

MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS COMMUNITY OFFICIAL PLAN

AS ADOPTED BY COUNCIL

December 13, 2005

AND APPROVED WITH MODIFICATIONS BY THE
MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

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OPA 29

OPA 32

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OPA 34

OPA 35

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Note:

Terms presented in ***bold and italicised*** script identify words defined in Section 5.15, Definitions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY OFFICIAL PLAN

The Mississippi Mills Community Official Plan is a legal document containing the goals, objectives and policies which guide the development, growth and change of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills. This Plan is intended to assist Municipal Council and its various committees, municipal staff, developers, government agencies and the public in their efforts to maintain and strengthen the environmental, economic, physical and social fabric of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills.

The creation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills in 1998 brought together the former Town of Almonte and the Townships of Ramsay and Pakenham into one local government structure, responsible for providing services to a diverse small town and rural population of approximately 12,000 people.

The Mississippi Mills Community Official Plan has been developed through extensive community consultation and reflects the collective views and values of the community. There has also been consultation with government agencies in order that the Plan may reflect the policies and practices of the various public bodies involved in the management of growth and development.

As growth and development takes place, change will occur. This Plan sets out a clear public statement on how the community, through Council, intends to manage future growth and development. It provides a consistent policy framework to guide public and private sector decisions and investment within the Municipality. It presents a commitment to managed growth, sustainable development, sound resource management and environmental protection.

The Mississippi Mills Community Official Plan applies to all of the lands within the corporate limits of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills (approximately 525 square kilometres) and is intended to guide the growth and for a period of up to 20 years. It is a comprehensive community policy document under the jurisdiction of the Council of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills.

This Plan will provide a basis for zoning and other issue specific by-laws that Council will enact to regulate the development of the land.

This Plan directs those proposing development activities to consult with the approval authority on an early basis to discuss their proposal and confirm required studies prior to the submission of a development application.

1.2 AUTHORITY

In addition to expressing community values, the Community Official Plan is a legal document that addresses matters of provincial interest, as expressed in the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014. The Provincial Policy Statement provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The Provincial Policy Statement provides for appropriate development while protecting resources of provincial interest, public health and safety, and the quality of the natural environment. The Provincial Policy Statement supports improved land use planning and management, which contributes to a more effective and efficient land use planning system.

The Mississippi Mills Community Official Plan was prepared under the authority of Section 16 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, which states that:

“An official plan shall contain goals, objectives and policies established primarily to manage and direct physical change and the effects on the social, economic and natural environment of the municipality and may contain a description of the measures and procedures proposed to attain the objectives of the plan, and a description of the measures and procedures for informing and obtaining the views of the public in respect of a proposed amendment to the official plan or proposed revision of the plan or in respect of a proposed zoning by-law.”

Once this Plan has been adopted by the Council of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills and approved by the County of Lanark, it shall be deemed to be consistent with Provincial policy. In a number of instances, the policies of this Plan exceed the minimum policies set out by the Province. Where there are differences between the policies of this Plan and Provincial policies, the policies contained herein shall be the land use policies to be implemented.

The Community Official Plan is a policy document – it is not regulation. However, it is a legal document and the policies in this Plan have a basis in the *Planning Act*. There is, therefore, a need for all decision-making authorities to ensure that any decisions affecting planning matters be consistent with the policies of this Community Official Plan.

The *Planning Act* requires that the Municipality of Mississippi Mills prepare and adopt an Official Plan that covers the full extent of its territory. The *Planning Act* also identifies matters of provincial interest, which are further defined by the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). The Municipality's Official Plan must be consistent with the policies in this Statement. The Community Official Plan was drafted, reviewed, updated, and adopted in conformity with the requirements of the *Planning Act* and the content of the Plan is consistent with the PPS issued under Section 3 of the *Planning Act*, which came into effect on April 30, 2014.

In accordance with the requirements of the *Planning Act*, the Official Plan will be reviewed every five (5) years and may be amended by the Municipality to reflect changing circumstances or new priorities. The main implementation tool, the Zoning

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By-law, will be updated within three years of each Official Plan update.

1.3 TITLE

This document shall be known as the “**Mississippi Mills Community Official Plan**” and is hereinafter referenced as the Community Official Plan, Official Plan or the Plan.

1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

The Community Official Plan consists of the following text and the attached Schedules A to D3 (maps).

