you can also deposit permit applications and other documents in a box located at the rear entrance of the Town Hall and identified for this purpose.

Face-to-face meetings are avoided when-

ever possible. When they're necessary, social distancing is respected, masks are worn when required (for example, during a building inspection when the owner is present), and hands are washed frequently.

Unfortunately, although these precautions may ensure the safety of our employees and citizens, they can also sometimes slow down the work flow. Please be advised that we are doing everything in our power not to exceed the 20-day statutory deadline for issuing or refusing a standard license. In addition—by using whenever possible the rules prescribed by the government regarding written public consultations and the registering of qualified voters—we are handling files as quick as we can. With respect to the many information requests we receive, we try to follow up within 72 hours. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and your patience.

It is worth noting that despite the

obstacles posed by the pandemic, delivery deadlines for the urban department's mandates have been respected. Indeed, for the period from January 1 to April 30, 2020 (in comparison to this period in 2019), Sutton saw the same number of new constructions (12) and the same number of renovations (15). The value of permits (for renovation, expansion, new construction, etc.), on the other hand, fell from \$4.5 million to \$3.7 million this year, a sharp decline, which was felt especially during the peak period of confinement.

These are not normal times. We are well aware of the inconveniences posed by the pandemic and we are doing our best to continue acting courteously and professionally while this situation lasts. In the meantime, let's observe social distancing and always wear a mask for any distance of less than two metres. Masks are not only an effective way to prevent contagion, but they also show respect for fellow citizens.

KEEP VIGILANT FIRST RESPONDERS

The 2020 pandemic caused by COVID-19 (coronavirus) will go down in history for all of us. Our individual freedoms have been temporarily restricted for the common good and most people have responded appropriately. However, now that the peak has passed and people are no longer as strictly confined, it may be hard to remember that the virus is still out there.

Sutton's Community First Responders are counting on you to keep vigilant this summer and this fall. Yes, we miss human contact, but still we must maintain social distancing. It continues to be the best way to deal with this pandemic. To reduce the impact of any future waves, keep your distance. We also recommend that you wear a mask in public, especial-

**Following instructions
saves lives.**

- Practising hand hygiene
- Keeping your distance
- Coughing into your sleeve
- Properly protecting yourself
- Cleaning and disinfecting

ly when shopping (for example, at the grocery store or other shops).

Furthermore, don't be surprised if you have to answer several questions associated with COVID-19, when making a 911 emergency call or visiting the hospital or clinic.

And note that first responders and paramedics, aware of the rate of infection associated with COVID 19, use additional personal protective equipment (PPE).

To make it possible for us to serve you in a timely manner in an emergency, ensure the civic number of your residence is visible from the street, day and night.

You can also follow us on our **Community First Responders Facebook page**, where we publish information every week.

Count on us to help you in an emergency.

We wish you a healthy summer!

HELP KEEP OUR TOWN CLEAN!

BEWARE OF DISINFECTANT WIPES!

The Public Works Department wishes to inform Sutton residents who are connected to the sewer system that contrary to toilet paper, disinfectant wipes and makeup remover wipes do not disintegrate in the sewage pipes, just like sanitary napkins and tampons. These items simply should not end up in the toilet and sewer system: **They must go into the garbage.** These products are made of a fibrous material that cannot disintegrate in wastewater pipes. Since everything that is flushed down a toilet necessarily ends up in the sewer system,



these wipes clog the pipes and block the pumping station's equipment, which results in burning the pumps' motor.

This bad habit can cause challenging problems for municipalities and citizens:

- replacement pumps cost several thousands of dollars
- blocked pipes can lead to sewer backup
- premature wear means premature pump replacement
- abnormal pump use can increase pumping station maintenance costs.

We count on each of you to dispose of your disinfectant wipes in the garbage!

COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD BULK ITEMS



As usual there will be a garbage collection of large household items this fall organized by sector, **from September, 28 to October 1st, 2020**. Bulk items, include mattresses, household appliances and furniture. To find out the date for your sector's

collection, please consult the 2020 collection schedule and list of sectors on the Town of Sutton website, under **Services to citizens/Waste management**.

