

Arnie

From: Information [mmra@sympatico.ca]
Sent: August 15, 2008 10:34 AM
To: mmra@sympatico.ca
Subject: Communique - The MMRA's e-letter - Vol 3.1 (August 2008)

Hello,

I hope you are enjoying this rather unusual, summer. I haven't heard anyone say they're missing the scorched grass and hot and humid days! But it is August and our community is alive with festivals and summer activities.

Update on the MMRA

We begin Year 3 of the Communiqué as the new team leading the MMRA plans projects for the upcoming year. I forgot to mention who these good folk were in the last (June) Communiqué, so let me fix that here.

Organization

At our May 28 AGM the following individuals volunteered to participate on the MMRA Board: Linda Tranter (new), Kim Curran (new), Tracy Julian (new), Paul Zollman (new), Jill McCubbin (returning), George Yaremchuk (returning), Shaun McLaughlin (returning), Amanda Gorman (returning) and Arnie Francis (returning). The team agreed to a rotating chair approach for the present, so the President, Treasurer, Secretary and special director roles have not been assigned.

Priorities

At the July 10 meeting the team addressed issues of communication and priority setting. It was agreed that the initial focus will be on a program of talks, debates, etc. germane to Mississippi Mills, perhaps in partnership with other groups. The first one (in October) will be given by Ms. Sue Campbell, General Manager of the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre in Pembroke. The goal is to inform local residents about what is being done in other jurisdictions related to waste reduction. (For example, Renfrew has a 64% waste diversion rate. What's the rate in MM?) Details will be provided when this session has been finalized. If there is a subject you would like us to address, please let us know.

Communication

Since communication is a key issue for the MMRA board, we will be updating our website (www.mmra.ca) shortly to make it an interesting and current source of information for residents. You will also be seeing an MMRA Facebook Group; we have been asked to set this up to allow the many, local Facebook users a forum for discussing local issues. The Yahoo Discussion Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MissMillsResidents/>) will continue to exist as long as members require it.

Environmental leap of faith

In his announcement on the protection of the boreal forest on July 14, 2008 Premier Dalton McGuinty also talked about modernizing and reforming Ontario's Mining Act. Very limited public consultations are underway with no apparent sessions in our area, although important issues such as uranium mining are at the forefront. Legislation is expected to be tabled during the Fall/Winter session. The Ottawa Coalition Against Mining Uranium endorsed three principles for the government to consider:

- 1: Reunification of minerals with land
- 2: Municipal planning powers
- 3: Impact review

Email know.uranium@gmail.com for more information. Interested individuals should contact Premier McGuinty, online at: <http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/feedback/default.asp>, or by email at dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

What's developing?

Riverfront Estates (Spring St)

- Tatra Street homeowners: A delegation of several Tatra St. homeowners bravely took Council to task on the issue of aligned lot lines at the Council meeting on August 5/08. At public meetings in 2007 the alignment of lot lines (i.e. aligning backyards, new to old) had been raised and generally agreed to, but was absent in the developer's subsequently approved plan (supposedly due to the well-head protection area). The message from many Councillors such as Minnille and Lunney and others at the Aug 5 meeting was that (and I paraphrase): "We have more public meetings than anyone; you have to keep an eye on us by attending every meeting; we nod our heads vacuously at public meetings to show we're awake...er ...interested; and we take exception to you taking exception!" (<http://www.mississippimills.ca/Documents/287/council%2008%2008%2018.pdf?CFID=630484&CFTOKEN=67040076>). Kudos to Councillor Torrance for seeking follow through on public meetings.
- Walking trails: The Town Planner, Stephen Stirling, advises residents that "the trail loop that runs in behind Tatra Street has not been incorporated in any of the design for Phase 1 and therefore will be lost in the development of Phase 1. However the remaining trails and access to the water for skating, fishing and other activities can be incorporated into the future design of the subdivision. The Town does have great interest in protecting the benefits that the river provides, such as its view and activities and will pursue this as part of the eventual design for that phase." Good news, indeed.

Ann St Subdivision

Construction underway. Truck traffic plying up and down Ann St.

Clayton

Cluster lot subdivision on the books.

Dam those Falls!

The new hydro generating plant is being constructed on t'other side of the Almonte St Bridge at Metcalfe Park and the lower run has been temporarily dammed to allow for construction. Come and see what Falls look like when no water is running over them. Hope this is not prophetic!

