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**To:** mmra@sympatico.ca

**Subject:** Communiqué: the MMRA's e-letter. Vol 2.2 (Oct 2007)

Hello again...

It's time for our monthly summary on happenings in and around these Mississippi Mills, from our perspective. A warm welcome to any new readers. First I have to say "thanks" to the several volunteers who answered the call from last month's Communiqué to sit through Council and Committee meetings as observers. You shall be called upon to serve with distinction! More volunteers are always needed.

[http://www.mmra.ca/mmra/Communications/Docs/Newsletter/Communiqu%E9\\_the\\_MMRA's\\_e-letter\\_Vol\\_2.1\\_\(Sep\\_2007\).htm](http://www.mmra.ca/mmra/Communications/Docs/Newsletter/Communiqu%E9_the_MMRA's_e-letter_Vol_2.1_(Sep_2007).htm)

#### **Uranium Mining:**

- Tip of the hat to Council for the resolution to petition the Premier and the Minister of Northern Development and Mines to reunite surface and mining rights on SRO properties when requested by the SRO property owner or the municipality in order to effectively resolve this divisive issue (Council: September 4, 2007).
- Friday October 12, 2007: Don't forget to attend the MMRA-sponsored event on uranium mining at the Almonte United Church Social Hall, 7:30 pm, headlined "Nuclear River or Bad Science?" This is a moderated debate which will include three perspectives as well as a chance for questions and answers. By the way, several folks and local media were at the Almonte beach and the Appleton riverfront to watch the Canoe Protest portage through the area on September 25.

#### **Keys to the Town:**

- What do you think about a policy for "Keys to the Town"? Council gave hockey star Kent Huskins the Key - for bringing home the Stanley Cup? Although not a bad choice, the decision was rushed through without a policy or process in place. For the next award, MMRA Board member David Steventon has nominated Master Corporal Sean Hubert Niefer, who received a Medal of Military Valour (Canada's second highest military decoration) for an act of outstanding bravery performed during a recent tour of duty in Afghanistan. Council is now considering criteria (an Ad-hoc committee of Al Lunney, Brenda Hurre and Marilyn Anderson have been charged with the task of drawing up and presenting suitable criteria) and a policy for awarding future Keys to the Town. Give Council and the Ad-hoc committee your input as they draft such a policy. Hopefully it will include a message to move promptly to address the current proposal for this very worthy candidate.

#### **Things about town**

- How about the slap-down the Town took on the Levi/Bassile court case in June? Couldn't get an appeal in edgewise! The Mayor has been uncharacteristically quiet since then, considering his bravado earlier this year? I tend to agree with the September 25 editorial in the Gazette about the Town needing to come clean about legal costs associated with the case. Considering the estimated \$100 k to \$200 k outlay on legal fees for which taxpayers are on the hook, doesn't the public deserve more than a few trite remarks?
- Policy on forgiveness of interest for commercial, industrial and multi-residential tax class accounts. Residential properties are not included in this policy. (Finance Administration & Policy Committee Meeting - September 6, 2007). Hmmm.... am I the only who thinks this is pandering to people who bend the rules...?
- Lanark County has been given \$233,000 (Council: September 4, 2007) as part of the \$10m Eastern Ontario provincial broadband package. I hope that our rural residents and others on "slow-speed" can soon get the benefits of "high speed."
- Excellent move...Council officially named the Martin Street look-out "Mark's Outlook". And thanks to the volunteers who continue to work on making this a must-see spot in Almonte!  
<http://www.glassfet.com/Lookout/Lookout.html>
- Another excellent move: Councillor Edwards has sponsored an initiative to explore the recording of council and committee meetings (FAP Committee, September 18, 2007) and Council has approved the move in principle. Predictably it's the same old objections from the same old councillors who simply can't adapt or (a cynic would say) is uncomfortable with increased scrutiny. Unfortunately this worthy initiative will likely be

dragged out for as long as possible by staff reviews and budget considerations until the public's memory grows dim.

#### Environment:

- **Recycling: 3 cheers for individual initiative!** Theresa, a resident of Blakeney and a concerned citizen, is looking to form a small committee or group to find ways of improving recycling and waste reduction in the Town and County. The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) of the Town does “own” this item, but a focused independent citizen's group may be able to provide much needed impetus prior to the 2010 contract renewal. I'm asking interested readers to get involved and help Theresa in this effort. Just send me an email.
- **Plasma Arc technology is BACK!** Well not yet in Miss Mills or Lanark County, but it surely will be as Ottawans get re-introduced to the concept. Rod Bryden - principal at WTR and the Small Bore Sewage system – is leading this initiative. See <http://www.plascoenergygroup.com/content.php?cat=tech> For the last time round, see [http://www.mmra.ca/mmra/Issues/Waste/Plasma\\_Arc/Plasma\\_top.html](http://www.mmra.ca/mmra/Issues/Waste/Plasma_Arc/Plasma_top.html). Have the issues changed? Are we better equipped to deal with negative impacts of incineration and gasification? Or is it simply a better choice than landfill? Perhaps it's time for a new debate.

#### Development watch:

- Sadler subdivision: 541 units, extreme density and explosive growth see our site: <http://www.mmra.ca/index.html#Anchor-Sadle-37475>
- Ann Street subdivision: Surveyor stakes are back. Too bad the owner couldn't have kept the soccer fields around for the kids over the summer months.

#### Congratulations to...

- the MVFN, the MVCA and their partners for putting on two very informative Climate Change Workshops in September. On behalf of the MMRA, I was privileged to participate in drafting the Almonte Communiqué, pressing for all levels of government to step up. Unfortunately no Miss Mills councillors registered in the workshops, but kudos to Councillor Edwards for taking time out of his vacation to make a cameo appearance.
- the LLA on hosting another successful Farmers Market, the Landowner's Harvest Festival, on September 30, in Beckwith.
- Almonte's technology movers and shakers! Great article in September's National Capital Scan online, [http://www.nationalcapitalscan.ca/news/print\\_editions/files/091407SCAN.pdf](http://www.nationalcapitalscan.ca/news/print_editions/files/091407SCAN.pdf)
- Staff and councilors for starting to make a visible effort to inform residents through the Weekender's town section and the town's website. A lot more is still needed in coverage but at least we're rolling!

#### Please remember:

- October 10: Provincial Election and referendum. Please vote! It's only a valuable right when we exercise it.
- Oct 12, 7:30 pm AUC Social Hall, Uranium Mining on the Mississippi Watershed – Nuclear River or Bad Science? <http://www.mmra.ca/#Anchor-Nuclea-61685>
- October 19, 2007: Almonte Lecture Series presents Tim Patterson - The Science of Climate Change. See <http://almontelectures.ncf.ca/>
- October 18 is the deadline for applications for membership on the Town's new Volunteer Advisory Sub-Committee. If interested, please call Jim Riva at the Town Office.

Your comments and feedback are always welcome. The monthly format for the Communiqué may be too long a gap for some and too short for others (ha!). But we do our best to keep you in touch with “main themes.”

Fall is a busy time for many, but do take a moment to enjoy the colours and crispness of this beautiful season in our town.

Arnie Francis  
 President  
 Mississippi Mills Residents' Association (MMRA)  
*“Striving to promote a shared vision for Mississippi Mills”*  
[www.mmra.ca](http://www.mmra.ca)

For previous Communiqués, please visit:

<http://www.mmra.ca/mmra/Communications/Communications.html#Watchdog>

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