

A FREE Quarterly Newsletter from the Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Winter 2026



## New Year Begins with Re-Established Relationships

Council held the 2026 Land Acknowledgement and Smudging Ceremony during the January 27 meeting. The ceremony was led by Algonquin Elder Larry McDermott from Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation, Algonquin Knowledge Keeper Chuck Commanda from Kitigan Zibi First Nation, and Elder Barb Brant, Mohawk, Turtle Clan. These traditions are an important part of the Municipality's work toward Truth and Reconciliation.



### Recycling questions?

Contact Miller Waste

1-888-852-2374

area2@millerwaste.ca

circularmaterials.ca/mississippimills

- Missed collections
- Recycling bin inquiries
- Other recycling questions

### Collection zone legend\*

**Containers**



To determine your collection day, download the Circular Materials app at [circularmaterials.ca/app](http://circularmaterials.ca/app)

### Holiday schedule:

If your collection day falls on a statutory holiday, your recycling collection day will shift.

January							February							March							April							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					<b>1</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6		<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7		<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
31														30	31						26	27	28	29	30	31		

May							June							July							August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31														30	31						27	28	29	30	31		

September							October							November							December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					27	28	29	30	31		

### Recycling tips:

- ✓ Lids and labels can remain on containers and cans.
- ✓ Flatten cardboard to save space.
- ✓ Place containers clean, dry and loose.
- ✓
- ✓ Safely recycle batteries, sharps and propane canisters at a designated drop off location.

1-888-852-2374  
area2@millerwaste.ca  
circularmaterials.ca/mississippimills

- Missed collections
- Recycling bin inquiries
- Other recycling questions

If your collection day falls on a statutory holiday, your recycling collection day will shift.



# Updates from the Municipality

November & December

**Water Bills Due  
February 12**



## Go Paperless!

To encourage sustainability and municipal efficiency, a **\$2 fee** will be added to water bills sent out by letter mail, starting March 2026.

Get a **step-by-step guide** on how to sign up for paperless billing:



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



## Looking to Improve Your Home's Energy Efficiency and Save on Energy Bills?

Find out if **Better Homes Lanark** is the right program for you and your home! This County program offers a low-interest loan of up to \$40,000, empowering homeowners to improve the home's energy efficiency and comfort. Qualifying upgrades include upgrades to insulation, windows, doors, heating systems, solar panels, and more.

Not sure where to start with your home energy retrofit? Better Homes Lanark offers a free **Retrofit Coach** service to all applicants to help guide homeowners through the retrofit process. The Retrofit Coach can help you make informed decisions with confidence, and even identify other funding programs you may be eligible for.

### READY TO LEARN MORE?

Visit the County website to find:

- Applicant eligibility
- Available funding (loans and grants)
- Application process
- Contractors trained in the program

[www.lanarkcounty.ca/BetterHomesLanark](http://www.lanarkcounty.ca/BetterHomesLanark)



Below are some of the accepted materials for curbside recycling:



### Paper and fibre



Paper



Cardboard and boxboard



Paper laminate packaging

### Containers



Cartons and cups  
Metal



Flexible plastics



Glass containers



Foam packaging

Not accepted



Organics



Toys



Diapers



Ceramics



Books



Pots and pans



Download the Circular Materials app to learn more.  
[circularmaterials.ca/app](http://circularmaterials.ca/app)

This resource can be requested in French by contacting [communications@circularmaterials.ca](mailto:communications@circularmaterials.ca).



READY • RECYCLE • REPEAT™  
2026  
recycling guide

Mississippi Mills



# RIDE THE LT MISSISSIPPI MILLS

Get picked up & dropped off  
**ANYWHERE**  
in Mississippi Mills, to alternating  
weekly **Thursday routes** in  
**Almonte and Carleton Place**

## Almonte

Every **first and third Thursday**

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



## Carleton Place

Every **second and fourth Thursday**

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

Winter 2026

MM Messenger 3

## Introduction of \$2 Paper Billing Fee for Water Bills

In 2024, staff recommended introducing a \$2 fee for anyone who chooses to receive their water bill by mail. This fee helps cover the real costs of printing and mailing paper bills, such as paper, envelopes, and postage. The Municipality sends water bills six times a year, and as of July 2024, more than 2,100 bills were still being mailed each cycle. This costs the Municipality almost \$26,000 every year, in addition to considerable staff resources.

