

MM MESSENGER

www.mississippimills.ca/Newsletter

A **FREE** Quarterly Newsletter from the Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Winter 2026



Pictured, from left: Ramsay Ward Councillor Bev Holmes; Almonte Ward Councillor Jane Torrance; Knowledge Keeper Commanda; Elder McDermott; Deputy Mayor Rickey Minnille; Elder Brant; Mayor Christa Lowry; Pakenham Ward Councillor Denzil Ferguson.

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.

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Updates from the Municipality



November & December

**Water Bills Due
February 12**



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



**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

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



Subscribe to this newsletter online!

www.mississippimills.ca/Newsletter



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WEBPAGE:

www.mississippimills.ca/CommunityEngagement



Did You Know?

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

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



Neighbourhood Microgrant
\$200



Live Local Activation Grant
Up to \$500



Spark Grant
Up to \$1,000



Community Capacity Building Grant
Up to \$2,000



Impact Grant
Up to \$5,000



Partnership Grant
Up to \$15,000



In-Kind Support
Up to \$2,000 value

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.

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)

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 Alarm

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

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



No Permit = No Fire

www.MMBurnPermits.com
or 613-256-2064 option 7

New year, new changes: Messages from Public Works

Recycle more than ever before.

Starting in 2026, you'll be able to recycle the same materials no matter where you live in Ontario.



Ice cream tubs



Frozen juice containers



Hot and cold beverage cups



Black plastic containers

Continue to use



for recycling and garbage schedules, alerts, and reports.



Download today!

Province of Ontario Introduces Enhanced Recycling Program, Administered by Circular Materials Ontario

As of January 1, 2026, all communities in Ontario have switched to an enhanced recycling system, allowing all residents of Ontario to recycle the same materials no matter where in the province. In Mississippi Mills, this means that you can now recycle more than ever before! Newly accepted materials include black plastic containers, hot and cold beverage cups, deodorant tubes, toothpaste tubes, frozen juice containers, ice cream tubs and so much more.

Residents will experience the same recycling schedule as before, ensuring the transition happens smoothly. However, one change residents should note down is who to contact

for recycling inquiries such as missed collections. Circular Materials has contracted Miller Waste to administer the recycling program in Mississippi Mills and surrounding areas. Miller Waste has sub-contracted Topps Environmental Solutions (TES)—a local company—to collect recycling curbside, but administration remains under Miller Waste.

Since 2023, recycling is no longer run by the Municipality. For all inquiries please contact:



Miller Waste
area2@millerwaste.ca
 1-888-852-2374

Missed Collections •
 Replacement Bins • Questions

What goes where?

See the new list of accepted materials:



[www.circularmaterials.ca
 /MississippiMills](http://www.circularmaterials.ca/MississippiMills)



Circular Materials has mailed out corrected calendars

To know if you have the updated calendar, look for the calendar with the **YELLOW** and **BLUE** weeks



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.

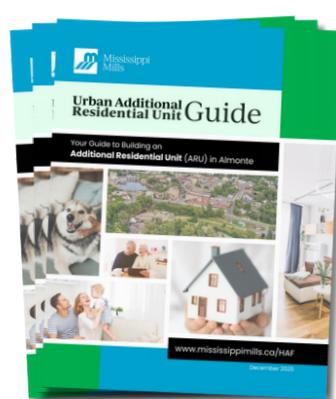
To learn more about how this plan will also support economic development, heritage conservation, and environmental sustainability, visit www.mississippimills.ca/PRP

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



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

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



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.



MISSISSIPPI MILLS
MILITARY FAMILY *Appreciation Skate*
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 2-4 P.M.
 JOHN LEVI COMMUNITY CENTRE
*The public skate is open for everyone to attend.
 Public skating fees apply.*

Mississippi Mills
 Legion 100 1926-2026



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.



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.



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!



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).

For program information and more, visit
www.mississippimills.ca/Recreation



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:



Always free!
Outdoor Rinks (ODR)
Augusta Street Park (81 Mercer St, Almonte)
Meadowglen Park (200 Spring St, Almonte)
These rinks are volunteer-maintained. If you would like to help maintain these rinks, please email us!

