

**From:** Arnie@work [arnie@istar.ca]  
**Sent:** May 22, 2008 8:43 PM  
**To:** 'Springext@p2it.ca'  
**Subject:** Communique - The MMRA's e-letter - Vol 2.7 (May 2008)

Well the Merry Month of May is coming to a close, the dandelions are a-bloom and gardens are awakening all over our Town. So no surprise that the annual "Gardens to Inspire and Admire Tour" is coming up ([www.almonteinconcert.ca](http://www.almonteinconcert.ca)).

**MMRA AGM:** Hope you didn't forget to mark **Wednesday May 28, 7:00 pm, Groundz Cafe, 78 Mill St**, in your agenda. We've had great coverage on the Town's website and in all the papers– see the May edition of theHumm for a write-up. The MMRA Board invites all interested residents to join MMRA members at our annual general meeting. Our speakers will be Linda Tranter of the Appleton Community Association and Jeff Robertson of the Spring Street Group who will provide their perspectives on our continuing dialogue on sustaining an inheritable community: "Community Update: What's works and what doesn't." Come and bring a friend, sip the Groundz' fabulous coffees, teas and juices and view two local artists' exhibitions.

**Naismith is not getting respect:** Why does the renowned Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball, command so little respect in the place of his birth? There's a school named after him, a street or two, and a sign welcoming visitors to his birthplace. Yet recent letters to the EMC and the Almonte Gazette point to a growing concern about the management of the "Naismith" brand. Not just the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in the Almonte Old Town Hall, but also the struggle to raise funds and awareness about a bronze statute to this icon of education. Won't someone please step forward?

**Town happenings:** After the Maalox Moment the Spring Street developer's planner caused Council, it is no wonder that Councillors are squirming... not only has the developer forced Council to move to re-visit a zoning change to allow for increased lot coverage (i.e. how much of the residential lot can the structure occupy), she has also managed to have Council debate the policy on the provision of affordable housing. You have to give credit to our urban developers – they really know how to play the game, but then again, this is Mississippi Mills.

Despite our tech wizard on the Board being unable to track down a copy of the minutes on the Town's website (because it just wasn't there!), Councillor Dalgity managed to ferret out a copy of these Planning minutes from 2005. Apparently at the time, Council passed a motion directing the Planner (or perhaps vice versa!) to proceed with the old Almonte Zoning by-law, in reference to the 30% and 70% footprint for residential lots, until an amendment to the MM Zoning By-law was made. And now, 3 years later, that Zoning Bylaw amendment is coming up (May 27, Planning Meeting)!

**Congratulations are always in order:**

Town staff are making a stellar effort to improve communications. I've said it before, but it's worth repeating. We have noticed much more informative Planning Committee minutes, the Town's e-Newsletter is a quick and easy update and the Town website ([www.mississippimills.ca](http://www.mississippimills.ca)) has been kept much more current of late. Thanks.

I'd also like to congratulate and welcome Mr. Stephen Stirling, our new Town Planner. He enters at a time in the history of Mississippi Mills when we are at a pivotal point in our development as a truly inheritable community. Perhaps lessons learned in Renfrew can be a guiding light here.

Hats off to the many volunteers who have worked long and hard and prevailed upon Council to designate Metcalfe Park as the first geopark in Canada.

Congratulations to Peter Fedirchuk on the re-opening of Peter's Ice Cream. Peter plans to honour Louis Peterson

and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peterson Dairy later this year. And indeed, as a community, we should salute this formative part of the area's entrepreneurial heritage.

**To do's:** I'd like to invite all movie buffs to join the Talking Films Movie Club ([www.Talkingfilms.groups.vox.com](http://www.Talkingfilms.groups.vox.com)) and provide input into their fall movie line-up. And coincidentally, at the AOTH this weekend, the Almonte and Area Artists Association annual exhibit and sale is on in the AOTH. And by the way, if you have someone in mind who would really like to get on our email list for the Communiqué, please forward them this message and encourage them to subscribe by emailing [mmra@sympatico.ca](mailto:mmra@sympatico.ca).

And finally, thank you to all the readers who have been so kind as to provide comments – positive and negative - on the Communiqué over the last couple of years. It means you care about this highly valued commodity called “community” which we all share. As I step down as President of the MMRA after two years, I am confident that the membership will select a Board to provide continued focus on the issues that matter in Mississippi Mills. See you on May 28, 7:00 pm!

Sincerely,

Arnie Francis  
President  
Mississippi Mills Residents' Association (MMRA)  
“Striving to promote a shared vision for Mississippi Mills”  
[www.mmra.ca](http://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. Likewise, if you know friends, family and neighbours who'd like to SUSCRIBE, ask them to send an email to [mmra@sympatico.ca](mailto:mmra@sympatico.ca).*