



# MESSENGER

[www.mississippimills.ca](http://www.mississippimills.ca)

A FREE Quarterly Newsletter from the Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Winter, 2025



## No Ice is Safe Ice!

The Mississippi Mills Fire Department is reminding residents to stay off the ice this winter.

>>> Page 5

Photo by Tarynn Jeror, from Mississippi Mills Photo Contest 2024

**Municipal Updates**

**Page 2**

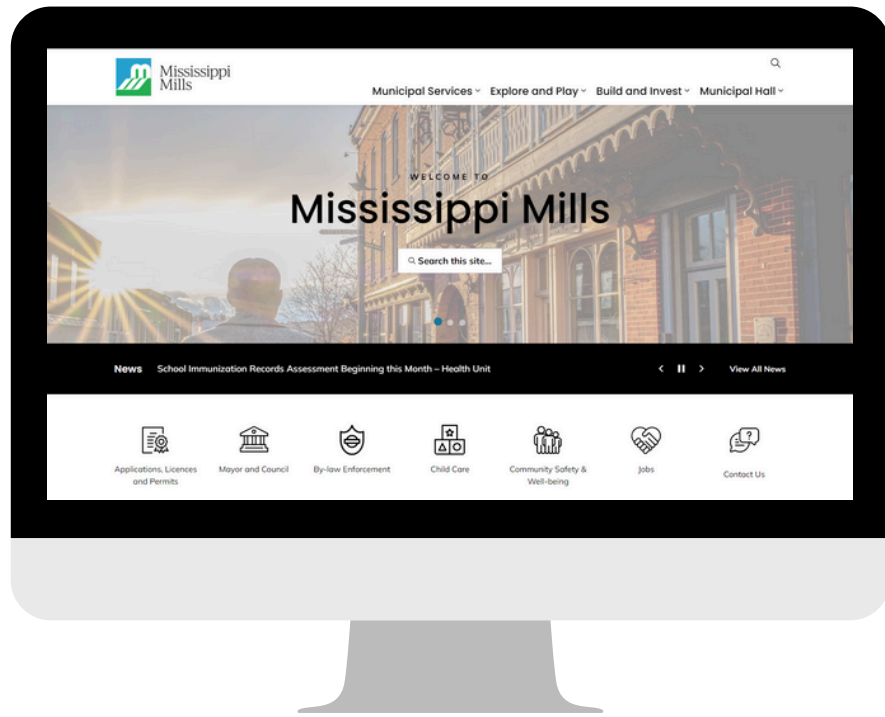
**Events**

**Page 3**

**Recreation**

**Page 6**

# Updates from the Municipality



## We have a New Website!

New year, new face. Take a look at our website and you may notice things look a little different. That's right, we have a new website! The new website – created with the GovStack platform – replaces the previous 25-year old website platform, bringing [www.mississippimills.ca](http://www.mississippimills.ca) into the modern age.

Residents should notice a cleaner interface, improved search function, and enhanced accessibility measures. Try it out and let us know what you think! Feedback can be sent to the Communications Department.

Email: [info@mississippimills.ca](mailto:info@mississippimills.ca)  
Phone: 613-256-2064

## Building Code Updated for 2025

If you're planning on any big projects this year, be sure to review the new Building Code. The updated Ontario Building Code harmonizes codes with other provinces, minimizing

variations. New changes also include updated codes for farm buildings and septic tanks. For more information, visit our Building and Renovating page on [www.mississippimills.ca](http://www.mississippimills.ca).

## Marriage Licences Now Available Online

"Where there is love, there is life," and we're making your love life easier - marriage licences are now available online through Service Ontario.

Mississippi Mills joins the growing list of municipalities to offer this service, aligning with Council's priority to modernize services.

Couples can visit [www.orgforms.gov.on.ca/mla](http://www.orgforms.gov.on.ca/mla) to complete their application online, or visit the Municipal Office to file in-person.

