

From: Arnie Francis [arnie@istar.ca]
Sent: March 6, 2007 6:18 PM
To: mmra@sympatico.ca
Subject: March 2007 - MMRA President's Communique
 Greetings!

To follow up on our past series of MMRA Communiqués, here's a digest of what's been happening around Mississippi Mills over the last month... If I've missed a thing or two, my apologies ... this is one happenin' town!

Happenings

What's been on the MMRA Yahoo Discussion Group?

- The care of the river and falls in Almonte, MRPC's proposed generating station and a perceived lack of consultation with river advocates
- emasculating the agricultural setback provision through a COP amendment;
- concerns about operations at the Royalex Quarry and possible impacts on the large aquifer in the area
- recording council/committee meetings ... and other interesting commentaries
- any members not on the list should consider joining the MMRA Discussion Group... if nothing else than to hear about the adventures of Mr. Housing Bubble!!
- www.mmra.ca

Feb 6 Planning Committee rejected the MMRA Board's request to participate on the new Design Committee.

- It has left some wondering about the underlying message re: broader community participation in municipal government: are the great unwashed a threat to the uni-mind?
- Ah, the Feb 6 meeting – when the public showed and Wilson Bassile didn't! And then it was "Gunfight (catfight?) at the OK Corral". Got to tip my hat to the Mayor: Pretty decent response on his site: www.lunneysite.com

Councillor Wilkinson made a valiant effort to get "recording of council meetings" passed. The motion (at F&A Committee) flopped.

- Disappointingly, the Mayor voted against it (although he claims to support the principle – go figure!), but he was in good company...
- NAYS: Lunney, Ferguson, Minnille, Dalgity, Anderson. YEAS: Wilkinson, Hurtle, Torrance, Levi, Edwards. ABSENT: Lowry. (Tied motion lost)

Spring Street extension

- Great cooperative effort being expended by Jeff R, his team and town staff in participating in Houchaimi development plans. It will be interesting to see if the developer can handle such input. Interesting question raised by Councillor Ferguson at the February Planning Committee meeting. I paraphrase ... "What if the developer doesn't want to play footsie? Then what?" I guess we'll see. The email discussion has gone somewhat silent of late.

What's a-buzz in the downtowns, you ask?

- The MAAP Downtown revitalization project seems to be going really well with lots of hard work by the committee. Volunteers are needed so if you are interested in the historic downtowns of Pakenham and Almonte, check it out on the Chamber of Commerce website. <http://www.mississippimills.com>
- And...The Bargain Shop is going into the mall... well, maybe... sometime.... May...who knows? What have delays in mall opening (which, by the way, has been caused because it seems the mall hasn't met code and Enbridge won't hook up the gas) got to do with the downtown? Just ask a downtown Almonte business owner - who has been taking a forced hiatus since January - waiting to re-open their business in the developer's Mill Street storefront!

Kudos

How about three cheers for these folks?

... for the perseverant Community Transit Group in CP, despite some pushback from their politicians

- If you haven't done it already, please complete their Transit survey - especially if you are a commuter. It's intended for ALL Lanark County residents,: <http://www.communitytransitsolutions.ca/index.shtml>
- Check out the Clarence-Rockland presentation on community transit. It's a success story! <http://groups>.

yahoo.com/group/MissMillsResidents/files/Planning_Issues/carletonplace.ppt

... for Almonte Artist Juan Geuer, one of only four Ontarians nominated for the 1st Annual Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts. <http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/about/n260207.htm>

- Well deserved recognition for an artist of creative breadth and depth.

... for Kris and Rob Riendeau, publishers of the *Humm*, for receiving the Mississippi Mills Cultural Achievement Award

- Gotham Mills' own Dynamic Duo!

... for Appleton residents on forming the Appleton Community Association (ACA). David Steventon was elected ACA President. Congratulations!

- Things most on the mind of some residents: planting trees, calming traffic and the Royalex Quarry (Wilson St and Hwy 29).

Seminars

"The Cows are in My Drinking Water," the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists' seminar with Peter McLaren, on March 16 at the Almonte United Church Social Hall. www.mvfn.ca

Question of the day: Should the principle of "cabinet solidarity" apply to a municipal council, or should councillors be free to express their views openly in any reasonable forum of their choice? (Comments may be posted to the MMRA Discussion Group).

It MUST be spring.... Lunar Eclipse, Daylight Savings Time (clocks forward March 11), March Break, St. Paddy's Day and the Vernal Equinox all in one month! Be safe and enjoy!

Arnie Francis

President

Mississippi Mills Residents' Association (MMRA)

"Striving to promote a shared vision for Mississippi Mills"

www.mmra.ca

Note: The "MMRA President's Communiqué" is a limited circulation, periodic email on matters of community interest, intended to inform, advise and sometimes amuse members, subscribers and interested individuals. Any opinions expressed are those of the author. Smiles are intended but hurt feelings are not. To unsubscribe please send a reply email, with Unsubscribe added to the subject line, to mmra@sympatico.ca.