The following items will not be picked up during the large household garbage collection and must therefore be taken to the Brome-Missisquoi Ecocentre:

- construction materials (gypsum, asphalt shingles, mineral wool, wood, linoleum, tiles, melamine, glass, etc.)
- electronics, electrical devices, computer devices (televisions, toasters, microwave ovens, computers, keyboards, printers, etc.)
- tires and auto parts
- aggregates (brick, concrete, asphalt, rock etc.)
- hazardous waste (paint, oil, batteries, propane tanks, etc.)
- leaves (Try to recycle your own leaves, otherwise dispose of leaves in your brown bin or bag for municipal leaf collection)
- household garbage (Must go in the green or black bins for landfill).

To dispose of your large items, on the dates indicated, **place them by the side of the road before 7 a.m. on collection day or on the day before**. Everything will be picked up.

Any items put on the side of the road **after the date of the collection or after 7 a.m. in your sector will not be picked up**.

Thank you for your cooperation. Help keep our town clean!

WHAT TO DO WITH AUTUMN LEAVES?



We highly recommend that you use leafcycling techniques to manage the autumn leaves on your property this fall.

Rather than picking them up, mulch your leaves with your lawn mower and let them lie on the lawn or use

them to mulch your flower beds.

Do this in the late fall when the plants are entering their dormant period. Decaying leaves release nutrients good for the soil over the winter. Soil left bare may become compacted by the weight of snow and rain.

By springtime, the leaf bits will have decomposed and turned into natural fertilizer for your lawn and flower beds.

How to leafcycle

- run the lawn mower regularly as the leaves fall, shredding the dry leaves
- run the lawn mower frequently. Too many whole leaves on the ground can choke your lawn
- reduce grass height to five cm for the last few lawn mowings
- use a mulching mower if possible.

Door-to-door leaf collection: November 6, 2020

If you have too many leaves on your property to use as mulch, bag them for door-to-door collection.

Only use paper bags without tape. Leaves improperly bagged will not be collected. Place the bags close to the road before 7 a.m. on collection day.

DID YOU KNOW ?



You can download the free app "Ça va où?" created by RECYC-QUÉBEC or visit the website: recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/points-de-recuperation.

FIRE PREVENTION VISITS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Every year the local fire departments carry out fire-prevention visits in order to ensure that residences in our community meet the fire safety precautions set by MRC Brome-Missisquoi.

This year naturally, these visits will be conducted, somewhat differently. Sutton's Fire Department has modified its approach to residential visits, while still maintaining its attention to safety and following the parameters determined by public health departments.

Our fire department wants to ensure that smoke alarms are installed in every residence and that their operation is verified.



In the coming weeks, some fire-fighters will be going door to door around Sutton. They will, of course, respect social distancing and will not come inside your residence.

Instead, the firefighters will complete a residential safety form and request residents to check smoke alarms themselves. In addition, they may want to discuss various fire prevention topics.

Thank you for helping us protect you!

CRISES BRING OUT THE BEST IN US!



CORPORATION DE DÉVELOPPEMENT
ÉCONOMIQUE DE SUTTON

The community of Sutton has displayed remarkable cohesiveness during the pandemic by buying local, ordering from favorite restaurants, and using delivery, all in support of "business as usual."

Now that life is gradually resuming a more normal course, we hope this continued support for local businesses will become the norm.

Why revert to old buying habits when Sutton businesses offer all you need and count on you to survive?

OUR COMMON GOAL IS TO...

Support Sutton businesses more than ever, eat local food, shop local

Utimize all our local attractions and enjoy the great outdoors

Together work to rekindle our dynamic business sector and help each other

Take every opportunity to go the extra mile

pen our border with our neighbours

Now more than ever we need to come to together!

ADAPTED AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE ADAPTS!

An adapted and public transport service is available for Sutton residents. The service offers transport between Sutton and Cowansville and follows this schedule:

| START POINTS | MORNING | NOON | LATE AFTERNOON | All details about this service, fares and other options can be here: https://mrcbm.qc.ca/en/transp_tc.php |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|---|
| Sutton and Abercorn | ± 7:30 a.m. | ± 12:30 p.m. | ± 4:30 p.m. | |
| Cowansville | ± 7 a.m. | ± 11:30 a.m. | ± 3:45 p.m. | |

New routes may be added according to need and the hours may be modified without notice.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, MRC Public Transit is providing essential transportation services in its territory. Transportation is therefore available for the following destinations: work, medical appointment, pharmacy or groceries. Call (450) 263-7010 and leave a message. The MRC will call you back as soon as possible.

