



MESSENGER

www.mississippimills.ca

A FREE Quarterly Newsletter from the Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Spring, 2025



Get active!



Presented by



Let's Win Canada's Most Active Community!

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Updates from the Municipality



Go Paperless!

Did you know that there is a \$15 fee for any reprint request of tax bills and other statements? These documents are important for you to keep, such as for filing your federal/provincial taxes and for personal records. Ensure you never lose them by receiving them digitally via email instead. The process is quick and easy – simply complete our e-billing enrollment form online. The next tax bills will be sent out in June, so be sure to sign up before then: www.mississippimills.ca/paperless

Accelerating Home Building
in Mississippi Mills

Funding Amount: **\$3.3 M** Over Three Years

Outcome: **414** New Homes in Mississippi Mills Over Three Years
4,200 New Homes Across Ontario

We're Accelerating Home Building in Mississippi Mills

The housing crisis is very real in Mississippi Mills. Families cannot find homes that they can afford, and the financial pressures the Municipality is experiencing from growth are enormous. This is why we are accelerating the home building process with help from the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF).

The first installation of the \$3.3 million awarded to Mississippi Mills will be used for 2025 capital projects that support growth and efficient service delivery, including a new e-permitting software for issuing

building permits and planning applications. The funds will also be used to fast-track projects that were already underway such as:

- Creating a Community Improvement Plan for affordable housing
- Making municipally-owned lands shovel ready for affordable housing
- Removal of barriers to infill development.

Residents can track the progress of these HAF projects on our website:

www.mississippimills.ca/HAF

MISSISSIPPI MILLS
Volunteer Appreciation Reception

MAY 1 6:30 – 8PM
Almonte Civitan Hall

Enjoy a decadent dessert buffet!

Logos for Carebridge, THE HUB, and Mississippi Mills.

Check out our **Homeowner's Guide to Lot Grading and Drainage**



Plan Your Summer!
Pick up your copy of the 2025 *Explore Mississippi Mills Guide*

- Available at the...
- Libraries
 - Municipal Office
 - Old Town Hall

Events



Let's Prove We're Canada's Most Active Community!

Mississippi Millians love to get active – whether it's on a light jog along the beautiful Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail, a morning stroll on the Riverwalk, or on the always-full pickle ball courts, you cannot miss noticing the community built around recreation. We are possibly the most active community in Ontario, if not Canada. Help make the record official (and **win \$100,000**) by tracking your active minutes during the month of June with the ParticipACTION app and website!

For more information, visit www.mississippimills.ca/GetActive.

Celebrate Community with the Community Awards

The clock is ticking to get your nominations in for the Community Awards! Submit your nomination along with two letters of support by noon of April 24. Nominate a community superstar in one of the many categories available: Business Champion, Community Builder, Exceptional Volunteer, Inspiring Youth, Outstanding Senior Citizen, Welcoming Community Champion, and Key to the Municipality. For more information, visit: www.mississippimills.ca/CommunityAwards.

What's Up Mississippi Mills?

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| APR. 10 | COMMUNITY LUNCHEON |
| APR. 22-25 | ARBOUR WEEK |
| MAY 1 | VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT |
| MAY 5-10 | YOUTH WEEK |
| MAY 14 | MM BUSINESS BREAKFAST |
| MAY 22 | COMMUNITY AWARDS |
| MAY 25-31 | ACCESSABILITY WEEK |
| JUNE | PARTICIPATION MONTH |
| JUNE 5 | 55+ EXPO |
| JUNE 21 | INDIGENOUS EVENT |
| JUNE 27 | MULTICULTURAL POTLUCK |
| JUNE 30-1 | CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS |
| JULY 25 | CRAFT BEER FEST |

Subscribe online to our event calendar!



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

Come See What is on at the 55 Plus Expo

Visit the 55 Plus Expo at the John Levi Community Centre on June 5 to discover different ways of staying connected to your community that you may not have considered before. Learn how you can thrive and age well, and stay in your home with real solutions you can put into practice. Hosted by the Municipality of Mississippi Mills and the Home Hospice North Lanark.