Council asked staff to spend all of 2025 informing residents about the upcoming fee before putting it in place. Over the past year, residents may have seen notices about the fee on the Municipality's website, in the MM Messenger municipal newsletter, on social media, and directly on their water bills. Because of this outreach, 830 more residents have switched to e-billing, saving about \$9,900 a year in mailing costs. These

savings reduce pressure on property taxes.

Switching to e-billing also supports Council's strategic goal of creating Modern, Efficient, and Effective Municipal Operations. It cuts down on paper use, improves service, and is more reliable during mail disruptions.

On November 4, 2025, Council approved By-law 25-084 (2026 Fees and Charges), which includes the new \$2 paper billing fee. Staff are required to follow this by-law, so the fee will begin with the first water bills of 2026, which will be mailed out in March.

Residents who sign up for e-billing will not be charged the paper billing fee.

Make the switch today! To learn how you can switch to paperless billing, take a look at our step-by-step guide on our website:

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



Subscribe to this newsletter online!  
[www.mississippimills.ca/Newsletter](http://www.mississippimills.ca/Newsletter)



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



Water and wastewater costs are **100% covered by user fees**.

Only those who are on Municipal water pay for the water system.



## Come work with us!

Subscribe to job alerts on our website

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

# Get involved! Grants and Community Engagement

## Approximately \$25,000 in Grants Still Available; Apply Today!

At the January 13, 2026, Council meeting, Council awarded grant funding and in-kind support to 18 different applicants as part of the first intake of the Community Impact Grant program. Applicants included beloved community events such as Five Wednesdays in July, Black History Month, Pakenham Frost Fest, Celtfest, North Lanark Highland Games, Puppets Up!, Folkus, and Reconciliation Through Art. All applications were evaluated by municipal staff using Council-approved criteria, including alignment with program priorities, community impact, financial need, organizational capacity, and priority considerations.

For the second intake,

\$25,078 remains to be distributed. Applications for the second intake must be submitted by March 15, 2026. Those who did not apply to a stream in the first intake may apply to any of the seven grant streams, whereas those who did apply can only re-apply to the In-Kind Support, Neighbourhood Micro Grant, Spark Grant, and Live Local Activation streams.

A grant we would recommend applying for is the Neighbourhood Microgrant stream. Let us help you host a block party, a snow fort building contest, or even a scavenger hunt!

To apply, or for more information, visit [www.mississippimills.ca/Grants](http://www.mississippimills.ca/Grants)



## Are YOU on the Voters' List?

An event that takes place roughly every four years is arriving, and it is just as exciting as the Winter Olympic Games (the other every-four-years event). The 2026 Municipal Election will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026. Get ready by confirming that you are on the voters' list! Do not assume that you are already on the list, as there has been some changes.

As of 2024, the Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario ([Elections Ontario](#)) is responsible for maintaining the voters' list used in municipal elections and school board elections—a role previously held by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation ([MPAC](#)). To check whether or not you are on the voters' list, you can visit [www.RegisterToVoteON.ca](http://www.RegisterToVoteON.ca).

The Elections Ontario portal can be used to:

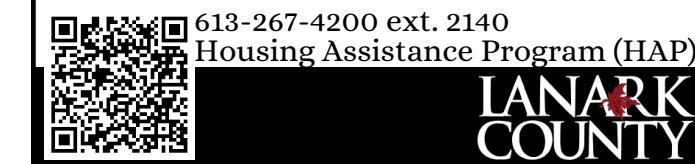
- Confirm your voter info
- Update your name or address
- Add yourself if you are missing
- Remove outdated info
- Register property-based eligibility (important in cottage country municipalities)

# Resources for you



## Can't keep up with rent?

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



## Help starts here

Get resources for:

- Employment training
- Mental health
- 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

Canada



**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



or  
**Report Online**

mississippimills.ca





# Getting information during An Emergency

## Social Media and Websites

Social media is one of the **fastest sources of information** during an emergency. Be sure to follow these official pages on Facebook:

- Municipality of Mississippi Mills
- Mississippi Mills Fire Department
- OPP East Region
- Lanark County
- South East Public Health

Be wary of misinformation and disinformation; only trust information that comes from the official source, rather than what strangers or even friends may be saying online.

The pages above are not monitored 24/7. Call 911 in a life threatening emergency or crime in process.



