The new year is already just a few days away. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Longueuil citizens a wonderful holiday season and a new year filled with happiness, peace and health.

The new year will also be one of new projects and challenges. We will continue our efforts to build yet a stronger Longueuil. Having the privilege of living in a city and a region whose geographic position provides an economically strategic edge, and whose business community is exceptionally dynamic, we are well equipped to ride out this unstable economic environment.

It is already well known that we have many development projects to make our city and region prosper. We have also taken concrete measures to improve the quality of life of our citizens.

Improving our infrastructures, increasing the housing supply, enhancing our recreation facilities, investing in the local and regional cultural scene, and especially ensuring the quality of our environment through concrete actions are all part of our 2009 program. This includes improving and promoting public transit, recycling, and protecting our natural spaces.

But for now, since the holiday season is upon us, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Claude Gladu
Mayor of Longueuil
and Chairman of the Agglomeration Council

2009 – A Year Filled With Challenges
The magic of Christmas

Until December 23 in St. Mark park, in the historical setting of Vieux-Longueuil

Come and meet the event’s spokesperson, actor Jean-Marie Lapointe.

Eight days of cultural activities for the whole family
December 12, 13 and 14, and December 19 to 23, noon to 9:00 p.m.

In the heart of St. Mark park, forty or so beautifully decorated and illuminated wooden houses will display a host of traditional Christmas products from Québec and elsewhere.

Follow the aromatic trail of hot wine, gingerbread, crêpes and doughnuts. Discover a variety of treasures along the market’s quaint streets: gifts, perfumes, flavours and surprises.

This second edition of the Marché des traditions will include:

- cozy evenings at the Café des Traditions, with performances by renowned musicians and singers;
- the Christmas Advent calendar with a page being turned each evening;
- a magical animation with choirs, folk dance troupes, strolling musicians, and historical figures;
- cooking demonstrations, including the five-course Christmas Feast at the Centre professionnel Jacques-Rousseau;
- creative workshops for children;
- Santa Claus who will greet kids Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This event is organized as part of the cultural development agreement between Ville de Longueuil and the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec.

For the detailed program, visit the website of the Corporation Les Vieux métiers, les métiers vivants (www.marchenoeltraditions.com), or call 450 677-2125.

Free admission
For the Safety of Longueuil’s Population!

The territories of Longueuil and of the agglomeration have never been as well protected against fire as today. More firefighters, more equipment, more means, and budgets that have almost doubled in the last seven years... these are just a few of the elements that allow us to state that the citizens of Longueuil and the agglomeration are living in a safe environment, and have excellent protection against fire.

Also, the number of building fires has dropped by nearly 50% since 2002, which can certainly be attributed to the ongoing prevention work of the agglomeration’s entire Fire Service.

A few figures that attest to the efforts and investments made in the last five years:

- In 2002, 21 regular firefighters were manning the fire stations for the entire territory. In 2008, there are now 46 firefighters manning the stations around the clock, which has decreased the response time to fires.
- Since 2002, the number of regular firefighters has increased from 89 to 185, while the budget more than doubled in six years, from $8 million to $17 million in 2008.
- In the last four years, eight pumper ladders were added to the fleet, and the Fire Service will soon be taking delivery of four water tankers. This is in addition to work carried out to upgrade several fire stations and equipment, as well as changes to the telecommunications system. These acquisitions and improvements represent an investment of nearly $10 million.

This all shows the many initiatives and actions taken to ensure that the agglomeration’s population is and remains well protected. But there is more.

The risk coverage plan, even if its full implementation is staggered over the next five years, will provide optimal coverage with an ultimate goal of 10 firefighters responding to any emergency within 10 minutes.
New domestic waste management measures in the borough of Vieux-Longueuil

Starting on January 1, 2009, Vieux-Longueuil’s sanitation service will collect domestic waste only once a week at apartment and condo buildings.

Pick-up days are as follows:
- Tuesdays for addresses west of chemin de Chambly;
- Fridays for addresses east of chemin de Chambly, including addresses on chemin de Chambly.

These new measures were taken to apply the Quebec Residual Materials Management Policy whose aim is to reduce domestic waste by at least 65% while increasing the amount of recycled materials. They also follow the gradual deployment of new waste containers in Vieux-Longueuil’s apartment and condo buildings.

Infobac: 450 463-7100, ext. 3143

Free Parking on Saint-Charles

During the holidays, parking will be free on Saint-Charles street in Vieux-Longueuil.

From Monday, December 1, 2008 to Friday, January 2, 2009 inclusively, you won’t have to feed the parking meters on Saint-Charles West between Saint-Sylvestre and chemin de Chambly. Parking will however be limited to 120 minutes.