The text of the Community Official Plan is organized into five (5) sections:

1. **Introduction:** contains the administrative components of the Plan;
2. **Basis of the Plan:** sets out the vision of the community, planning history and growth and settlement strategy;
3. **Land Use Policies:** details the specific policies for the various land uses recognized by the Plan;
4. **General Policies:** applies to all development within the Municipality; and,
5. **Implementation:** identifies the various planning tools available to implement the policies of the Plan, relevant legislation and definitions.

The following four Schedules and three Appendices are attached to and form part of this Plan:

- **Schedule A:** is the land use schedule for the rural lands lying outside of the urban areas of Almonte and Pakenham village;
- **Schedule A1:** is the land use schedule for the Village of Appleton;
- **Schedule A2:** is the land use schedule for the Village of Clayton;
- **Schedule A3:** is the land use schedule for the Village of Blakeney;
- **Schedule B:** is the land use schedule for Almonte;
- **Schedule C:** is the land use schedule for Pakenham village;
- **Schedules D1 & D2:** identifies the well head source water protection area for the Almonte municipal wells;
- **Schedule D3:** identifies the source water protection area for the Ramsay municipal wells;

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- **Appendix A1:** identifies natural heritage features within the Municipality;
- **Appendix A2:** identifies the constraints within the Municipality;
- **Appendix B** is the Private Road Standards.
- **Appendix C** is the Almonte Downtown Secondary Plan.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan to the contrary, a transition period to January 3, 2025 shall apply where applications for development which have been deemed complete shall be reviewed in accordance with the policies of the land use designations that existed on Schedule “A” Land Use Plan prior to the adoption of Amendment No. 29 to the Community Official Plan by Council on September 20, 2022.

1.5 INTERPRETATION

1.5.1 Policy

1. Individual policies in this Plan should not be read or interpreted in isolation but rather should be interpreted along with the intent of the Community Vision, Goals, Objectives and relevant policies contained within this Plan. When attempting to determine whether a development proposal conforms to the Community Official Plan, all relevant policies must be reviewed and considered.
2. Where differences of opinion arise as to the meaning of any part of this Plan or where there is an apparent conflict between different policies of this Plan, Municipal Council shall be responsible for resolving the conflict after hearing all interested parties. Typically, where there is a conflict between two policies, the more restrictive of the two policies shall apply.
3. Buildings, structures, uses, etc. that are normally incidental, accessory or essential to a permitted use shall also be allowed even though they may not be specifically identified in the land use policies.
4. Where examples of permitted uses are provided for a land use, they are intended to indicate the possible range of uses considered appropriate and not to be interpreted as all-encompassing unless otherwise stated as such. However, all uses shall be in conformity with the general intent and policies of the land use designations of this Plan.
5. Where an Act or Legislation is referred to, such references shall be interpreted to include any subsequent legislation that may supersede the Act or Legislation so named.
6. From time to time, the names of various ministries or agencies may change. In addition, responsibilities may shift from one agency to another. The names of

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various agencies responsible for the many programs, regulations and approvals are presented in this Plan as of the date of adoption of this Plan.

An amendment to this Plan is not required each time a responsibility or name change occurs. Rather, the Plan shall be interpreted to refer to those bodies named, or to their successors, as conditions dictate.

1.5.2 Land Use Boundaries

1. The boundaries of the land use designations, natural features and constraints shown on Schedules A to D3 and Appendix A1-A2 are intended to be approximate. Boundaries are to be considered absolute only where they are clearly bounded by roads, railways, rivers or streams or other geographical barriers.
2. An amendment to this Plan shall not be required in order to make minor adjustments to the boundaries of the land use designations, natural features and constraints or the location of roads, provided that the general intent of the Plan is maintained.
3. Given the generalized boundaries of environmental features and resources, such as wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest, mineral aggregate resources and agricultural soils, it may be necessary to more precisely interpret the boundaries of these features and corresponding land uses during the consideration of an individual development proposal. The interpretation of the limits of such features shall be undertaken and/or approved in conjunction with the public bodies responsible for the feature (e.g. flood plain boundary determined by Mississippi Valley Conservation).

1.5.3 Figures and Numerical Quantities

All figures and numerical quantities herein shall be considered as approximate and an amendment to the Plan shall not be required for any reasonable variance from the proposed figures, unless otherwise stated.

1.6 PLANNING PERIOD

The Planning Period for this Official Plan is approximately 20 years (2018 to 2038). The designation of land for settlement and employment is based on accommodating anticipated population and employment growth to the year 2038 with a margin of surplus to ensure effective competition in the land market.