## Go Paperless!

Postage has gone up 25 per cent; couriers face unexpected delays; driving to the Municipal Office is a hassle. Letter mail has long been on the decline, it's time to go paperless!

Help keep municipal operational costs down and make your life easier by signing up for e-billing, pre-authorized payment plans, and electronic fund transfers. The process is free, easy and quick, plus you reduce physical waste!

To get started, visit [www.mississippimills.ca/paperless](http://www.mississippimills.ca/paperless)

Please note that there is a \$15 charge for tax statements and/or tax bill reprints. With paperless billing, you will never lose your bills.

## Blasting Operations for Weaver's Way Subdivision

Please be advised that blasting is expected to last up to five months and is being conducted to break rock for the construction of homes and for installation of services such as sewers and water mains.

The developer has taken measures to ensure the safety of residents. For frequently asked questions on blasting, visit our website.



## Fees and Charges Updated for 2025

Municipal fees and charges have been updated for 2025. This includes fees such as building permits and taxi licences. For a full list of fees and charges, scan the QR code or visit our Applications, Licences and Permits page.



# Events

## MISSISSIPPI MILLS Community OPEN HOUSE

Discover programs, hobbies, sports, clubs & more!

Come one, come all! The most exciting day in community recreation and culture arrives on Thursday, March 27 at 2 p.m. Until 7 p.m., come discover local clubs, art circles, programming and more - you might find your special recreational calling. Visit the John Levi Community Centre to see which of the 50+ booths will spark your interest.



## What's Up Mississippi Mills?

- FEB. 17** FAMILY DAY MOVIE AT OLD TOWN HALL
- FEB. 19** BUSINESS BREAKFAST
- MAR. 12** MARCH BREAK MOVIE AND SKATE (ALMONTE)
- MAR. 13** MARCH BREAK MOVIE AND SKATE (PAKENHAM)
- MAR. 17** ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE
- MAR. 27** COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
- APR. 22-25** ARBOUR WEEK
- MAY 1** VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT
- MAY 5-10** YOUTH WEEK
- MAY 14** BUSINESS BREAKFAST
- MAY 22** COMMUNITY AWARDS

Subscribe online to our event calendar!



For more information about these events: [www.mississippimills.ca/events](http://www.mississippimills.ca/events)

# A community hub: Mississippi Mills Public Library



**Did you know**  
**THERE ARE MUCH MORE THAN BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY**

Ukuleles ▪ STEM tools & toys ▪ Frisbee golf discs  
 Knit Kits ▪ Interlibrary loan ▪ Projector & screen  
 3D printer ▪ Chromebooks ▪ Museum & park  
 passes ▪ Puzzles ▪ Audiobooks ▪ eLibrary/LIBBY  
 Kanopy streaming films ▪ Kill-a-watt metres  
 Seed library ▪ Mobile Hotspots ▪ MAPsacks  
 Local Interest ▪ FREE WiFi Magazines/eMags  
 Bookclub sets ▪ Genealogy resources ▪ Tech  
 Tutor ▪ Facebook groups ▪ Scan & print ▪ Visiting  
 library ▪ Meeting spaces ▪ Grab & Play Reading &  
 Math Games ▪ Radon kits Library of Things  
 French titles ▪ DVDs ▪ Baby time ▪ Story time  
 Travelogue evenings ▪ Author events ▪ Teen  
 group ▪ Home Hospice collection ▪ Learning  
 lectures ▪ Ramsay Drop off/pick up ▪ more!

[www.missmillslibrary.com](http://www.missmillslibrary.com)  
 Almonte 613 256-1037 ▪ Pakenham 613 624-5306

### Pakenham Branch

128 MacFarlane Street  
(613) 624-5306

### Almonte Branch

155 High Street  
(613) 256-1037

your garden a success at the Mississippi Mills Public Library (MMPL).

Both the Almonte Branch and the Pakenham Branch host a "seed library," where, starting Thursday, February 20, library users can stop by and take home any of the seeds they want! Seeds are available on a first come, first-served basis while supplies last. Residents may borrow whatever amount of seeds they need, but are asked to please be mindful to leave seeds for others.

