



## Lanark Landowners Association

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### Town of Mississippi Mills Council Member

The Town of Mississippi Mills wants to amend the Community Official Plan for the set backs for new housing inside the settlement areas of Appleton and Blakeney, that butt onto agricultural lands. It was made perfectly clear to council by the large crowd in attendance at the March 27th meeting that Agricultural land must be protected and the 150 meter buffer zone must be upheld.

The Lanark Landowners Association believes that there is room for co-operation, for all that are concerned over the protection of agricultural land, and allow the proposed few remaining lots "inside" the settlement areas to be developed. If these so called "fill in" lots could be developed inside the settlement areas, of Appleton and Blakeney, without imposing restrictions on the surrounding farms and farmers then the 150 meter buffer zone could be narrowed to 30 meters. But, the town has to get serious about Agriculture, the town by its own documents indicate that agriculture is a 30 million dollar a year industry with 12.5 million in farm gate sales and it is the largest industry in Mississippi Mills and is under pressure from Council and developers and it must be protected.

The town has already voluntarily proposed inserting a "registard covenant" on the title of the, properties to be developed. A signed "declaration" an "agreement of Understanding" newcomers "beware" document, for all new residences and industry to Mississippi Mills. That from time to • time agriculture produces odour, noise, dust, flies, smoke, light and vibration and there is no 30 or even 150 meter buffer zone that could protect a new residence of Mississippi Mills, to the shock of country living.

The LLA would be in agreement to the proposed amendment if the town took the last step to officially recognize the importance of Agriculture to the Town of Mississippi Mills by amending the Official Plan to include " The Farming and Food Product Protection Act". This legislation went into effect in December of 1988. It has two main themes [a] the protection of farming operations from nuisance complaints and [b] Protection from restrictive municipal bylaws..

In the Official Plan the authors wrote the words " to enhance Agriculture" This is now the opportunity for this council to enhance Agriculture, by protecting both the land and the people that actually grow the food. While allowing development inside the settlement areas to take place next to class I, II, and III agricultural lands. Provided there will be no further development of agricultural land outside the settlement areas of Appleton and Blakeney. If this council is not willing to protect farmers then. Why? Worry about protecting farmland and if there is no protection for farmers the 150 meter buffer zone must remain in place.

Bill Duncan - President

Lanark Landowners Association