For more information, visit <https://hhnl.ca>.

A community hub: Mississippi Mills Public Library



MMPL Friends are so wonderful

Thank you to the Friends of the Library for generously donating **\$4,000** to support keeping the Mississippi Mills Public Library fine-free! We love our Friends for their dedication to ensuring greater access to library services for residents who may face financial barriers, promoting lifelong literacy, and helping to reduce the number of unreturned items. We encourage everyone in the community to support the Friends' ongoing fundraising efforts to keep this great work going!



Pakenham Branch

128 MacFarlane Street
(613) 624-5306

Almonte Branch

155 High Street
(613) 256-1037



Grand Opening! Pakenham Branch Makerspace

The Mississippi Mills Public Library (MMPL) is excited to announce that the Makerspace at the Pakenham branch (128 Mac-Farlane St) is now open! The grand opening was celebrated on April 1, where residents were welcome to drop-in and learn all about the Makerspace, enjoy some refreshments, watch exciting demonstrations of the equipment, and get inspired to start creating. This space would not have been possible without the generous financial support of local residents, Maureen and David Dern, as well as the expertise and encouragement of Paddy Mann Clothing and dedicated members of the Pakenham community. To them, we say "thank you!"

Ready to bring your ideas to life? Makerspace training registrations are open. The Makerspace at Pakenham Branch is a creative lab where you can explore cutting-edge technology, tools, and equipment to create your own projects. A training session is mandatory before you may use the space. Bookings are also required to work on your own projects. Materials are available for a small fee.

Available Equipment:

- XTool Laser Engraver/Cutter
- Heat Press
- Cricut Maker 3 Cutting Machine
- Button Maker

Eligibility:

- Adults and users aged 13-17 can use the Makerspace independently
- Users aged 13-17 must have parent/guardian consent
- Youth under 13 must be accompanied by an adult who has completed the mandatory training

How to get started:

1. Verify your library account is active
2. Book a training session via the form found on the MMPL website and sign the user agreement form
3. You're all set!

Keeping you and your home safe: Mississippi Mills Fire Department

Ashes Take Longer to Cool Than You May Think

Early last spring, the Mississippi Mills Fire Department (MMFD) responded to six grass and structure fires, five of which ignited from discarded ashes: That's five dangerous fires that could've likely been prevented if the ashes had been disposed of properly.

Coals and ashes from fires can remain hot enough to reignite and start a fire many days after the fire was put out. The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning, how much unburned fuel remains, etc.

Always call the burn permit line (613-706-4004) to activate your burn permit before lighting the fire and exercise caution when disposing of ashes.

Here are some tips on how to dispose of ashes safely:

- Do not discard your ashes into any combustible container such as a paper or plastic bag, a cardboard box, or a plastic trash can. Instead, use a metal, non-combustible container with a lid.
- Do not place the ash container on decks, porches or in garages. Instead, keep the container OUTSIDE the home, away from your fireplace or stove and anything combustible.
- Pour water into the container to make sure the ashes are cool.
- Teach all family members and guests how to be safe around fires, including fireplaces and wood stoves.

**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

Fire Season Has Begun

Under **Open Air Fire By-law 17-35**, holders of valid fire permits may not burn brush, drum, and windrow fires between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. from April 1 to October 31, 2025. This type of burning is limited to the evening during this time of the year because temperatures traditionally get a little cooler and humidity rises at night. Vegetation soaks up some of that moisture, making it a less volatile fuel for wildfires.

Please check our website or call 613-706-4004 before burning to ensure there is no burn ban in place. Permits may be obtained free of charge online at mm.burnpermits.com.

Read the by-law carefully to ensure that you understand specific restrictions to open air burning before you burn.

May 4 – 10, 2025

Emergency Preparedness Week

canada.ca/get-prepared

Get active!