Subscribe to our news to get emergency alerts right in your email inbox  
[www.mississippimills.ca/subscribe](http://www.mississippimills.ca/subscribe)



Have you familiarized yourself with the

## LANARK COUNTY

**Emergency Preparedness Guide?**

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



KNOW THE RISKS - MAKE A PLAN - GET A KIT

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

## Radio



**LANARK LEED STODAY.CA**  
LOCAL NEWS FIRST

88.1 FM "MyFM" is the designated radio station in Lanark County for emergency information – listen 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 a community radio station based in Renfrew County, also providing crucial information to the Ottawa Valley.

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



**ATTN: HOMEOWNERS AND LANDLORDS**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

**New Carbon Monoxide Alarm Rules for Homeowners and Landlords.**

for existing homes such as detached and semi-detached homes, townhomes and cottages.



## Carbon Monoxide Alarms are Now Required on Every Floor

Attention homeowners and landlords! Effective since January 1, 2026, there are now new carbon monoxide (CO) alarm rules for existing homes – including detached and semi-detached houses, townhomes, and cottages.

You **must** have carbon monoxide alarms if:

- You have a fireplace.
- You have a fuel-burning appliance (like a furnace, water heater, or stove).
- You have heated air that comes from a fuel-burning appliance not located inside your home.

CO alarms should be installed adjacent to each sleeping area, and on every floor of the home, even floors without bedrooms. Homeowners and landlords are responsible for installing CO alarms to meet these new requirements.

When choosing a CO alarm to buy, look for alarms with a recognized certification mark (CSA, ULC, or ETL).

For more information, contact the **Mississippi Mills Fire Department** (613-256-2064 option 7) or visit [www.ontario.ca/CarbonMonoxide](http://www.ontario.ca/CarbonMonoxide)

## Power Outages: Safety During Winter Storms

The recent winter storms and high wind events are a great reminder to be prepared for power outages! Power outages can happen at any time, and one can never know whether the outage will last minutes, hours, or days. Make sure your **emergency preparedness kit** is stocked with portable sources of light (flashlights, candles, glow sticks), extra batteries, and non-perishable foods and lots of potable water. **Never use generators indoors to generate power.**

To keep your food safe, keep the fridge door closed. **Do not use charcoal or gas barbeques and camping stoves indoors to cook food or as sources of heat.**

If your home gets too cold and you are able to leave, head to an alternative location until it is safe to return. Take all household members (including pets) with you.

For more information, visit [www.ontario.ca/BePrepared](http://www.ontario.ca/BePrepared)



**No Permit = No Fire**

[www.MMBurnPermits.com](http://www.MMBurnPermits.com)  
or 613-256-2064 option 7



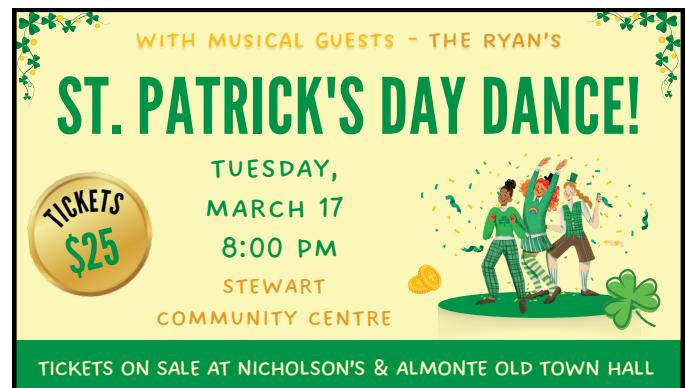
There's something for everyone!

# Events

## The Community Awards are Back!

Give someone an event to remember; start thinking about who you'd like to nominate for the 2026 Community Awards. Nominations open soon for the categories of Business Champion, Community Builder, Exceptional Volunteer, Inspiring Youth, Key to the Municipality, Outstanding Senior Citizen, and Welcoming Community Champion.

For more information as it becomes available, visit [www.mississippimills.ca/CommunityAwards](http://www.mississippimills.ca/CommunityAwards)



Subscribe online to our event calendar!

