

From: springext-bounces@p2it.ca on behalf of Arnie Francis [arnie@istar.ca]
Sent: June 5, 2007 1:04 AM
To: mmra@sympatico.ca
Subject: [Spring St. Extension] June 2007 - MMRA President's Communique
Hi to all,

It's summer-like, the Sens are still in the finals and Mississippi Mills is a beautiful and verdant corner of our planet at this time of year!

Unconnected events: On Wednesday May 30 the MMRA held a very successful AGM. The Senators lost Game 2 in Anaheim. The very next day Councillor John Levi resigned from Council. The events are not connected, but Council bids adieu to Mr. Levi much as fickle Sens fans do today to Stanley Cup aspirations...!

The MMRA's AGM: Despite stiff competition from the Sens' game, over 40 folks were present to hear our presentation "Dialogue towards an inheritable community-2010". This initiative is centered around getting leaders of like-minded community groups to come together under the MMRA board structure to start a process towards a grass-roots consultation process to come up with a community-based vision, values and principles statement before the next municipal election in 2010. This vision statement would serve as a benchmark to assess candidates' positions, Council decision making and longer term Council effectiveness.

Jeff Kohl of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition gave a presentation on what other healthy communities are doing and pointed out the similarities between the MMRA's initiative and the OHCC's four principles: wide community participation; broad involvement of all sectors in the community; local government commitment; creation of healthy public policy.

Elizabeth Swarbrick of MAAP, Bill Duncan of the LLA, David Steventon and Alison Ball of the ACA and Mike McPhail of the MVFN provided fine perspectives on their domains of influence.

The Board: In addition to die-hard members Jill McCubbin (Almonte), Shaun McLaughlin (Ramsay), George Yaremchuk (Almonte) and yours truly (Almonte), we also welcomed David Steventon of the Appleton Community Association (Ramsay), Bill Duncan of the Lanark Landowners Association (Pakenham) and Amanda Gorman (Ramsay), to the new Board. Not only are we several steps closer to our "leaders lead" proposition, with more to come, but we also have strengthened the Ward perspective on the MMRA Board. We'll continue to work to win increased engagement from Blakeney, Clayton and Pakenham residents.

Membership: Hate to bring it up, but 2007 membership fees are due. If you weren't at the AGM then we didn't hit you up for the \$15 individual or \$25 family rate. Please arrange to send in your MMRA membership dues while this page is flashing at you!! An abbreviated version of the Membership Form can be found at the bottom of this e-mail. Your membership fees help the Association build towards our strategic objective and develop ever-wider communication links within our municipality.

Election or appointment? John Levi's resignation results in a hole in the Council table. Apparently Council can leave the seat vacant, appoint the candidate with the next largest vote count (Alex Gillis), or hold a ward election. A vacancy for 3 years seems off-base. Low cost, speed, tradition and predictability are advantages of going to the batter's list. And a ward election may offer the optics of good, democratic government, but holds uncertainty, causes expense, and takes time. But perhaps the latter is worth it...after all, 10 candidates signed nomination papers for the November election in the Ward and only 7 votes separated Chris O'Brien from Alex Gillis. Perhaps the Town's website polling could be used to survey Almonte residents as to their preferred choice on option.

Policing: In response to last month's mention of a youth-to-child threat with a knife, one reader noted: "We are under-policed. The beer empties tossed from moving cars on Martin Street, with regularity, is another sign we are sadly under-policed and local culture is tolerant of drinking and driving/drug use." I was equivocating about this perspective, when my son came home from the Arena to tell me his chained-up bike had been brazenly stolen in broad daylight. And not a CCTV camera on any exterior corner of the Arena! If we can't afford more policing, then at least let's promote more vigilance – Neighbourhood Watch, for example.

Youth Taking Environment Seriously: How about the Green Wave group's "Walking Signs" initiative! They are making signs that have statistics (e.g. calories burnt, distance, gas money saved, carbon emissions spared, etc) to promote the benefits of walking. These signs are designed to be located in frequented areas around Almonte, and be related to other common places/landmarks. In my view this is a wonderful project that could be migrated into other walkable neighbourhoods like Pakenham, Appleton, Blakeney and Clayton. Check out: <http://greenwave.vox.com/library/post/coming-events.html>

Massive Farmer's Market in Beckwith: Sometime in July farmers will be uniting to show how the "100-mile diet" can become reality for more of us. Watch for the ad and plan on attending.

The Communique will be taking a summer holiday and leaving the real reporting to the Gazette and the EMC!! For important information I'll still be reading *the Hum!*

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

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 Communique" 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.

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MMRA Membership Form 2007-06-05

Last Name:
First Name:
Street Address and PO Box:
E-mail address:
Home phone:
In which area of the municipality do you live?
\$15 per individual _____ \$25 per household (2 voting members) _____

Mail cheques payable: to Mississippi Mills Residents Association
PO Box 745, Mississippi Mills ON K0A 1A0

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