Policies for the protection and enhancement of natural resources and the natural environment and the policies relating to infrastructure improvements have no specific timeframes. It is the intent of this Plan that significant natural features shall be maintained in a natural state for future generations and that natural resources shall be protected to provide for their current and future utilization.

This Plan identifies major infrastructure improvements which may occur both during

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and beyond the planning period.

1.7 MONITORING AND REVIEW OF PLAN

This Plan should be seen as an evolving document, requiring regular monitoring, review and updating in order to ensure that the goals, objectives and policies reflect the changing environmental, economic, and social circumstances of the Town Municipality.

The Plan shall be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the goals and objectives are being achieved and the policies remain relevant. Council shall hold a special public meeting not less than once five (5) years pursuant to Section 26 of the *Planning Act* as part of the review of this Plan.

The Municipality shall notify all relevant public bodies, the general public and interested groups and organizations of its intent to conduct a review of the Community Official Plan.

A review of the Community Official Plan shall be automatically triggered:

1. Every five (5) years - it is recommended that this review take place in the second year of Council's term;
2. If communal or municipal sewer and water services are to be provided to existing privately serviced village or rural settlement areas or a new rural settlement area outside of the Almonte Ward boundary; or,
3. If, in the opinion of Council, there is a significant change within the community that warrants a review of the Plan.

1.7.1 Five Year Review

A review shall include as a minimum:

- i. A *comprehensive review* of the "70/30 Settlement Strategy" and the accuracy of the population projection of the Plan;
- ii. infrastructure capacity and servicing options to accommodate growth;
- iii. trends, technology and emerging ideas on the management of growth and resources;
- iv. a *comprehensive review* of the supply of lands available for development;
- v. achievements of Council in terms of carrying out the identified studies and actions noted in the Plan;
- vi. feedback received from the development industry and property owners related to the Municipality's planning program;
- vii. appropriateness of policies in managing growth and

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development, resource management, provincially and locally significant agricultural lands and/or protecting the environment;

- viii. a review and assessment of the function, health, and land use boundaries of downtown commercial core areas.

A public report shall be prepared which summarizes:

- an assessment of the above noted items;
- comments received from government agencies and the general public related to the review of the Community Official Plan;
- the components of the Community Official Plan which the Municipal staff and Council believe are in need of updating; and,
- studies, guidelines and other actions recommended in the Community Official Plan which have been achieved since the previous review.

If the review process determines that the Plan is in need of being updated, Council shall initiate an amendment to the Community Official Plan designed to implement the necessary changes.

1.8 NEED TO CONFORM TO THIS PLAN

Despite any other general or special Act, no public or private work shall be undertaken, and no by-law shall be passed for any purpose that does not conform to this Plan.

1.9 HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

This Plan is broken down into six different components (Introduction, Basis of the Plan, Land Use Policies, General Policies, Implementation, Schedules). Each of these sections contains goals, objectives and policies which are relevant to any given development proposal and should be thoroughly reviewed when assessing development. The goals and objectives of each section collectively represent the overall framework and direction of the Plan. The specific policies are designed to implement and/or achieve the goals and objectives. The Plan also contains Appendices which contain information designed to help clarify, understand or implement the policies of the Plan.

When determining the policies that are relevant to a specific development proposal, the following steps should be followed:

1. Identify the property affected by the development on the appropriate Schedule and Appendix and determine the Land Use Designation, Natural Heritage Features and Constraints which affect the property.
2. Use the Table of Contents to locate the policies that apply to the land use designation, natural feature or constraint.
3. Review the relevant Land Use Policies to determine which land uses are permitted and the planning policies that apply in undertaking any development

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(e.g. “Residential”, “Commercial”, “Rural”, “Environmental Protection”, etc.).

4. Refer to the General Community Policies and Implementation Policies which are cross referenced in the Land Use Policies (e.g. environmental impact assessment, municipal servicing, Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, etc.).
5. Depending upon the specifics of the development proposal, some type of planning approval process may be required. The various planning approval processes are reviewed within the “Implementation Section” of this Plan.

Terms presented in ***bold and italicized*** script identify words defined in the Definition Section of the Plan.

2 BASIS OF THE COMMUNITY OFFICIAL PLAN

2.1 VISION STATEMENT

The starting point for the Community Official Plan is the clear and concise vision of the community created through the 1999 Mississippi Mills Strategic Planning exercise and subsequently adopted by Municipal Council.