Recreation Programs

Get Out and Stretch Your Wings

After a long winter of cozing up indoors, it's time to get active. The Mississippi Mills recreation department has coordinated a varied selection of programming for all ages and abilities – try one out this spring!



Lawn Bowling

Ages: all ages

Everyone is welcome at the **Almonte Lawn Bowling Club!** Try out this beginner friendly sport and roll your way into a season of fun and social physical activity.

When: May 12 to Oct. 10

Where: 157 Robert St., Almonte

Website:

www.almonte-lawn-bowling-club.com



Line Dancing

Ages: all ages

Be one of the newest people to discover the joy of line dancing.

When: Thursdays from 1:30 - 3 p.m.

Where: John Levi Community Centre (182 Bridge St.)

Website:

www.mississippimills.ca/LineDancing



Swimming

The Municipality offers an **Aquatic Reimbursement Pilot Program** for those who choose to participate in swimming programs outside of Mississippi Mills.

To submit a claim or to find more information, visit

www.mississippimills.ca/Swimming



Tennis

Ages: all ages

Registration is now open with the **Almonte Tennis Club**. Start the sport out with a two-week guest membership; see how you like it!

When: May 1 to Oct. 31

Where: Gemmill Park (182 Bridge St.)

Website: clubspark.ca/AlmonteTennisClub



Yoga

Ages: all ages

Relax those tense winter muscles with a 10-week yoga course.

When: Wednesdays from 7 - 8 p.m., April 2 - June 4

Where: The Stewart Community Centre (112 MacFarlane St.)

Cost: \$80

Website:

www.mississippimills.ca/Yoga



Find More Outdoor Recreation Ideas

www.mississippimills.ca/outdoor-recreation



Five Span Strong

Ages: 5 - 15

This recreational fitness program teaches children the value of movement, breathing, playing outdoors, as well as the value of community in Pakenham.

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
May 13 - June 19

Where: Stewart Community Centre (112 Macfarlane St.)

Cost: \$48 for 12 sessions or \$24 for six sessions (Tuesday sessions or Thursday sessions)

Website:

www.mississippimills.ca/5SpanStrong



Soccer

Ages: 4 - 12 (must currently be in JK to register)

The Municipality offers a youth soccer program in Pakenham, introducing kids to soccer and team sports.

Registration: Bring completed form to Almonte Old Town Hall

When: Monday nights, May 26 to July 21, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Where: Fred Millar Field, Pakenham (112 Macfarlane St)

Cost: \$70/child or \$170/family (Residents), \$85/child or \$195 family (Non-Resident)

Website:

www.mississippimills.ca/Soccer



Friendship, Sports, and Fun!

The Municipality is excited to launch a youth sports camp! The camp is geared to campers born between 2013-2016 (ages 9-12) with a focus on fun and recreation. All we ask is that campers arrive with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn and participate.

Registration will open in early May, and will be on a weekly basis only. Camp costs are to be determined soon, so stay tuned.

For up-to-date information, visit our website:

www.mississippimills.ca/SummerCamp

ARBOUR WEEK EVENTS

APRIL 22-25

APRIL 22
CELEBRATE EARTH DAY @ Almonte Old Town Hall
 Doors open at 6 p.m., event 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

- Mini Forests a presentation by Dale Horeczy
- A short play about regenerative agriculture, followed by a facilitated discussion with Alberto Suarez
- Selecting the 'Right' Tree for your Yard by Allan Goddard

APRIL 24
TREE Walk & Talk @ Mill of Kintail, 1 p.m.
 with arborist Rob Cretien, meet in the parking lot

APRIL 22-30 **COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP**
 Clean up your street!

'Tis the season for plans and projects... Spring Reminders

Flood Season is Here

The Municipality is actively monitoring water levels, working closely with its partners such as the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) to be prepared for potential flooding.

During significant flood events, the Municipality's primary role is to protect municipally-owned infrastructure, such as buildings, roads and parks. To help residents protect their own property, we supply sand and sandbags at designated self-serve locations to be filled and brought home. Proper removal and disposal of sand and sandbags after use is the responsibility of the resident.

