

From: Arnie Francis [arnie@istar.ca]
Sent: January 30, 2007 10:13 AM
To: 'mmra@sympatico.ca'
Subject: February 2007- MMRA President's Communiqué
 Dear MMRA member:

Here's the next in my Communiqué series - a quick outline of what's making views...

WHAT'S HOT?

Important Public Meeting!

- Tuesday January 30, 2007 at the Almonte Old Town Hall, 7:00 pm. On the agenda is the Spring St development. Now if this 508 unit development between Paterson and Spring streets and the river in Almonte raises any question whatsoever for you, then you need to be at this meeting (even if you were at the first public meeting on January 9th, and the community meeting on January 20th!). Put yourself on the Spring Street list (send email to springext@p2it.ca). Get info from the MMRA website, http://www.mmra.ca/mmra/Issues/Development/Dev_Spring_St.html
- The Spring Street issue may overshadow Wilson Bassile's application to increase his Mall size and re-zone his Ottawa Street lots from "rural" to "highway commercial" lots.
- Sewage Treatment: The Town is calling for comments on the Environmental Study Report, Dec 2006. These are due by Feb 2/07. See our website, www.mmra.ca
- Ann Street Subdivision: On Jan 9, our Council, it appears, approved in principle cost-sharing of the storm sewer upgrades and of storm water facilities on the site with the developer of the subdivision. This seems to be in exchange for the inclusion of a second exit/entrance into that subdivision, going in off Country Street. This access road is apparently also to be constructed under the cost-sharing plan. Pretty good deal for the developer, if you ask me. Pretty bad deal for taxpayers. And a Councillor at that very meeting is quoted as saying, "Development pays for itself!" Yeah, sure!

Town Committees:

- The MMRA has formally requested that the Town officially recognize and record that the MMRA is a community-based group and, as such, we are interested and willing to nominate individuals from our membership to fill vacancies on Town committees. (It's not that our nose is out of joint, we'd just like to be asked to dance once in a while!)
- Design Subcommittee: Three individuals (all MMRA members) came forward to volunteer for the Design Committee. One is nominated by the UAC, one by the RAC and the MMRA is wishing to nominate the other if we can get Council to approve our "official status".
- Environmental Advisory Committee: One position is still available. The EAC will need to be a strong voice not a seat-cushion for a Council ineffectiveness.
- Urban Advisory Committee and Rural Advisory Committees were formed for input to the COP, and are now defunct. However the UAC still has life and reason to exist. New members are being sought. The MMRA Board has agreed to support the UAC (likely to be re-named the Almonte Community Planning Council) in a loose affiliation through our Board. No formal arrangement has been entered into. Almonte ward developments currently on the books require careful scrutiny, especially from the residents around these planned 'burbs: Spring St Development (Spring, Tatra, Paterson), Sadler Estate Development (Maude, St. James, Victoria, Ottawa), Ann St Development (Ann, Robert, William, James, Country) and White Tail Ridge (Martin St N).

The "Ya gotta smile" section:

- First Impressions Program: We're still banging the drum about this worthy program. In fact we're leading the charge. There's just no one behind us yet! So any church groups, high school students or other members of MM's citizenry that would like to know more should check out OMAFRA's website (http://www.reddi.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_6_21811_1.html) and /or contact us.

- The MMRA Board sent correspondence to the Town supporting an MMRA member's attempt to get a letter released by the Town under Freedom of Information rules. (FOI is about transparency in government not invisibility of principles, don't you agree?)
- MAAP Downtown Revitalization Focus Sessions. The Mainstreet Association of Almonte and Pakenham (MAAP) is a hard-working little group of dedicated downtowners trying to design a common vision and theme for our downtown cores. They invite interested individuals to an interactive discussion group for generating input. 'Way to go, gang! Contact maap@mississippimills.com.
- Keep our Clown! Why fire the Town Clown for failing to file a report? Write the Mayor an e-mail. How can Miss Mills not have an official Town Clown? (It's the unofficial ones that really worry me!)

And for the "never FAQ" of the month: *How do I know what's happening with regards to our Town?* Check the Mississippi Weekender's weekly block notice submitted by the Town of Mississippi Mills (last week, page 19) although sometimes this is not all-inclusive or accurate due to changes since publication deadlines. Also check the Town's redesigned website at www.mississippimills.ca. There's also any number of downtown businesses in Almonte and Pakenham where a visit brings news you'd never get otherwise!

Enjoy the snow now that winter's here. And as always, your feedback, suggestions and 2007 membership fees are most welcome!

Arnie Francis
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Mississippi Mills Residents' Association (MMRA)
"Striving to promote a shared vision for Mississippi Mills"
www.mmra.ca