

**From:** Arnie Francis [arnie@istar.ca]  
**Sent:** May 5, 2007 7:56 AM  
**To:** mmra@sympatico.ca  
**Subject:** May 2007 - MMRA President's Communiqué2  
 Hello to all our readers,

Just a reminder on “why” The Communiqué... The Board of the MMRA has been trying to find ways and means to engage as large a cross-section of our Town’s population as possible in a variety of issues and opportunities affecting our community. Since December 2006, I have been sending out this monthly “e-letter” - a digest of the previous month’s issues and a heads-up of what’s coming - to a growing list of interested residents of Mississippi Mills. It offers a purely personal perspective, but hopefully one that informs and links readers in some small way to our beautiful and bountiful surroundings. Feel free to circulate this e-letter to your friends and neighbours in Mississippi Mills who may also be interested in subscribing. Our upcoming Annual General Meeting is themed “**Dialogue towards and inheritable community**” – all are welcome: see *the Humm* for details, and below.

**Recent chatter to enlighten the MMRA Yahoo Discussion Group included:**

- High speed internet for rural MM
- New Town Hall building, cost increase of \$30k
- Wilson's mall, and
- Proposed OPA Agricultural Buffer

Okay, it wasn’t a particularly exciting month on the Discussion Group, but that’s going to change... We will be archiving the contents and starting brand new discussion threads soon that all residents of MM can subscribe to, not just MMRA members. Go to [www.mmra.ca](http://www.mmra.ca)

**Some feedback from the April Communiqué:**

- **Walkability** is not just a local preoccupation. Here is a link that a reader felt may be of interest to others:  
<http://www.walkon.ca/>
- **Not just another developer:** In deference to Wilson Bassile, Almonte Mall developer, a reader wrote: “Bassile was very pleased with his progress on the Mall, is trying to get it completed asap given the size of the crew he has on site who are working very hard at the effort, he says. But it is one of his smaller projects across Ontario cities. Most people see him as a relatively small operator. They are very wrong. This is an incredibly successful and hard working guy, however rough around the edges, who could have made major additional investments in MM.” Well, what can I add, except to express best wishes to Mr. Bassile and his new tenants in the soon-to-be-open mall. We’re looking forward to a “grand” opening celebration!
- **River and Falls:** Reader Peter Fedirchuk emailed me about Dr. Ted Mosquin, “a nationally recognized author, biologist and environmentalist who lives on the Mississippi River near McDonalds Corners. Upon hearing about this project, he said that water must tumble over rocks through rapids or over waterfalls to be properly aerated. The replenished oxygen provides life to the vegetation and wildlife in and along the River. Water running through a penstock is not sufficiently aerated. Therefore, all forms of living fish and vegetation will die down stream of the waterfall when the generating station becomes operational.” Hydro generation, environmental issues and an informed public are all vital components of a strong community. The MMRA is offering to host a forum with participation by the MRPC, environmentalists, river users and other interested voices. No takers yet.
- **Blakeney and Clayton readers:** We would like to know if any of our readers from Clayton and Blakeney need assistance to get their own community groups up and running, as I believe none exist at present. The Appleton Community Association is an example of a recent and successful neighborhood-centered group that provides important linkages and communication opportunities for its members.

**A concerned parent reports...**

On May 1, a resident’s son “...was threatened with a knife blade outside the Almonte Old Town Hall at 7:00 in broad daylight. The perpetrator was an import from another town, a 16 year old girl, in the Young Offenders facility on Country Street.” The parent – a long-time advocate for quality of life issues and children’s safety - is calling for:

- 1) improved police presence in the community; 2) more Neighbourhood Watch programs; 3) programs for youth (self defence); 4) an assessment of what resources the Town has to assist youth in crisis.

What do you think? Is there an adequate framework in place to reduce the risk of such an incident becoming a tragedy?

**REMINDER TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

- **May 30, 7 pm:** MMRA's AGM, at the Almonte Old Town Hall. The theme is: "Dialogue Towards an Inheritable Community-2010." I have been spreading the news to the board members of the Appleton Community Association, the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, the LLA and many others. Jeff Kohl of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition will provide some pause for thought and community group leaders are being invited to say a few words too. So tell a neighbour, bring a friend. We're building towards a fresh 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 Cliff Bennett, Chair of the Nominations Committee: [Bennett@magma.ca](mailto:Bennett@magma.ca)
- **May 5:** Exchange Day; **May 8:** Council Meeting; **May 12:** Large Item Day; **May 14:** Public Meeting on (Almonte) Development Charges Amendment (to address requirements related to construction of a Mechanical Sewage Treatment Plant and rates for Almonte ward developments).

**Congratulations...**

**To Jazz It Up:**

And Kelmany Ross, for a fun-filled evening in Almonte's downtown in support of our Mainstreets Association of Almonte and Pakenham (MAAP). As much as I enjoyed the evening at all the venues, I was more than a little pleased at myself for having kept the food off my clothes!!

**To Bill Duncan, President of the LLA:**

For getting Council to promise that "The Farming and Food Product Protection Act" would be referenced appropriately in the Community Official Plan in a future amendment.

**To Emily and Patrick Arbour:**

For bringing another fittingly dignified store (Blackbird) to Almonte's main street; and to Peter Egan for architectural design details on the building.

**To Master Corporal Sean Niefer:**

For making all of us – especially Appleton – very proud! The Governor General announced nine Military Valour Decorations to members of the Canadian Forces who have displayed gallantry and devotion to duty in combat in Afghanistan including M/C Niefer, who will be awarded the Medal of Military Valour. <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=647733>

And a special thanks to all those who participated in Clean Up Day/ Earth Day. As always your feedback to this e-letter is most welcome.

Arnie Francis

President

Mississippi Mills Residents' Association (MMRA)

*"Striving to promote a shared vision for Mississippi Mills"*

[www.mmra.ca](http://www.mmra.ca)

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