For more information, visit: www.mississippimills.ca/flood



- NOTICE -

Water Main Flushing

Mid-May to Late June
(Almonte)

This annual maintenance program is designed to remove the sediment that has accumulated in the water mains to maintain good water quality.

Study Before Getting Muddy

Thinking of finally building that deck? Review the Municipality's **Spring Building Spotlight** before you commit to any project.

The building department has created this easy-to-understand guide to help residents follow zoning regulations when building projects such as decks, porches, sheds, garages, pools, hot tubs, enclosures, fences, and drainage systems. Different residential zones have different set-back distances and height limitations. For example, the maximum height of a garage in R1 zoning is 4.5 metres, whereas it is 12 metres in RU zoning.

Residents can confirm the zoning of their property by entering its address into the online mapping tool found on the municipal website.

For more information, visit www.mississippimills.ca/zoning

Upcoming Garbage / Recycling Collection Day Shifts

- **Good Friday (April 18)** - Friday collection shifted to **Saturday, April 19**
- **Canada Day (Tuesday, July 1)** - all collections **shifted by one day**

| Tues. July 1 | Wed. July 2 | Thurs. July 3 | Fri. July 4 | Sat. July 5 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Canada Day |   |   |   |   |

Reminders:

- Two dump passes are mailed out in August
- Residents can put out two tagless bags of garbage on the week after Easter
- The Howie Road Waste and Recycle Depot reopens May 3, open until November 1, 2025.

Find Your Zoning



Get involved! Grants and Community Engagement



New Childcare Centre Project

Council is exploring building a new Mississippi Mills Childcare Services facility at 34 Victoria St. in Almonte. The proposed project would replace the current childcare centre on State Street.

The current facility houses 73 childcare spaces. With Canada wide Early Learning and Childcare (CWELCC) funding, administered by Lanark County, the expansion would allow for an additional 78 spaces. That would bring the total licensed capacity to 151 CWELCC spaces, along with additional room for future growth.

Learn more about this project at the MM2048 Public Information Centre (PIC) on Wednesday, April 30 from 2-8 p.m. at the John Levi Community Centre.

Municipal Budget in the Spotlight

The final 2025 Budget is now available to be browsed at your own leisure, line by line. The document highlights key stats such as the tax rates, tax revenue distribution, inflation, and more.

With an overall combined tax rate increase of 3.68 per cent, the median household can expect to pay an additional \$92.78 in property taxes this year, or approximately \$7.73 a month. The breakdown of the combined

tax rate is 5.2 per cent increase in property tax, 4.39 per cent increase to the police levy, three per cent increase in county taxes, and a zero per cent increase to the school levy.

The cumulative tax rate increase remains below the cumulative inflation rate by eight percentage points, counting since 2016.

You can find the final budget 2025 document on the Budget 2025 engagement page:

www.mississippimills.ca/budget

Come See the Future of Mississippi Mills

The Municipality is hosting its next MM2048 Public Information Centre (PIC) at the John Levi Community Centre on Wednesday, April 30, 2 to 8 p.m. Come see the progress made on projects such as

- Rural Village Vitality (Official Plan Amendment 28)
- Community Services Master Plan
- Economic Development Master Plan

Provide your feedback on projects such as:

- Solid Waste Master Plan
- Economic Development Master Plan
- Public Realm Study for downtown Almonte

MM2048 is a large-scale initiative where the Municipality is creating and reviewing its plans and policies to appropriately prepare for long-term growth.



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.

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



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)
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** 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 ext. 507



or
Report Online
mississippimills.ca





Getting information during An Emergency



88.1

LANARKLEEDSTODAY.CA

LOCAL NEWS FIRST



Radio

88.1 MHz (FM) "MyFM" is 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
- Leeds, Grenville and Lanark 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/
www.orpowercorp.com/



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**

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 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 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| 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.