Submit your own events, get weekly emails on what's up, and more.  
[calendar.mississippimills.ca](http://calendar.mississippimills.ca)



## What's Up Mississippi Mills?

- FEB. 10** AFTER FIVE MIXER - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- FEB. 14** MVTM EXHIBIT OPENING
- FEB. 14** COMEDY STAGE HYPNOSIS SHOW - ALMONTE CIVITAN
- FEB. 15-21** WINTER FEST - DESTINATION ALMONTE
- FEB. 16** FAMILY DAY MOVIE & SKATE
- FEB. 17** ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER - ALMONTE CIVITAN
- FEB. 21** MID-WINTER MILLING
- FEB. 22** MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION SKATE
- FEB. 25** MMPL FILM
- FEB. 25** BUSINESS AT BREAKFAST - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- MAR. 4** INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PANEL - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- MAR. 7** ALMONTE IN CONCERT
- MAR. 17** ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE
- MAR. 18** MARCH BREAK MOVIE & SKATE
- MAR. 25** MMPL FILM
- MAR. 25-27** STRINGS OF THE VIOLIN PLAY
- APR. 9** MM COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Planning for the future of Mississippi Mills

## Updates from Development Services and Engineering



## Take a Look at the Plans Newly Completed for Almonte's Future

### Public Realm Plan

Public realms are spaces that are publicly owned and accessible to everyone, including sidewalks, trails, parks, and waterfronts. Well-planned public spaces play a vital role in a community, supporting physical and mental well-being, enhancing public safety, and strengthening local character.

The Municipality has recently developed a Public Realm Plan to help shape the public spaces in Almonte's main commercial areas. The plan guides how streets, parking areas, pathways, and green spaces can evolve to better serve residents, businesses, and visitors.

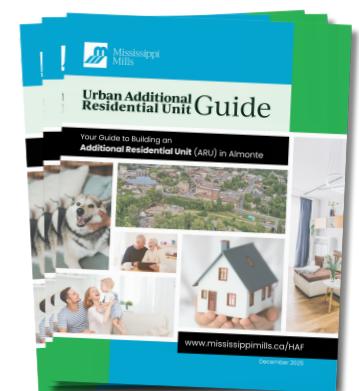
To learn more about how this plan will also support economic development, heritage conservation, and environmental sustainability, visit [www.mississippimills.ca/SPDA](http://www.mississippimills.ca/SPDA)

### Downtown Secondary Plan

The Municipality recently adopted a Downtown Secondary Plan. The plan provides a more detailed planning framework to guide growth and change in Downtown Almonte, as well as a vision for its future with detailed guidance for land uses, built form, housing, heritage, capital projects, and the public realm.

The Secondary Plan establishes the limits of Downtown Almonte, which captures Almonte's downtown core and the surrounding area.

To learn more what this plan means for downtown Almonte and how it will guide the Municipality's policies, visit [www.mississippimills.ca/SPDA](http://www.mississippimills.ca/SPDA)



Download the **Urban Additional Residential Unit Guide!**

An Additional Residential Unit (ARU) on your property can be a great way to:

- Provide housing for family members
- Generate rental income
- Create affordable housing efficiently

Learn more about the benefits of ARUs and what is required to build one:



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



# Get active! Recreation Programs

It's not too late to sign up for winter recreation programs! There are still programs with spaces, such as (but not limited to) the programs mentioned below:

## Hockey

Drop-in and play! Youth pick-up hockey is available in Pakenham and Almonte. Each session costs a single \$5 bill to help cover costs.

### Pakenham:

Grades 6-9  
 • Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Grade 10 to age 20  
 • Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### Almonte:

Grades 6-9  
 • Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Grade 10 to age 20  
 • Tuesdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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

## Volleyball

Being a popular sport here in Mississippi Mills, we have multiple volleyball programs for residents. Openings are still available in our winter sessions of Tuesday youth volleyball (grades 9-12) and Tuesday ladies volleyball.

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



## Pickleball

Grab these spots quick! Friday night pickleball at Almonte District High School has a few spots left this winter. Session lasts until May 1, 2026.

## Soccer

Soccer is not offered this season. However, we know there is a high demand, so we are letting our newsletter readers know that registration will take place in April. Stay tuned!

## Line Dancing

Drop-in for line dancing with a great group of people. Always lots of fun at the John Levi Community Centre in Almonte! Everyone is welcome to join.

## Shuffleboard

Come out and try a new sport and meet new friends. Leagues are available in Pakenham and Almonte (our Monday at 2:30 p.m. shufflers are looking for members).

# Come Out and Enjoy Winter!

Winter is in full bloom, bearing gifts of snowy fun. There is no better time than the present to dig out the family toboggan and slide down the Gemmill Park hill, or explore Ontario's highlands through the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail with snowshoes and skis. You can also rent snowshoes from the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority for a stroll around the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area.

If skating is your cup of tea, the kettle is overflowing with options here in Mississippi Mills! Check it out:

