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Sent: April 16, 2007 10:56 AM
To: 'mmra@sympatico.ca'
Subject: April 2007 - MMRA President's Communiqué3
Hello to all our readers:

Here are some items I hope you find informative. Your follow-up comments and ideas for enhancing discussion within Mississippi Mills are always most welcome.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- **May 30, 7 pm:** MMRA's AGM, at the AOTH. The theme is: "Dialogue Towards an Inheritable Community-2010." We are hoping that many of our town's community groups (the Appleton CA, the Spring Street group, the LLA, MAAP participants, environmental groups, etc) will participate. Details will be published soon, but we encourage you to plan to attend and bring a neighbour. We're building towards a collaborative vision of community and your input is vital.
- **Nominations:** Please consider serving as a Director on the Board of the MMRA. It's a small commitment but a valuable contribution. Please send your nomination to the Cliff Bennett, Chair of the Nominations Committee: Bennett@magma.ca

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

MMRA Yahoo Discussion Group now available to ALL MM residents: The MMRA Board has decided to open the discussion group to MM residents, not just MMRA members. We encourage readers to take advantage of this focal point for online debate about our town. Join...Join...Join... it won't cost you anything and it will keep you connected better than ever before. But YOU have to join...

- Obtain Yahoo Groups membership, if you don't already have a Yahoo profile (follow the instructions at <http://groups.yahoo.com/>)
- Set up your Yahoo Profile
- Join the MMRA Discussion Group - For more information, check out our "How To Join" document at http://www.mmra.ca/mmra/Docs/Yahoo_Groups-How_2_Join_rev1.pdf. Contact mmra@sympatico.ca for help.

Speaking of such ... recent discussions on the MMRA Yahoo Discussion Group:

- 2006 Census results show MM has only grown by 0.7% in the last 5 years, and Almonte has shrunk by a whopping 2.6%. So why all the development pressure in a shrinking town, you ask?
- Oil spill from a rusted Appletex oil tank goes into our Mississippi River. Sharp eyes in Appleton got the MOE and Town on the job in no time to contain the damage. Some questions remain about MOE's responsiveness. Resurrects the issue of instituting a Riverkeeper program for our river.
- Agricultural buffer being dismantled for the sake of one small landowner... Ramsay Councillors Wilkinson, Anderson and Edwards adamantly oppose the Official Plan Amendment, but Almonte and Pakenham Councillors and the Mayor have their hands over their ears on this one, despite loud public opposition to the OPA (LLA, ACA and MMRA positions circulated)! More to come at the formal public meeting on April 24.
- The Mall – Rumours abound like bling in a rap video. Pharma Plus pulling out? Bargain Shoppe rethinking its commitment? A letter to the editor from the developer would be useful, perhaps. No, wait – perhaps not!
- High speed internet to rural residents – the issue's moving but not at a very high speed.

Upcoming events:

- Special meeting of Roads and Public Works Committee tonight (April 16) to discuss Ottawa Street: While the Mayor and staff should be congratulated on obtaining \$789 K in funding from the Province, some would say the Town got \$789 K to put lipstick on a pig! How much of our ever increasing tax bill does the MM taxpayer have to chip in to add the eye shadow?
- April 24: Formal Public Meeting on the Agricultural Buffer – OPA amendment proposed by the planner and supported by most of Council. The MMRA, the ACA and the LLA, as well as numerous Blakeney residents voiced opposition to this amendment at the March 27/07 public meeting and will do so again at this upcoming public meeting. Please support this effort.
- Appleton is to get beautifully engraved signs at each end of the village. Almonte, on the other hand, is apparently appealing to whoever is responsible to please return the "Friendly Town" sign! (Just kidding! We don't need a sign to see Almonters are friendly!)

Quotes from the Almonte Gazette

March 17, 1982: "It's going to cost an estimated \$400,000 to provide water and sewer service to the Almonte

Industrial Park's "Phase One. March 13, 2007: "...the town could be held responsible for paying more than \$60,000 for their opponents' legal costs... for property (Levi and Bassile) bought in the Mississippi Mills Business Park..."

River Power

The Mississippi River Power Corporation (MRPC) met with us and offered the following information on where things stand on the new power generating station:

- Work is to start this year and be done by December 2008. MRPC and the town's Riverwalk Committee are collaborating on extension of the Riverwalk along the new penstock. The old power plant at the bridge will be remediated and used for switching. The investment presently rings in at \$6.2m.
- Financially, the MRPC has returned dividends of approximately \$700k to the shareholder (Town of MM) over the past 4 years. MRPC expecting to generate positive revenues after this project is complete, due to current favourable opportunities for renewable power (11¢ - 14¢ per kWh, rather than the current 5¢ per kWh).
- Through extensive regulatory and public consultation program since 2000, MRPC claims that concerns expressed by residents and river users have been addressed to the individuals' satisfaction. (E.g. No appeal has been made to the Minister and the consultation process seems to be working).
- MRPC concedes that many residents may not be adequately informed about this project: MMRA's concern is that outstanding issues on the loss of a recreational asset have not yet been fully addressed.

Who's making our Town somewhat better?

- Catch the market2world team promoting the town on this Workopolis TV profile that aired March 27/07 in Canada, now on the Web: <http://www.bnn.ca/servlet/HTMLTemplate!robVideo/robtv0726.20070327.00049000-00049457-clip1/h/220asf///>
- MVFN Talk: April 19 at the Almonte United Church hall, Councillor John Edwards on "Development Challenges in the Mississippi Watershed"
- The four MAAP Committees have had 22 volunteers join. Now that's the winning spirit of our downtowns.

Cheers.

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.