If you happen to have seeds left over from last year, consider donating them to the library so that others may experience the joy of growing their very own plant.

For those who are new to gardening, the library also hosts gardening workshops - check the MMPL website or subscribe to their newsletter for more details.

If you have any questions about the seed program or gardening workshops, you can contact the "seed librarian" via email:

[mbrunton@missmillslibrary.com](mailto:mbrunton@missmillslibrary.com)

## Gardening Season Will Be Here Before You Know It

Never mind that it may be -20 Celsius outside - it's time to start thinking about your garden! What seeds will you plant this year? Do you know if your soil is right for your plants? Gardening is full of questions, for beginners and advanced gardeners alike. It's no wonder

we had radio shows just for gardening questions, such as a segment hosted by Ed Lawrence (who calls Almonte home) on CBC's Ontario Today. Lawrence has since retired from the show, but thankfully we still have the expertise and resources you need to make

# Keeping you and your home safe: Mississippi Mills Fire Department

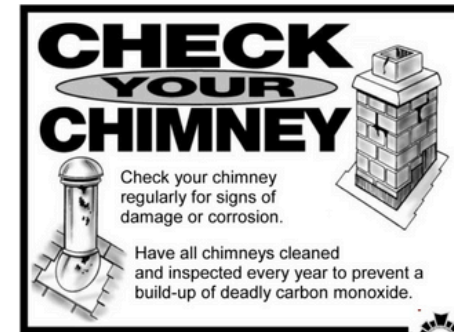
## No Ice is Safe Ice!

Every winter, emergency departments across the nation receive numerous cries for help from those who have fallen through the ice. On December 28, 2024, in the County of Frontenac, OPP responded to two separate incidents where recreational vehicles plunged to the bottom of the lake due to thin ice: In Ottawa, the fire department responded to four calls of pets falling through ice in the final week of December.

The message is simple: no ice is safe ice! Always be suspicious - appearance cannot measure the strength of the ice. Never venture out onto ice alone, and always inform someone of your plan including where you're going and when you'll be back.

If you hear the ice cracking beneath you, do the following:

- Lay flat on the ice.
- Yell for help loudly and clearly.
- Crawl or roll back to land.



## How Often do you Clean your Chimney?

There's nothing quite like getting snugly and warm in front of a wood stove or fireplace. Behind the scenes, do you know the condition of your chimney - one of the most important components of the fireplace that keeps your home free of smoke and carbon monoxide?

Chimneys should be cleaned and inspected yearly to prevent deadly buildup of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is produced when fuels such as wood, heating oil, propane, gasoline or natural gas does not burn completely. Blockages in your chimney or vents can lead to a buildup of carbon monoxide, not to mention the possibility of an explosive chimney fire.

Large chimney fires, with their immense flames or dense smoke that shoots out the top, may be noticed by neighbours or those passing-by. Slower burning chimney fires may not be as dramatic, but they still

cause just as much damage. As the slow burning builds up heat in the chimney, the structure of the chimney may be damaged and require repairs. Prevent chimney fires and carbon monoxide buildup by taking good care of your chimney; cozy up to your fireplace with peace of mind.

For added peace of mind, make sure your home meets the requirements for carbon monoxide alarm placements. If your home has an attached garage or a fuel-burning appliance, install a carbon monoxide alarm outside each sleeping area.

Carbon monoxide is invisible, tasteless, and odourless. If you have flu-like symptoms without a fever, it may be carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Green Emergency Lights = Firefighter**

**Yield or Pull Over**



Green flashing lights are used by firefighters responding with their personal vehicle



**EVERY SECOND COUNTS SIGN UP NOW**

REGISTER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RESIDENCE SO THAT FIREFIGHTERS KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN THEY ARRIVE ON SCENE



Community Connect

# Get active! Recreation Programs

## Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

We're no strangers to the cold in Mississippi Mills, and we know how to have our fun! There's plenty of winter sports for you to participate in, so don't be shy - come on, let's go and play.