Almonte Old Town Hall

I don't get it... The Province gave the Town \$1.8M to fix up the Almonte Old Town Hall, which is handy! Yet the Town keeps crying that the beautiful AOTH doesn't get enough traffic and can't effectively cover its costs. So when a non-profit movie club seeks to use the auditorium, the Town can't provide a little incentive to help start-up a new audience. When the Naismith Museum and Hall of Fame (currently closed, according to their website) seeks 300 sq ft of space to operate, Councillors descend into pettiness about the use of wall space. Hats off to Councillor Anderson for standing up for the Museum!

Transportation - more than just re-paving roads.

Martin Street N (Blakeney Road)

We hear that the County is set to start re-paving Blakeney Road. For bicycle riders, there are no plans for a marked or segregated bike shoulder. In fact there appears to be no policy (at least not in MM) requiring shoulders for bikes on any new road work. (Riders, the MM Community Official Plan may have ignored you. If you want to see this change, get organized now as a mandatory review of the COP should soon be underway. Also see the TMP item below).

Supporting Mall Business:

For the reconstruction and repaving of Queen St. from the bridge to the traffic lights, repaving of Ottawa St. from Martin St. to Paterson, reconstruction of Ottawa St. from Paterson St. to Appleton Side Road and the construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Appleton Side Road: Total estimated cost, just under \$3.3 million (before oil prices peaked) for about 1 km of road, as follows:

- roundabout and reconstruction of Queen Street – County's jurisdiction with an estimated cost of \$700,000
- repaving of Ottawa Street and reconstruction of Ottawa Street – Town's responsibility, approximately \$2,600,000 (with \$789,000 from the Province).

The way I see it, four lanes going nowhere along Ottawa St (between Appleton Side Road and Paterson Rd.) are purely for the benefit of big stores in the mall corridor. I wonder if developers who will be completing their malls on Ottawa Street after the roadwork is done will be asked to pay for any damages to the new road surface due to construction traffic? Hmmm!

Also, Shoppers Drug Mart is coming to Ottawa St... With the Independent, the Rexall and the downtown Pharmasave already serving Almonte you have to ask yourself why a box store like Shoppers is really needed. Not one Councillor is on record as asking that question... because...?

Appleton Bridge

Repairs to the bridge are well under way. The 3-minute traffic light means there's no point speeding to get across the river for your tee-off time!

Lanark County Transportation Master Plan (TMP)

Speak now or forever hold your peace! The TMP is being developed. If you don't want to be THAT person who, in a few years from now is crying about kids getting injured by cars, traffic snarl-ups, a lack of bike routes or excessive truck traffic and complaining about not having any say in the matter, THIS IS YOUR MOMENT! See our June 2008 (Vol 2.8) Communiqué or contact a Project Team members via the County's website (www.lanark.county.on.ca). The TMP Focus Group Meeting in Mississippi Mills is scheduled for September 4, 2008, 5 pm start, at the Almonte Fire Hall. Please register through the Lanark County website.

OPP's Neighbourhood Watch Reports

A special thanks to Community Services Officer, Provincial Constable Paige Whiting of the Lanark County O.P.P. who diligently puts together a weekly report of Neighbourhood Watch statistics for "Almonte" and "Mississippi Mills Township". It's a short and informative read and we will be posting these reports to the MMRA website in the fall. For information on policing in MM please see the Town's website <http://www.mississippimills.ca/emergency/police.cfm>

Fun stuff!

August 16: Pakenham Fall Fair, Almonte Legion's Rally Around our Almonte Troops, Scottish Variety Show.
Marks Outlook: Several photographs of the Martin St Lookout got accepted by Panoramio for Google Earth (a free, downloadable application of aerial and satellite imagery, from Google). Did you know that a mini-steamboat plied across the Mississippi River at this location in the 1890's? You can see this photo posted. Take a satellite picture of your neighbourhood now, so you can show your grandkids what MM was like in the first decade of the 21st Century when it wasn't a suburb of the City of Greater Carleton Place!
Trails through Lanark County: Trail users may want to seek out more information from the County about TransCanada Trail expansion.

Food for thought:

From a member who recommends George Monbiot's book "Heat: How to stop the planet from burning", is the Cree quote: *"When the last tree is cut, the last stream polluted or dried up, the last food crop decimated due to drought and pollution, only then will we know that we can't eat money."*

Sincerely,

A. Francis, for
The MMRA Board
Mississippi Mills Residents' Association (MMRA)
"Striving to promote a shared vision for Mississippi Mills"
www.mmra.ca

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