“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.”

This vision statement is the basis upon which the goals, objectives and policies of the Community Official Plan were developed.

In adopting this Vision, the Community Official Plan sets out a challenging direction for the community. One which maintains and enhances the characteristics of the area which are valued, while promoting growth that is sustainable and based on the “smart growth” doctrine detailed in Section 2.5.2. This Plan provides very clear direction on where and how growth should take place, resulting in a community 20 years hence which is very similar to what exists today but with a clearer distinction between what is rural and what is small town.

2.2 THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

In the context of rural/small town Ontario, Mississippi Mills stands out as being truly unique and fortunate. Both the rural and urban landscapes of the Municipality are steeped in the settlement history of eastern Ontario.

The physical landscape of Mississippi Mills is defined by the Mississippi River running through the eastern portion of the Municipality. Most of the agricultural land is located on either side of the Mississippi River in the former townships of Ramsay and Pakenham. The western portion of the Municipality is dominated by more rugged land associated with the Canadian Shield. The early development of the rural areas of the Municipality was based primarily on agriculture and forestry.

The former Town of Almonte, along with the village of Pakenham, and the villages of Clayton, Appleton and Blakeney are located along significant waterways. They developed because of “water power” which was used to drive the commerce and manufacturing sector in town which supported the local economy. This Plan protects and preserves the essential elements of these communities as growth-related changes occur.

Much of Mississippi Mills’ built heritage, both rural and urban, remains relatively intact. It provides a valuable record of the Municipality’s historical past. The many heritage

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buildings, structures and streetscapes developed prior to contemporary planning regulations continue to be significant elements of our community.

Located in the eastern portion of the County of Lanark, Mississippi Mills abuts the new City of Ottawa and is approximately 50 kilometres from downtown Ottawa.

As the City of Ottawa grows, so too does the Municipality of Mississippi Mills. Possessing a scenic beauty, impressive heritage buildings, cultural richness and a diverse commercial and institutional mix, the quality of life offered in Mississippi Mills has been an attractive alternative to the urban environments found in the City of Ottawa. It is anticipated that the Municipality will face increasing growth pressures during the life of this Plan due to its proximity to Ottawa.

2.3 PLANNING HISTORY

The three former municipalities that amalgamated to form the Municipality of Mississippi Mills each had their own official plan documents. The area was originally under a joint Official Plan for the North Lanark Planning Area, approved in 1977. With the elimination of “planning boards” in 1983, each of the former municipalities prepared their own official plans.

In 1994, both the former Town of Almonte and the Township of Pakenham adopted new Official Plans. These documents reflected the requirements of the *Planning Act* and various provincial ministries, with some adaptation to reflect local issues.

During much of the 1990s, the former Township of Ramsay worked on a new Official Plan which was subsequently adopted by the Town of Mississippi Mills in 1998 and approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in 2001. The Ramsay Ward Official Plan represented a major break from the past in that it was developed on the basis of extensive community consultation. Responding to the ever-increasing growth pressures and dramatic changes in the rural nature of Ramsay, the Ramsay Ward Official Plan set out a new and challenging direction to preserve and enhance the rural character and the natural environment of the area.

The Mississippi Mills Community Official Plan builds upon this tradition of public consultation. The desire was to prepare a modern official plan which reflected the community’s values and vision. It was also the intention to have a document that goes beyond the scope of the traditional “Official Plan” and encompasses a much broader and more comprehensive vision of the Community.

2.4 WHAT IS A COMMUNITY OFFICIAL PLAN?

The difference between the traditional “Official Plan” and a “Community Official Plan” can be explained by the document’s focus and how it is developed. The focus of this document moves beyond the traditional emphasis on land use to address the complexities that a community, such as Mississippi Mills exhibits. It recognizes the inter-relationships between land use and the social, economic and environmental elements of the Municipality. Matters related to the Community’s recreation and

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cultural services, health and social services, economic development, *heritage resources*, environmental features, etc. have all been addressed within the “Community Official Plan”.

The term “Community Official Plan” also implies a sense of community ownership of the document. This buy-in is vital to the success of the Community’s planning program. In an effort to establish community ownership, the development of the Community Official Plan focused on an aggressive, multi-faceted public participation program. This included the establishment of a 15 member Steering Committee representing various interests within the community to manage the project, a “Community Official Plan Summit” which prepared draft goals and objectives, a Goals and Objectives Survey distributed to every household within the community, over 50 Steering Community meetings open to the public, 8 workshops reviewing the Discussion Draft and countless meetings with various community groups conducted over a 2 ½ year period.