### Curling

Ages: all ages

Curling is a game of strategy, skill and luck, but above all, it is a game of fun!

Mississippi Mills has two curling rinks, one in Almonte and one in Pakenham. Each rink offers a number of different programs for all ages.

Whether you are eight or 88, experienced or wanting to try something new, why not come out and enjoy the friendly sport of curling?

### Almonte Curling Club:

Where: 160 Bridge St.

Website:

[www.almontecurling.ca](http://www.almontecurling.ca)

### Pakenham:

Where: 172 Jessie St.

Website:

[www.pakenhamcurlingclub.ovc.a.com](http://www.pakenhamcurlingclub.ovc.a.com)



### Pick-up Hockey

Ages: U13 to U21

A national favourite pastime, the Municipality offers pick-up hockey in Pakenham and Almonte. *Full equipment is required.*

### Almonte:

When: Oct. 1 to March 18

- Tuesdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (U18 and U21)
- Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (U13 and U15)

Where: John Levi Community Centre, 182 Bridge St.

### Pakenham:

When: Oct. 1 to March 18

- Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (U13 and U15)
- Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (U18 and U21)

Where: Stewart Community Centre, 112 MacFarlane St.

Cost: \$5 per session

More information:

[www.mississippimills.ca/hockey](http://www.mississippimills.ca/hockey)



### Skating

The Municipality has a variety of skating sessions, in addition to our pick-up hockey sessions.

### Almonte:

#### Parents and Tots

When: Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

#### Seniors

When: Wednesdays  
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Public Skating

When: Sundays  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Pakenham:

#### Public Skating

When: Fridays 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Saturdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Cost: For prices, please visit






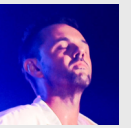
[www.mississippimills.ca/skating](http://www.mississippimills.ca/skating)



**MOVIE & SKATE DAY**  
MARCH 12 (ALMONTE)  
MARCH 13 (PAKENHAM)

# Lace up! March Break Free Skates

Public skating at the John Levi Community Centre is FREE during March Break. Students off from school, their families, and all members of the public are invited to lace up and enjoy a skate, sponsored by the Municipality of Mississippi Mills and generous community members.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>March 10</b>	<b>March 11</b>	<b>March 12</b>	<b>March 13</b>	<b>March 14</b>	<b>March 15</b>	<b>March 16</b>
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	n/a	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Sponsored by:	Sponsored by:	Sponsored by:	Sponsored by:	Sponsored by:	Sponsored by:	Sponsored by:
						 Kentucky
Where:	John Levi Community Centre 182 Bridge St. Almonte			How much:	FREE!	

Looking to sponsor a future public skate? Contact the Recreation Department via email: [events@mississippimills.ca](mailto:events@mississippimills.ca) or by phone 613-256-2064



## Looking for more skating options?

Try out our Outdoor Skating Rinks!

- Augusta Street Park (81 Mercer St., Almonte)
- Meadowglen Park (200 Spring St., Almonte)

Made possible by generous community members  
(open weather permitting)

# Baby it's cold outside... Winter Reminders

## Adopt a Hydrant or a Catch Basin

In an emergency, every second counts. You can help a firefighter save precious time by clearing the snow around any fire hydrants on or near your property. By making a one metre clearing around the hydrant, you will assist in securing water for firefighters - fire trucks carry a finite amount of water, after all.

On the warmer days, take some time to ensure the catch basins on and around your

property are clear of muck, leaves and snow. This will help prevent flooding, potentially saving you and your neighbours' basements.

This winter season, adopt a hydrant or a catch basin and be proud that you're doing yourself and your neighbours good.

For more information on flooding, read the other article on this page.

## Which Sidewalks Get Plowed?

In Mississippi Mills, sidewalks are categorized into classes, similar to roads.

- **Class 1:** The sidewalks that see the most use, often along major roads.
- **Class 2:** Sidewalks used less often, often in residential areas.
- **Class 3:** Sidewalks with minimal use, often deeper into residential areas.

