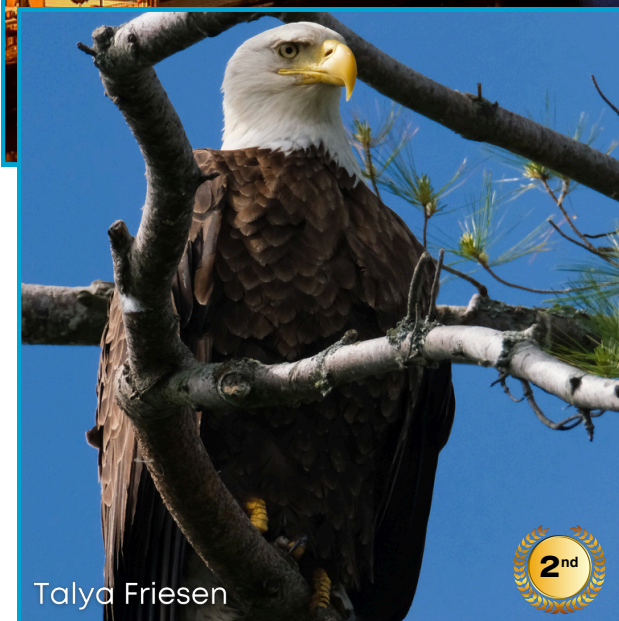


MM MESSENGER

www.mississippimills.ca

A FREE Quarterly Newsletter from the Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Summer, 2024



Message from Mayor Lowry



to request a printed copy. Since we have a limited number of print copies, please consider sharing them with your neighbours, friends, or family.

We hope the newsletter provides you with some new information. Don't forget to sign up on our website to receive future editions!

Other Initiatives to Keep an Eye On MM2048

MM2048 is an ongoing project, diving into every service and department, aiming to set a course for our community well into the future.

The Municipality kicked off 2024 with our second MM2048 Public Information Centre on January 18, providing residents to provide feedback on:

- **How We Grow** – Planning (Official Plan Amendment 32 and related Zoning By-law Amendment, Official Plan Amendment 33)
- **How We Go** – Transportation Master Plan
- **How We Flow** – Water and Wastewater Master Plan
- **How We Dispose** – Solid Waste Management Strategy

Welcome!

Welcome to our first edition of the new MM Messenger, a quarterly publication created to share municipal information with you.

As Council, we are prioritizing engaging with our communities and the launching of this newsletter is one way that we can connect with you.

Here, you'll discover updates from various departments, local government, recreational activities, upcoming events, and highlights of our community partners.

While the newsletter is currently available in print, we're transitioning to an online edition with the option

Want to know when the next Council meeting is?

Check out the Council calendar: [events.mississippimills.ca/council](https://www.mississippimills.ca/council)

If you are unable to find a document, access a link, or are searching for archived documents, please email us at clerk@mississippimills.ca.

- **How We Play** – Community Services Master Plan
- **How We Fund** – Development Charges
- **How We Prosper** – Economic Development Strategic Plan

Watch for future engagement opportunities and keep informed at www.mississippimills.ca/MM2048.

2025 Budget

The 2025 Budget process is underway. Watch the municipal website and social media channels for a **public survey**, which will be open from August 1 to 31, 2024.

For upcoming spotlights on municipal departments, proposed capital projects and engagement opportunities, watch www.mississippimills.ca/communityengagement.

Strategic Plan

The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, created by Council last fall provides a road map for the Municipality's future and a unified community vision. It is the "big picture" guiding the daily work of the Municipality and prioritizes how resources will be used for this term.

Council priorities are highlighted in six themes:

- **Safe and Sustainable**
- **Welcoming, Inclusive, Active, and Healthy Community**
- **Modern, Efficient, and Effective Municipal Operations**
- **Sustainable Financial Stewardship**
- Support a **Vibrant and Prosperous Economy**
- **Accountable and Transparent Governance**

To view the Strategic Plan, visit www.mississippimills.ca/strategicplan

Who's Your Councillor?

Whether you need someone to talk to about an issue, ask about supports and services, or share something great about your neighbourhood, your Municipal Councillor is there for you! In addition to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, you can talk to your Ward Councillor about any thoughts or feedback - they're the ones representing your neighbourhood at the council table, after all.

