

From: Arnie Francis [arnie@istar.ca]
Sent: January 7, 2007 9:34 PM
To: 'mmra@sympatico.ca'
Subject: January 2007 - MMRA President's Communique2
Dear MMRA member:

First of all let me wish you and yours a very happy 2007 filled with good health and abundances of your choice.

In my Christmas e-mail I promised you some thumbnail sketches of things on the MMRA horizon. For the skiers, boarders, tobogganers and snowmobilers our apologies – snow wasn't part of our promise!

1. **The Martin St. Lookout Project** -- a wonderful initiative, spearheaded by the Hub in partnership with Town Council and staff -- is coming along beautifully, with a little volunteer help from MMRA members. Find out more at <http://www.glassfet.com/Lookout/Lookout.html>
2. **Please join a municipal sub-committee!** Sub-committees report to the "committees of council" and their job is to gather information, make recommendations and report back to council committees. This is one of the most important ways of influencing current and future direction in our town. The initial call up after the election wasn't well responded to and awareness of the call was low, so Council may be re-issuing it. Contact Town Clerk Cindy Halcrow (613-256-2064 x226 or chalcrow@mississippimills.ca) for more details.
3. **Planning and Economic Development:** At the December 12, 2006 meeting (<http://www.mississippimill.com/resources/resource.cfm?resId=727§ionId=90>) Levi's Home Hardware proposed "to expand the property to the rear and out to Concession 11 road." The proposal involves changing some road patterns at the back of the Mall and the Home Hardware to allow the truck traffic to come in off the 11th line – perhaps not a bad idea. At the neighbouring mall, Wilson Bassile is looking "to increase the size of the leasable floor area to replace the previously demolished 3,000 sq ft as well as additional second storey space and to clarify the issue of kiosk space." Wilson also has a most recent version of the Sadler Farm (a.k.a. Sadler Estate Subdivision) development and his planner is proposing "the creation of 3 highway commercial lots west of Sadler Drive and residential subdivision." More to come at the January 9th 2007 P&EDC Meeting, 6:00 pm. (See the MMRA site for some background: <http://www.mmra.ca/index.html#Anchor-Inf-56423>)
4. **Increased transparency at Council? A great New Year's Resolution!** At the All Candidates Meetings a majority of candidates agreed to recorded voting (notable exceptions were Messrs. Levi and Minille). In addition to this, the MMRA Board also feels that three simple changes will add to transparency and improve the public's confidence in Council's decision-making process:
 - a) The immediate publication of draft minutes, within 24-48 hours of the meeting;
 - b) Creating the role of "recording secretary" to ensure independent and objective note taking/ minuting at meetings; and
 - c) Requiring mandatory electronic submissions (e.g. agenda packages) to encourage easier public access to material.

In a related article in the Mississippi Weekender, (December 29, 2007 on Page 7) titled, "Town has launched redesigned website", some councillors are already asking how the new website can be used for broadcasting council meetings. What do you think?

5. **First Impressions of Almonte or Pakenham?** We are encouraging local groups and individuals to join with the MMRA to form a committee to participate in this OMAFRA First Impression's Program (http://www.reddi.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_6_21811_1.html). In November the MMRA Board was treated to a short presentation of this low-cost, high-value program that pairs up communities so that each can perform a "first impressions" review of their matched community. New eyes gazing upon our core areas feeding back some ideas on how we look? Why not? Let me know if you would like to participate.
6. **The MMRA is your resource:** Come and volunteer a small amount of time to help on the MMRA's Board or Committees: contact me for more information. Join the MMRA's FREE Yahoo Discussion Group (<http://www.mmra.ca/mmra/Communications/Communications.html#Yahoo>) and be informed on what issues are percolating in your community. It's not all "doom and gloom" – some wonderful things are

happening, as you can see from our first item, above. But please, act now to join our discussion group.

I plan to keep you informed periodically through this medium and I hope you find it useful. Your feedback, of course, is most welcome. Cheers.

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"Striving to promote a shared vision for Mississippi Mills"
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Questions or comments? Call me at 613-256-9063, or e-mail me at arnie@istar.ca