Class 1 sidewalks are plowed within 12 hours after five centimetres of snow accumulation, whereas Class 2 sidewalks are plowed within 24 hours after eight centimetres of snow accumulation. Class 3 sidewalks are not winter maintained, and considered "closed" between November 1 and April 15.

For more information, visit [www.mississippimills.ca/winter](http://www.mississippimills.ca/winter)



## Did you Renew your Dog Tags?

We all love our four-pawed friends, but did you know that all dogs in Mississippi Mills must be licensed? Dog tags must be re-issued each year,

with the previous year's tags expiring on December 31. If you're yet to visit the Municipal Office this year, your licence is likely expired - come pay us a visit!



## Flood season is around the corner

In the lead-up and during the flood season, the Municipality monitors water levels, has regular Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) meetings and works closely with partners like the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) to be prepared.

How well prepared are you for flooding? Here are some tips to help prepare and protect your property in the event of a flood:

- Ensure your sump pump is clear, in good working condition and has a backwater valve
- Ensure downspouts are clear and the outlet is at least three metres from the dwelling
- Remove valuable items from basements or lower floors that could be subject to flooding
- Familiarize yourself with the Municipality's **Emergency Preparedness Plan**
- Pack an emergency kit that can be accessed easily and carried quickly in case of evacuation; include any necessary medication, blankets, extra clothing, flashlights, water and non-perishable food

For more information, visit: [www.mississippimills.ca/flood](http://www.mississippimills.ca/flood)

# Get involved! Grants and Community Engagement



## Municipal Budget in the Spotlight

Council formally adopted the capital portion of the 2025 Municipal Budget. The capital budget includes **\$12,807,589** in projects, such as:

- **\$2.7 million** for hardsurfaced renewals and microsurfacing projects
- **\$1.95 million** for the County Road 29 Watermain construction
- **\$435,000** for a new plow truck
- **\$421,000** for upgrades to parks and recreation facilities

- **\$30,000** dedicated to climate change initiatives and traffic calming measures.

The operations budget will come before the February 11 Council meeting for consideration.

Stay tuned to the council meeting in February, where options for the operating budget will be tabled.

For more information on the budget, including deep-dives into the budget process, visit [www.mississippimills.ca/budget](http://www.mississippimills.ca/budget)

## Sign Up for Weekly Updates from your Library

The Mississippi Mills Public Library (MMPL) has a great selection of programming every week - be the first to know by signing up for MMPL's weekly email newsletters!

The newsletter covers programming (such as Travelogue chats and the seed library), community events at the library (such as the Pakenham Frost Festival), resources (such as Service Canada outreach), and significant news (such as

major donations from the community). Program cancellations are also listed in the newsletters, if any occur.

To subscribe, scan the QR code below, or visit [MMPL.ca](http://MMPL.ca)

and scroll to the bottom of the page to locate the subscribe button.



## Rural Villages and Rural Vitality

If you consider small village charm important and the vitality of the rural area an asset to Mississippi Mills, this one is for you.

Let us know how you think we should preserve and enhance the rural landscape while also fostering sustainable economic development and community well-being. By working together, we can approach growth in a balanced and just way.

For more information, visit [www.mississippimills.ca/OPA28](http://www.mississippimills.ca/OPA28) and look out for consultation in spring 2025!

## Heritage Grants: Preserving Character

Did you know the Municipality offers a **Heritage Building Restoration Grant** as well as a **Heritage Tax Refund** for properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. Discover more by contacting the Planning Department today - [mplanner@mississippimills.ca](mailto:mplanner@mississippimills.ca).





# Resources for you

## Can't keep up with rent?

We can help if you are at immediate risk of losing housing or are homeless.

613-267-4200 ext. 2140  
Housing Assistance Program (HAP)

## Help starts here

Get resources for:

- Mental health
- Employment training
- Homelessness
- Newcomers
- And more

Call **211**



## 1-800-267-5960

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, call our 24/7 crisis line



You deserve to be heard. We're here to listen.