Pakenham Ward

Almonte Ward

Ramsay Ward

Councillor Jane Torrance

Councillor Mary Lou Souter

Councillor Denzil Ferguson

Councillor Vicki Lowe

Councillor Bev Holmes

Mayor Christa Lowry

Deputy Mayor Rickey Minnille

Not sure which ward you live in? Find your address on the interactive map:

Go Paperless!
Read our newsletters online and get notified for the next issue.
www.mississippimills.ca/newsletter

In the meantime, **Why not pass on this copy to a friend?**
Save trees, reduce waste, spread knowledge, and give yourself an excuse to say hi to a friend. Let's see how far this one paper goes!

Tax money at work: Municipal Projects



Roads and Public Works Team

Did You Know?

You can get your tax and water bills directly in your email inbox!

Simply sign up on our website mississippimills.ca, under Municipal Services > Property Taxes.

It's easy, free, and you reduce paper.

Scan to sign up



You can also pay your bill through your online bank

Search "Mississippi Mills", choose "Mississippi Mills (TWN) - Taxes" and use the full roll number as your account number

Mercer/Marshall Street Reconstruction Project

Storm water management and accessibility improvements

are going ahead on Mercer Street and Marshall Street. The new works will significantly reduce the volume of surface water previously experienced by residents in this area, while also improving access for all road users.

Blakeney Bridge Replacement

A new bridge is coming to Blakeney; Lanark County Council awarded the tender for the replacement of the Blakeney Bridge to Looby Builders (Dublin) Limited for \$3.06 million plus HST.

Taking Blakeney residents' concerns regarding pedestrian safety into consideration, the Municipality of Mississippi Mills will be contributing \$195,500 to the project to have the bridge accommodate pedestrians.

With this funding from the Municipality, the widened bridge will feature an accessible 1.6m walkway protected by flexible bollards. The two-lane bridge will also be able to accommodate

agriculture equipment, supporting farmers in the area.

Union Street North Rehabilitation Project

Supporting the future development in the Town of Almonte, a rehabilitation project is underway on Union Street North from Carss Street to Main Street East.

This project was identified as necessary in the 2018 Water and Wastewater Master Plan, and will feature the replacement of watermains, sewers and services to the property line, road reconstruction, and new curbs and sidewalks.

FAQ: 38 Main St. E.

The safety of our residents is our number one priority. For ongoing updates and Frequently Asked Questions about the status of 38 Main St. E., please visit www.mississippimills.ca/38-main-st-faq/



Mississippi Mills



Development Services and Engineering: Your Future

Note: The Development Services and Engineering Department is now located at Almonte Old Town Hall (14 Bridge St.). Please do not go to the Municipal Office (3131 Old Perth Rd.) for building permits, planning applications, or inquiries for the Building and Planning Departments.



The Low Down on Lot Grading and Drainage

Have you ever looked at your yard and thought, "Hmm... Why is it slanted like that? I should make it flat."

If you have, we have something for you! The **Homeowner's Guide to Lot Grading and Drainage** is now available on Mississippi Mills' website. The guide is simple and easy to comprehend, helping readers better understand the inconspicuous work that goes into protecting your home from floods and how you can further protect your home from water damage.

If you choose not to read the guide, at least know this: The slope of your yard is likely designed that way, so please don't modify it. If you must modify it, please get in contact with the Municipality before getting started. Failure to do so may result in Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs).



Scan here to read the guide



Visualize The Changes Coming to Your Neighbourhood: The Active Planning Map

If you visit the Planning and Development page on mississippimills.ca, you will find a handy map displaying the current developments in the Municipality. Find public meeting dates, project status, and plan drawings for developments in your community. It may surprise you how quickly Mississippi Mills is growing.

Building Fees Updated For 2024

The new Building By-law and its associated building fees took effect on May 8, 2024. The new fees (By-law 24-024) can be found under Building and Renovating on the municipal website.

Some key changes include:

- Changes to the application timeline.
- Industrial, commercial, and institutional permit fees are now based on cost of construction.

The fees fund the Building Department so that tax payers do not have to pay for the operation of the Building Department.

Your Guide to Summer Home Improvements

Summer means outdoor projects for your home, and we have just the tool you need: the Spring Building Spotlight Guide. This resource is your ultimate go-to guide for all the planning and zoning information you need to embark on your fantastic summer building projects. Whether you're dreaming of a marvelous deck to soak up the sun or a refreshing pool to beat the heat, this guide has got you covered! Visit www.mississippimills.ca/spring-building-spotlight to view the guide.

FAQ: Building Questions

Do I need to contact the Municipality to cut down my tree?