Finally, in keeping with current safety rules, masks are required on board and only passengers can deposit money or tickets in the collection box.

JOHN SLEETH CENTRE: OLD OR TOO OLD?

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

This neoclassical building was built between 1885 and 1886 and served as a school for the inhabitants of Sutton for almost a hundred years, until 1986. The Sutton Model School opened an elementary and secondary school in 1887. Six years later, it changed its name to Sutton Academy. In 1922, an extension, a mirror of the original architecture, doubled the capacity of the building and added three rooms, a library and a refectory. Around 1955, the school changed its name again to Sutton High School and moved to a new building on Highland Street. Then the Davignon Catholic School Board bought the building to make Ave Maria, a francophone elementary school for girls. Since 1986, when the two French and English schools were grouped together on Highland Street under the name of École de Sutton School, the building has swapped its school vocation for a community vocation. Now known as the John Sleeth Centre, it houses the Sutton Library, Le Spot Youth Centre, the Volunteer Centre, the Sutton Arts Gallery and the Sutton Kindergarten.

CURRENT CONDITION OF THE BUILDING

Numerous structural modifications over the years have altered the appearance of the building, which is now considered to be of medium heritage value by Patri-Arch. Nevertheless, its date of construction (1885-1886) gives it an age value. In addition there is the building's historical importance because it was contracted by Sutton's first mayor, entrepreneur and owner-merchant Frederick Albyn Olmstead, and it is Sutton's first building devoted exclusively to education.

In order to protect the built heritage of Sutton and the user safety insurer, Sutton had the building inspected in late 2019 to ascertain its condition. The assessment showed a deterioration in the physical state of the structure and its elements, putting property at risk and necessitating major work. Among other things, the windows should be replaced, the structure reinforced, the masonry and ventilation redone, a fire-resistant finish installed and the main staircase redesigned. In addition, the interior space does not offer the best use of space for the organizations that currently use it, calling for improvements. While the building can still be used and remains safe for its current occupants, its lifespan is limited. To keep this building will require some very expensive major work.

WHAT TO DO?

The question then arises: Should we build a new building that is better suited to the needs of current users and our community, or try to keep the old one? Once all the relevant information is in, we will, as previously announced, hold public consultations. At that point, a decision can be taken that will benefit all Sutton residents.

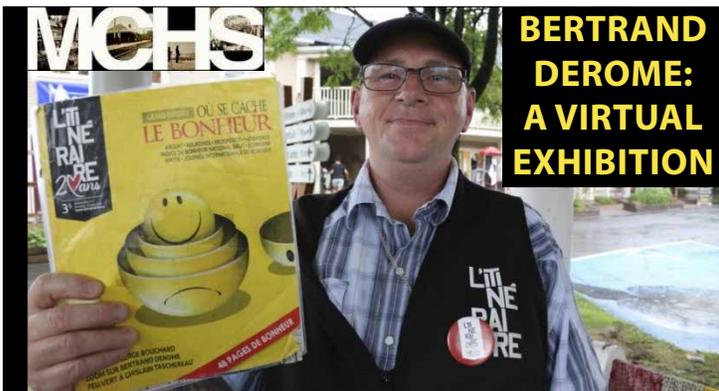
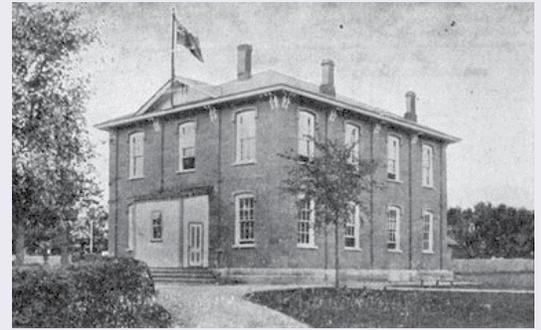


Photo: Alain Dion, *La Voix de l'Est*

This summer, the museum has decided to present a virtual exhibition on Bertrand Derome, alias Monsieur Sutton, street vendor of the magazine *L'itinéraire*, through a blog posted online at <https://expobertrandderomelitinaire.blogspot.com>.

