

Communique - The MMRA's e-letter - Vol 3.4 (December 2008)

Greetings to all our readers!

Since the last Communiqué in mid October there have been a sparse number of issues come to our attention... a phenomenon indeed!

A few items that are worthy of note are:

Ah! The Roundabout! People always said that Almonte was a roundabout way to get to Carleton Place and now we have that roundabout to prove it! It seems to be working well. Except for Rule No 9: *“As you approach your desired exit, **use your right turn signal** and take the exit while maintaining a slow speed.”* <http://www.county.lanark.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=2671>

Reducing the size of Mississippi Mills Council and eliminating the Ward system (Ramsay, Pakenham and Almonte) was again on the table, this time from Councillor Minnille of Almonte, although it seems to be off the table just as quickly! For upcoming Council meetings and agendas go to sidebar at <http://www.mississippimills.ca/townhall/index.cfm>

The Town of Mississippi Mills is **celebrating 10 years** (1998-2008) since the amalgamation of Ramsay, Pakenham and Almonte. While this amalgamation project has both detractors and supporters, wouldn't it be appropriate to have an independent and objective evaluation of the costs and benefits of amalgamation after 10 years? Not much appetite from the political side, but what do residents think? Take our poll at www.mmra.ca.

Property assessments - has the urgency gone? One MMRA Board member discovered that his house was 51% bigger in square footage in MPAC's records than when he ran the vacuum across the floors! It's definitely time for the provincial government to find a better solution. One member suggested a general provincial tax increase that would then be directed to municipalities. Like the feds' GST promise? We'd all be more hopeful and less cynical if it wasn't for that thing called the "Grinch's Consolidated Revenue Fund"! If you haven't checked out the MPAC site, it's a place great to snoop on your neighbours' Current Value Assessment. http://www.mpac.ca/pages_english/products_services/aboutmyproperty.asp

Musical chairs: Every two years heads of Council Committees change. Effective January the following will chair the key Committees of Council:
John Edwards - Finance; Val Wilkinson - Planning; Garry Dalgity - Roads & Public Works; Brenda Hurrle - Rec & Culture and Jim Lowry - Fire.

Not a highpoint: That the rural Landowners' Association went ahead with their anti-Coalition demonstration on a very cold day in December even though Parliament had been prorogued didn't hit the high-water mark for astuteness. It reflects poorly on us "rural citizens", whichever side of the issue one's on!

Congratulations to Councillor John Edwards... this is no longer "news" but it's worth repeating! He has been named to the International Canoe Federation's Board of Directors ... an appointment that brings pride to us in Miss Mills and to Canada.

The great spirit of Appleton and the work of Alison Ball and the Appleton Community Association are to be lauded. The community came out to the Appleton Christmas Party at the Ottawa Valley Hunt Club on December 13 to kick off the Festive Season.

Join the members of the MMRA Board for **our holiday get-together at the Ironworks' Christmas Party** on Thursday, December 18... evening! Definitely NO POLITICS, just great carol-singing with the fabulous Valley Voices, a Christmas bagpipe performance and a great social time!

So to all our readers please have a safe and happy festive season. We look forward to an interesting and engaging 2009 in the beautiful Town of Mississippi Mills.

The Board of the MMRA

Mississippi Mills Residents' Association (MMRA)

"Striving to promote a shared vision for Mississippi Mills"

www.mmra.ca

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