The Municipality only has a Tree By-law regarding trees on municipal property (By-law 02-99), but please contact us for guidance to ensure you don't cut down a municipal tree.

Does the Municipality have a By-law for fences?

No, but there are still rules to follow such as setbacks, easements, and maximum fence heights. Please consult the Municipality if you have any questions.

How do I find out what my property is zoned as?

Please visit the Planning and Land Use page under Build and Invest on the municipal website, where you will find a comprehensive map of all the zones in Mississippi Mills.



Get active! Recreation Programs



Cool Places To Cool Down This Summer

With another hot summer on the way, it's essential to find ways to stay cool and avoid heat-related illnesses. Fortunately, we know the coolest places in the community for you to check out!

Mississippi Mills is home to **two refreshing beaches**; Almonte Beach (195 Water St.) and Pakenham Beach (106 Margaret St.). Both are equipped with public washrooms. Please note that both beaches are unsupervised; swim at your own risk. The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit updates the water condition status weekly.

If the beach is closed, another great alternative place to combat the heat is the **splash pad** in Gemmill Park. Open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily during the summer, the splash pad also has washrooms and a water fountain onsite, as well as picnic tables and shaded areas.

Thanks to water evaporation, you should feel a nice temperature difference just by being near these areas (but of course, feel free to play, too).

Try Disc Golf for FREE!



Discs are available at the Almonte Library

Try Out a Sport This Summer! Recreational Leagues for All Ages.

From badminton and darts to pickleball and line dancing, the Municipality of Mississippi Mills has a recreation program for anyone and everyone! Read on for a brief introduction to programs available to you this summer, and visit www.mississippimills.ca/recreation for full details.



Five Span Strong

Ages: 5-15

Five Span Strong is a recreational fitness program teaching children the value of movement, breathing, playing outdoors and community in Pakenham. There are four sessions per year - spring, summer, fall and winter.

When: July 2 to August 22, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Where: Fred Millar Park, Pakenham

Cost: \$30 for eight sessions (Tuesdays or Thursdays), \$60 for all 16 sessions

Registration: 5SpanStrong@gmail.com



Tennis

Ages: All ages

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills supports tennis programming through the **Almonte Tennis Club**.

When: May 1 - October 31

Where: Gemmill Park located at 182 Bridge St. in Almonte.

Registration and information: www.clubspark.ca/AlmonteTennisClub



Lawn Bowling

Ages: 18+

The Municipality also supports the **Almonte Lawn Bowling Club** that runs a terrific program!

When: May 13 - September 27

Where: 157 Robert St., Almonte

Registration and information: www.almonte-lawn-bowling-club.com/



Badminton (co-ed)

Ages: 18+

The Municipality also runs a co-ed badminton program during the fall.

When: September to April, Mondays from 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Where: Almonte & District High School, 126 Martin St. N., Almonte

Registration: Check the website for more information!

www.mississippimills.ca/en/explore-and-play/badminton.aspx



Basketball (ladies)

Ages: 18+

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills offers a ladies recreational basketball program.

When: September to April, Thursdays from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Where: Almonte & District High School, 126 Martin St. N., Almonte

Registration: Check the website for more information!

www.mississippimills.ca/en/explore-and-play/basketball.aspx

Did you know?

There are also many basketball courts located at parks throughout the Municipality! You can find basketball courts at:

- Augusta Street Park
- Gemmill Park
- Meadowglen Park
- Wylie Street Park

For other basketball programming, check out the **Naismith Basketball Association:** www.naismithbasketball.ca.

They also run the annual **Naismith 3x3 outdoor basketball tournament** at the John Levi Community Centre in August.

Our Facilities are There for You!

Parks, art, libraries, parking, trails, and more

Mississippi Mills recognizes that parks and recreation are essential components of a community's viability. Explore Mississippi Mills' parks, trails, and facilities; we have so much to offer!

Visit our interactive map at: facilities.mississippimills.ca/

Easily find addresses, operating hours, and information, or narrow your search down to specifics such as whether a park has a BMX track or a stage.



Ride the LT

It's safe, easy & affordable!



ONLY **\$2** PER PERSON
(ROUND TRIP!)

COMING
SOON

"Ride the LT" is coming to Mississippi Mills

Complete your shopping trips car-free with the weekly Thursday shuttle, brought to you by Lanark Transportation.

First and third Thursday of the month:

Residents across Mississippi Mills can be picked up and brought to popular errand stops in Almonte.

Second and fourth Thursday of the month:

Residents across Mississippi Mills can be picked up and brought to popular errand stops in Carleton Place.