In this blog, you will find images, articles and clips featuring M. Derome, Sutton resident, who sells the magazine *L'itinéraire* on rue Principale, right near the post office. Once a drug addict, Bertrand radically changed his life and moved to Sutton

in August 2008. He now lives independently in a rented apartment in the heart of the village.

Although the exhibit is free, donations of any amount to *L'itinéraire* are welcome. Donations go toward helping street vendors meet basic needs, especially food.

Monique Leyrac: Exhibit postponed

Since 2009, the Sutton Museum of Communications and History has organized about a dozen temporary exhibitions, including "Les Canadiens passent par Sutton en train," "Pierre Falardeau," "Jehane Benoît," "Sol, Suttonesstradinaire" and "Gerald Bull." In total, it has welcomed more than 25,000 visitors.

This summer, the museum had planned to hold the exhibition "Monique Leyrac: C'est ici que je veux vivre." However, due to the pandemic and despite the recent reopening of certain museum institutions, the board of directors, with the support of Sophie Gironay (Leyrac's daughter), has decided to postpone this exhibit until next summer. It was felt that with social distancing and the consequent decrease in visitors, the museum would not be able to do justice to this great actress and performer, who lived in Sutton for several decades and died last year.

NEW CULTURAL TOUR IN SUTTON

The Town of Sutton has laid out several tours for residents and visitors to take on foot, by bike or by car.

The newest walk, launched this July, is named **the Blue Muse** after the French verb *muser*, which means to stroll, and includes “blue,” one of the colour of Sutton’s logo. There is also a little play on words (*amuser, amuse-gueule*) ... because taking this 5.9 km pedestrian route is definitely entertaining: by following the blue line on the ground or using the interactive map downloadable with the **Ondago** mobile application, people can explore the village and view it in a different light.

Eighteen stops have been planned along the circuit, each designed to highlight a Sutton attraction, such as the Retro Labo exhibit or the sculptures in the D’Arts et de rêves park. Some businesses display interesting artifacts from the Sutton Museum, chosen thematically with accompanying explanations.

In addition, a Rally-discovery questionnaire on the Blue Muse tour, designed to test your sense of observation, has been posted on the town’s website and will “amuse” adults and children alike. This entertaining project, produced in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture, is still evolving and will continue to be enriched by the creative input of local residents.

SUTTON AND SURROUNDING CIRCUITS

Sutton already offers several tours, which are easy to take and open all the time. The first three were designed with accompanying audio guides in both French and English: Just download the **GuidiGO app/Choose a place/Canada/Sutton**, and listen as you go. Your journey will be punctuated by epic tales of life from the 19th and 20th century and peopled by larger-than-life figures from the past. Interpretive panels, illustrated with archival photos, also provide valuable historical and architectural information.

Take a tour and see our region in an exciting new light.

- 1. On The Trail of The Pioneers: Sutton tales** 
6.9 km | 2:30 | 18 stages | Sutton – Sutton Junction
- 2. Memory of The Hamlets: Tales and stories from Sutton** 
19 km | 2:45 | 23 stages | Sutton – Sutton Junction – North Sutton – West Sutton
- 3. If These Paths Could Speak: Sutton’s stories** 
19 km | 3:30 | 24 stages | Sutton – Glen Sutton
- 4. Sutton Village Heritage Circuit** 
4 km | 1:15 | 16 stages | Sutton
- 5. Sutton Rural Heritage Circuit** 
33 km | 10 stages | Sutton – West Sutton – Abercorn
- 6. Heritage Tour of Churches and Cemeteries** 
Route 1: 44.6 km | 15 stages | Sutton – Sutton Junction – Brome – West Brome – North Sutton
Route 2: 54 km | 7 stages | Abercorn – Glen Sutton
- 7. The Blue Muse** 
4.5 to 5.3 km | 18 stages | Sutton
- 8. Retro Lab Exhibition** 
Sutton cycle path
- 9. D’Arts et de Rêves Park** 
57 Principale N., Sutton

Information: Sutton Tourist Information Office
24A Principale S., Sutton – Tel. : (450) 538-8455

sutton.ca/tours
suttontourism.ca



**SUTTON
MUNICIPAL &
SCHOOL
LIBRARY**

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 bibliotheque@sutton.ca

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and click on **QuoiLire.ca**.



NEXT PUBLICATION

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