Call or Text

**9-8-8**

Suicide Crisis Helpline



## Food Aid

Here are different options for getting food aid in Mississippi Mills



**The Hunger Stop**  
(Carleton Place)  
613-257-8546



**A Meal For All**  
(Almonte)  
hello@amealforall.ca



**Community Pantry**  
(Almonte)  
155 High St.

**NEED A RIDE TO GET FOOD?  
We'll take you there!**

To get a ride: **613-264-8256** 

Mississippi Mills

## By-Law Enforcement

responds on a complaint-driven basis.

Residents with concerns are encouraged to file a formal complaint with the Municipality.

- Parking* ▪ *Property Standards* ▪ *Noise*  
*Yard Maintenance* ▪ *Signs*  
*Animal Control* ▪ *Zoning* ▪ *And more*

Call 613-256-2064 ext. 507



or

Report Online

mississippimills.ca



# Getting information during An Emergency



**88.1**

**LANARKLEEDSTODAY.CA**

LOCAL NEWS FIRST



## Radio





88.1 FM "MyFM" is the designated as the radio station for emergency information throughout Lanark County. In the event of an emergency, tune to 88.1 MyFM for official updates and emergency announcements. It is highly recommended to have a hand-cranked radio as part of your emergency kit.

98.7 FM "Valley Heritage Radio" is community run, also providing crucial information to the Ottawa Valley.

## Social Media

The municipal website and social media channels will be updated as information becomes available. Please note that these channels are not monitored 24/7.

### Other media channels:

-  [Mississippi Mills Fire Dept.](#)
-  [OPPEast](#)
-  [South East Health Unit](#)
-  [healthunit.org](#)

Have you familiarized yourself with the

# LANARK COUNTY

## Emergency Preparedness Guide?



KNOW THE RISKS MAKE A PLAN GET A KIT

## Information on Power Outages

The Municipality is served by two power operators:

- The **Ottawa River Power Corporation** (within Almonte)
- **Hydro One** (outside of Almonte)

Follow each on their social media and website for updates on power situations, including planned outages and outage maps.

### Websites:

- [www.hydroone.com/](http://www.hydroone.com/)
- [www.orpowercorp.com/](http://www.orpowercorp.com/)



OPP Non-Emergency Line: 1 888 310-1122 TTY: 1 888 310-1133

# RIDE THE MISSISSIPPI MILLS LT

ONLY \$2 ROUND TRIP

Get picked up & dropped off **anywhere**

in Mississippi Mills, to alternating weekly **Thursday routes** in **Almonte** and **Carleton Place**



## Almonte

## Carleton Place

Every **first** and **third Thursday**

Every **second** and **fourth Thursday**

<b>Mississippi Mills Public Library (Almonte Branch)</b>	10:00	10:45	11:30
<b>Almonte General Hospital</b>	10:10	10:55	11:40
<b>Shoppers Drug Mart</b>	10:20	11:05	11:50
<b>The Independent</b>	10:25	11:10	11:55
<b>Tim Hortons</b>	10:35	11:20	12:05

<b>Mississippi Mills Public Library (Almonte Branch)</b>	10:00	12:25
<b>FreshCo</b>	10:20	11:05 11:50
<b>Tim Hortons</b>	10:25	11:10 11:55
<b>Walmart</b>	10:30	11:15 12:00
<b>Giant Tiger</b>	10:35	11:20 12:05

[lanarktransportation.com](http://lanarktransportation.com)

[www.mississippimills.ca/RideTheLT](http://www.mississippimills.ca/RideTheLT)

**“Ride the LT” by Lanark Transportation is now in Mississippi Mills!**

Residents - including youths and older adults alike - can now register to Ride the LT for their weekly shopping needs.

**TO BOOK, CALL:**  
**1-877-445-5777**  
 Or 613-264-8256

*\*Please book by Wednesday at 10 a.m.*

 **LANARK TRANSPORTATION**  
 Accessible, caring, personal transport.