STAY TUNED FOR THE LAUNCH OF THESE ROUTES

*Details are subject to change.

For more details, visit

www.mississippimills.ca/RideTheLT



Community and Economic Development: Your Community

Consider the Possibilities at Mississippi Mills Business Park

Mississippi Mills is an outstanding urban and rural community that is recognized for its natural and architectural beauty, high quality of life and respect for its heritage and environment. In its vision of the future, the community will be seen to promote and manage balanced economic growth.

For business and for play – Mississippi Mills is ideally located in the middle of some of the most beautiful natural environments in all of Lanark County. Businesses in this community range from unique retailers, thriving farms to an athletic equipment manufacturer.

Whether you are opening a new business, moving your business to the area, taking over an existing business, or are a veteran business owner looking for information or support, the Municipality wants to help point you in the right direction.

The Mississippi Mills Business Park combines modern infrastructure with small town hospitality. We currently have serviced commercial lots available. Consider the possibilities! We would be happy to give you more information. Please reach out.

Contact:
Tiffany MacLaren
Manager of Community & Economic Development
tmaclaren@mississippimills.ca



Big Spaces for Low Prices

Are you looking to rent a venue for a fundraiser, a concert, Christmas party, staff event, or family get-together? Mississippi Mills has great venues with space for events of all sizes.

For more information, visit:
www.mississippimills.ca/en/explore-and-play/hall-rentals.aspx

or email
bookings@mississippimills.ca

We Want to Support What You Do! Community Micro Grants and More

Our small community is big in pride, full of people who bring the neighbourhood together through events. We see you and we want to help you do more. The Municipality offers micro grants of up to \$200 to those who want to plan events that will engage your neighbourhood. Applications for the Neighbourhood Micro Grants are still being accepted. For more information, visit www.mississippimills.ca/microgrants.

The Municipality also provides modest assistance to organizations in the community through the Municipal Grants Program. More info on this program can be found at www.mississippimills.ca/municipalgrants.



Discover Hobbies, Clubs, and More; Community Open House (Fall)

Find your calling at the next Community Open House! Our spring edition of the open house saw over 45 community groups in attendance, with countless neighbours visiting the John Levi Community Centre to discover what these groups were all about. Stay tuned to the Municipality's social channels to find out when the fall edition of the open house will be. You may find a perfect community group for you that you didn't know about.

Mississippi Mills Photo Contest Winners Announced

More than 200 photos were submitted in our 2024 Mississippi Mills Photo Contest, which ran during the month of May. Council selected 10 finalists with the community voting on their favourites. First prize went to Ryan Donovan, who captured Almonte and the Mississippi River at night. Talya Frisen received second place for her photograph of a Bald Eagle at Clayton Lake and third prize went to Chris Knowles for snapping clouds over a Ramsay Ward field. Winners earned gift certificates to the Mississippi Mills merchants of their choice. Congratulations to all! Watch for these and other photos submitted in upcoming municipal promotions.

Get involved! Community Engagement



Every Second Counts: Mississippi Mills Fire Department Launches New Program

Information is vital to a quick and effective rescue mission.

Knowing this, the Mississippi Mills Fire Department has launched their online preparedness platform Community Connect. Residents can now help their firefighters respond in case of an emergency on their property by providing information on their property type, number of occupants, and more in advance. This information is only accessed during an emergency and is securely stored on bank level encrypted servers. Having this information beforehand means firefighters know to save your pets, your property, and your loved ones, even in a situation where you may not be capable to relay that information.

Residents can sign up for Community Connect by visiting www.communityconnect.io/info/on-mississippimills. Together, we can build a safer community through prevention, preparedness and response.

Encourage your neighbours to sign up, too.



Have Your Say! Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 28 Survey

Mississippi Mills is home to many small yet beautiful rural villages. The Planning Department is looking for your input to develop **Rural Villages and Rural Vitality strategies and policies**, a part of OPA 28.

To complete this survey, please visit the OPA 28 web page (www.mississippimills.ca/OPA28) or access it by scanning the QR code.



Background:

After the amalgamation of Pakenham, Ramsay and Almonte, a new Community Official Plan was approved in 2006 to reflect the uniqueness of the different areas, including the agricultural and rural areas and rural villages of each (former) Municipality.

