

From: Arnie Francis [arnie@istar.ca]
Sent: November 6, 2007 6:40 PM
To: mmra@sympatico.ca
Subject: Communiqué: the MMRA's e-letter. Vol 2.3 (Nov 2007)
 Greeting to all our readers.

This edition is rather more succinct than previous ones – not because there's any less happening in this town of ours, but because I'm rather rushed and disorganized this month. Okay, now that I've said it I'm well on my journey to recovery!

Appleton's Appletex Property update: Principals fighting it out in the newspapers and in court; Southwell registered \$200K on the title in June. The tax sale deadline for clearing the taxes is December 20, 2007. Things observed: oil still leaking out of about 20 metres of the embankment; both old oil tanks still on the property; nothing much has happened on the property since they removed the building at the bottom of the embankment; people are starting to use the property as a dump (refrigerator, mattress); As well, when they removed the pump house from the river bank, they created 2 pools at the bottom of the bank - looks like the pools are there to prevent runoff from entering the river. Both pools have oil floating on the top. ... Holy oil slick, Batman! Time to AGAIN call Environment Man to the rescue!!

Town's Legal Costs on Levi/Bassile Court case: The total legal "fees" for this case are \$154,641.48. The question is, is this the total cost? What if it was much more than that? How would you or I really know? And why hasn't the Gazette followed up with specifics as promised and ASKED THE MAYOR? There are people who genuinely want to know. Why is this so difficult, folks?

Policing and Safety: Concerns being raised all over MM about policing and safety issues. Attend the **Community Watch** meeting organized by resident, Anne Colterman, on Nov 15 at R.Tait McKenzie School, Almonte. 6:30 -8:30 pm. Share a concern, make a suggestion... after all, it's our children, neighbourhoods and community at risk.

The Summer Policing Survey: Apparently the final version of the survey results is going to the Police Services Board in early December. After they have formally "received" the report in December, it will be placed on the website for anyone to view. And that means what...? Does the Town plan to act upon the results?

Talking Films, the new Movie Club in town, presents "Tucker" hosted by CBC film critic Robert Fontaine on Nov 13. \$35 Membership includes 7 movies and guest hosts. Contact me if you're interested in membership information before the series begins.

Far thinking: A local resident and MMRA member has formally asked the County to re-consider the approach taken for the 2008 rehabilitation planned for County Road 17 (Martin St North) because this roadway is critical for human-scale movement in the years to come. She writes: "There is an opportunity to encourage cycling, perhaps walking, slower speeds etc today with a slightly narrower road base (3.0m) and a paved shoulder - (the standard for bike lanes is 1.5m). - total 9m." Wow! Now that's the type of thinking we need more of in this Town!

Uranium Mining: "The Science of Uranium" information night, with Dr. Gordon Edwards, Wednesday, November 7th, at 7pm, Notre Dame Catholic High School, 157 McKenzie Street, Carleton Place. This follows on the heels of a very successful October 12 Uranium Mining discussion in Almonte sponsored by the MMRA - about 160 people attended.

A signage study is being conducted on behalf of the Town and representatives of various civic groups, including the MMRA, have been invited to attend a stakeholder's meeting later this month. Here are some questions being considered.

1. Generally, what is your impression of the current entranceway signs to Mississippi Mills?
2. Have you any suggestions as to how they may be improved?
3. With respect to commercial areas and businesses in Mississippi Mills, do you feel there is adequate signage provided to the public to find the commercial districts and businesses in the community? Any suggestions for improvement?
4. With respect to other destination locations in Mississippi Mills, (e.g. major parks, arenas, municipal offices and the Old Town Hall, libraries, funeral homes and churches), do you feel there is adequate signage provided to the public to find these facilities in the community?

If this moves you to voice a suggestion or two, send me your answers and I'll ensure MMRA reps pass it on.

Source Protection Committee: It's a privilege to announce that MMRA member Trish Larkin has been appointed as one of 13 members of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee. The formation of the local Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee is a result of the Clean Water Act (CWA) which was passed by the Ontario Legislature in December, 2006.

LLA: Apparently the Gazette did not validate its story on the supposed ouster of the Lanark Landowners Association's (LLA) President Bill Duncan. According to LLA sources the LLA executive are still in charge and the Gazette may have taken a Press Release issued by the Ontario Landowners Association (OLA) as gospel. High-handed tactics within the OLA may be causing a ripple effect, as some OLA member-associations such as the Leeds and Grenville Landowners Association (LGLA), are opting out. Personally, I can't see why a positive, reasoned and rational community leader like Bill wouldn't be celebrated – after all, he has orchestrated two successful mega Farmer's Markets over this past summer, built bridges between local community groups by also serving as a Director of the MMRA and has worked to update and improve the LLA website (<http://www.lanarklandownersassociation.com/>). For those interested, the LLA's AGM is on December 15, 2007.

The Leaf and Yard Waste Collection initiative: Yes, in case you hadn't heard, the Town is going to pick up Leaf and Yard Waste on Nov 15-16, curbside. We urban dwellers ... more specifically Almonte ward "urban", not COP urban... sure are a blessed (blest?) bunch, ain't we? Well, unless you already bagged your leaves and dumped them at Al's Leaf Pile on Carss St, Almonte. Of course the 20-30 bags of leaves I get off my corner lot have been down and punched inside overfilled plastic bags weeks before the Town said "NO plastic bags!" I do understand the prohibition on plastic, except that my plastic bags have been used and re-used for leaves for the last 6 years. And paper bags would have been irritating to my neighbours considering the rain and wind that has been thrashing my curbside of late. So now what? Make the leaf-trek to Al's (which is no fun if you don't have a pick-up)? Hope some other compost-hungry citizen comes by and take my leaves before the Town passes me by? Or maybe I'll re-pack my leaves in paper before the 15th...*NOT!*

Anyway, one last reminder... On Sunday November 11, please encourage your friends, family and neighbours to pause a moment and reflect on the courage and strength of our soldiers past and present, and if possible, wear a poppy to show your pride.

Arnie Francis
 President
 Mississippi Mills Residents' Association (MMRA)
"Striving to promote a shared vision for Mississippi Mills"
www.mmra.ca

Note: The "MMRA 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 "reply" with Unsubscribe added to the subject line.