FREE Skating

@ Almonte Arena



Parents & Tots
Tuesdays/Wednesdays
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Seniors
Wednesdays
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Movie and Skate

ALSO FREE!

Family Day
Feb. 16, 1-3 p.m.
Almonte
Sponsored by EXP Realty

March Break
Mar. 18, 1-3 p.m.
Almonte




FREE Skating

@ Pakenham Arena



Community Skate
Wednesdays
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

FREE March Break Skates

Almonte and Pakenham
March 16-20

Visit our website for the schedule

Sponsor these skates!



For more information:
www.mississippimills.ca/Skating
programs@mississippimills.ca




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

WITH MUSICAL GUESTS - THE RYAN'S

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE!

TUESDAY,
MARCH 17
8:00 PM
STEWART
COMMUNITY CENTRE

TICKETS \$25

TICKETS ON SALE AT NICHOLSON'S & ALMONTE OLD TOWN HALL

MISSISSIPPI MILLS

Community OPEN HOUSE

Discover programs, hobbies, sports & more!

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 3-7PM
John Levi Community Centre

MR. SMITH'S FAMILY
MAGIC SHOW

FRIDAY, MARCH 20
10 AM & 1:30 PM

\$5

Get tickets on
Tickets Please

Subscribe online to our event calendar!

Submit your own events, get weekly emails on what's up, and more.
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

A community hub: Mississippi Mills Public Library



Pakenham Branch 128 MacFarlane St (613) 624-5306 | Almonte Branch 155 High St (613) 256-1037



Meet the MMPL Team

This is your 2026 library staff! The library is excited to welcome three new programming staff members and new front desk staff—get ready for some fun programs coming up and stop by to say hello!

The library is also thrilled to share its leadership succession plan: **CEO / Chief Librarian Christine** will move into a mentorship position to support and train **incoming CEO / Chief Librarian Berta**.



Winter Fun is Here!

Winter is all around us... so why not get out and enjoy it? Snowshoes are now available for the season at both branches! Reserve online or drop in to pick yours up for the weekend. Snowshoes have a one-week loan period. Plus, Gatineau

Park passes are now available with a one-week loan period, perfect for exploring the great outdoors this winter. Children 12 years old and younger do not require a park pass, so a family with young children only need to borrow a pass or two.



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.

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.



Subscribe to our news to get emergency alerts right in your email inbox
www.mississippimills.ca/subscribe



Have you familiarized yourself with the

LANARK COUNTY

Emergency Preparedness Guide?

www.mississippimills.ca/EP

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 websites for updates on power situations, including planned outages and outage maps.



orpowerscorp.com



hydroone.com

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)

LANARK
COUNTY

1-800-267-5960

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



Help starts here

Get resources for:

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

Call

211



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

Call or Text

9-8-8

Suicide Crisis
Helpline

Canada



Food Aid

Here are different options for getting food aid in Mississippi Mills



THE HUNGER STOP
LANARK COUNTY FOOD BANK

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
LANARK
TRANSPORTATION
Accessible, caring, personal transport.

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



RIDE THE MISSISSIPPI MILLS



ONLY
\$2
ROUND TRIP

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

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

lanarktransportation.com

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.

 **Below are some of the accepted materials for curbside recycling:**

Not accepted



2026

recycling guide



Organics



Toys



Diapers



Ceramics



Books



Pots and pans



Paper and fibre



Paper



Cardboard and boxboard



Paper laminate packaging



Download the Circular Materials app to learn more.
circularmaterials.ca/app

This resource can be requested in French by
contacting communications@circularmaterials.ca.



circularmaterials.ca/mississippimills



Mississippi Mills 2026 recycling collection schedule

Recycling tips:

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

January

February

March

April

August

December

September							October							November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31	29	30		

Collection zone legend*

Containers

Fibres



To determine your collection day,
download the Circular Materials
app at circularmaterials.ca/app



Recycling questions?

Contact Miller Waste

1-888-852-2374
area2@millerwaste.ca

- Missed collections
- Recycling bin inquiries
- Other recycling questions

Holiday schedule: If your collection d