Since 2006, there have been many changes in Mississippi Mills. Inter-provincial migration, changes in the agricultural sector, a COVID-induced real estate market, provincial planning changes and a housing supply/affordability crisis have all had effects on the rural and agricultural areas of the Municipality. The effective management of growth and change is the utmost importance to ensure the social, economic and environmental viability of a Municipality. With a changing rural and agricultural landscape, updated population projections anticipated by

Lanark County, and a focus on the viability of rural areas and villages, there is a need to ensure that the Official Plan and Zoning By-law are up to date with current planning trends. The updated plans and by-laws shall reflect the most current best practices to support one of the backbones of Mississippi Mills - *its Rural Villages and Rural Vitality*.

Are you part of a local community group or association? Would you like planning staff to attend one of your events or events to discuss the Rural Villages and Rural Vitality project?

Please email the Planning Department or call 613-256-2064 ext. 507.

What Do You Think About The Aquatics Reimbursement Pilot Program?

The Municipality has a program to reimburse residents the difference between resident and non-resident fees charged for the use of aquatic programs in Carleton Place, Arnprior and West-Ottawa!

Have you used the program? Let us know what you think of it; your feedback will help evaluate the program ahead of the 2025 Budget. Please send your feedback via email to town@mississippimills.ca.

Looking for more information on the Aquatics Reimbursement Pilot Program? Visit: www.mississippimills.ca/aquatics

Resources for you

Can't keep up with rent?

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



Housing Assistance Program (HAP)



Lanark County Homeless Response Team

Phone: 613-267-4200 ext. 2140

Toll Free: 1-888-952-6275

Weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

After-hours emergency: 613-206-1486

1-800-267-5960

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



NO PERMIT = NO FIRE

Get your FREE permit online today



[HTTPS://MM.BURNPERMITS.COM/](https://mm.burnpermits.com/)

Help starts here

Get resources for:

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



Health811

Connect with a registered nurse day or night, for free.



Return expired medication to your local pharmacy



Ontario Medications Return Program (OMRP)

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



Get curbside collection day reminders, look up what goes where, and learn more about the recycling process.

Download Recycle Coach today



Or visit the municipal website

www.mississippimills.ca/garbage-and-recycling/



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)
Mississippi Mills Public Library 155 High St.

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

To get a ride:

613-264-8256



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

Community Bulletin



LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER?

We'll get you in touch!
Contact the Recreation and Culture Dept.
recandculturedept@mississippimills.ca



FREE Tech Tutoring!

Mississippi Mills Public Library



ALMONTE LAWN BOWLING CLUB
EST 1911

NEW MEMBERS WANTED



ATC
Almonte Tennis Club

LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

Looking to add a piece to this community bulletin? Email us to get started! shyde@mississippimills.ca

Events and Important Dates

What's Up Mississippi Mills?

MAY-OCT. ALMONTE FARMERS MARKET

(SATURDAY MORNINGS)

- JUNE 28** MULTICULTURAL POTLUCK
- JUNE 30** CANADA DAY EVE (PAKENHAM)
- JULY 1** CANADA DAY (ALMONTE)
- JULY** 5 WEDNESDAYS IN JULY
- JULY 5-7** CELTFEST
- JULY 14** TEXTILES & THE STORIES THEY TELL
- JULY 26** ALMONTE CRAFT BEER FEST
- AUGUST** CAR TOOT BINGO (WEDNESDAYS)
- AUG. 9-11** PUPPETS UP
- AUG. 10** NAISMITH 3X3 BASKETBALL TOURN.
- AUG. 24** NORTH LANARK HIGHLAND GAMES
- SEPT. 6-8** ALMONTE FAIR
- SEPT. 7-8** FIBREFEST
- SEPT. 14** AUGUSTAFEST
- SEPT. 22** DOORS OPEN MISSISSIPPI MILLS
- SEPT. 30** TRUTH & RECONCILIATION EVENT



Subscribe online to our event calendar!

For more information about these events:
www.mississippimills.ca/events

- July 30, 2024 - First Installment of Taxes Due
- Aug. 31, 2024 - Hazardous Waste Depot closes
- Sept. 27, 2024 - Second Installment of Taxes Due
- Nov. 19-21, 2024 - Yard Waste Collection (Fall)
 - Nov. 19: West side of Almonte
 - Nov. 20: Areas outside of Almonte
 - Nov. 21: East side of Almonte



The Municipality sends out two free dump passes in August.

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/
- www.orpowercorp.com/



Getting information during An Emergency

Radio



88.1 MHz (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 social media channels:

- Mississippi Mills Fire Dept.
- OPPEast
- LGLHealthUnit