Efforts have been made to present the Plan in clear, concise language, which conveys the intent, purpose and direction of the individual policies.

The combination of having a comprehensive focus, developed through meaningful public consultation and presented in a clear format defines the term “Community Official Plan”. The end result is a Plan which reflects the unique characteristics and desires of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills.

In advancing the Community’s uniqueness this Plan builds on the tradition that has been established in Mississippi Mills of responsible stewardship of the land. This Plan is not saying no to development, but rather is providing direction on how to develop the Mississippi Mills way.

2.5 GROWTH AND SETTLEMENT

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills is in the unique and enviable position of being comprised of significant rural lands, three small villages, a large village and one fully serviced urban area. From a land use planning perspective, having both rural and urban lands present the opportunity to direct growth and development to the most appropriate locations.

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills has the option of directing urban type development to urban areas and rural type development to rural areas. The Municipality has the ability to plan and manage rural resources and urban settlement areas in a way that Ramsay, Almonte and Pakenham could not do prior to amalgamation.

2.5.1 Goals and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Promote managed, coordinated and fiscally responsible growth, which represents an efficient use of land and is environmentally sustainable.

Direct the majority of new growth to areas where municipal services are available and where capacity exists to support new development.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goals:

1. Establish a growth strategy which promotes an orderly pattern of development, maintains the area's rural and small-town character and which represents a logical expansion of built-up areas.
2. Establish an urban density which promotes a sustainable and efficient use of the land.
3. Encourage a mix of residential, commercial and industrial uses which meet the needs of the community and increases local employment.
4. Ensure that the rate of growth is consistent with the Municipality's ability to manage such development.
5. Require the majority of new development to be on municipal sewer and water services, including communal systems.
6. Explore innovative methods of bringing water and sewer services to urban areas where municipal sewer and water services do not exist.
7. Limit new development in the privately serviced villages to infilling and minor expansions.
8. Limit new residential lots in rural areas and ensure their compatibility with surrounding rural land uses and natural resources.
9. Establish an inventory of lands which are available for development, as well as those that should be protected from development.
10. Require new growth and development to pay its fair share of growth- related costs.
11. Encourage new growth and development to use environmentally sustainable and energy efficient building practices that encourage use of responsible, local materials and services, such as LEED®.
12. Authorize the use of second residential units and compatible intensification or redevelopment to assist with the provision of affordable housing.

2.5.2 Smart Growth

"Smart Growth" is a concept that has been discussed widely over the past five years. For the most part, the "Smart Growth" debate has focused on the growth and development of major metropolitan areas and minimizing urban sprawl. It is, however, a concept which is based on sound land use planning principles that can be applied at many different levels.

This Plan embraces the concept of "Smart Growth". For Mississippi Mills, "Smart Growth" means:

- i. a commitment to sound resource management – protection of natural

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features and management of natural resources such that their long-term sustainability is guaranteed;

- ii. directing urban development towards Almonte with the majority of development being located in fully serviced, compact, efficient urban communities with a broad mix of land uses;
- iii. diverse, balanced growth which is integrated into existing design with linkages between the new and the old, a focus on multi-modal transportation, shopping, working, street layout, open spaces, mix of housing stock and support for existing institutional and commercial services; and,
- iv. maintaining and enhancing distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place through design.

2.5.3 Mississippi Mills Growth and Settlement Strategy

This Plan sets out a clear course for managing the future growth and development and maintaining the rural and small-town character of Mississippi Mills.

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills will work with the County of Lanark and relevant agencies to amend this Official Plan to align with the growth management direction, policies and allocations outlined in the Lanark County Sustainable Communities Official Plan as it is updated and approved.

2.5.3.1 Population Projection

Many of the key decisions made during the preparation of the Community Official Plan were based on the adopted Population Projection. In his report “Population Projections for Mississippi Mills, August 2002”, Dr. David Douglas notes that “a projection is a description of what the future might look like if certain things occur over a specified period of time. Projections indicate the direction and relative magnitude of change that might occur, based on existing knowledge and the assumptions we make about the future. However, forecasting population growth remains an inexact science as some determinants are unknown and others are not measurable. The most common reason for making projections is to anticipate situations that may arise in the future so that strategic responses can be developed.”

Consistent with the population allocations of the Sustainable Communities Official Plan for the County of Lanark, Mississippi Mills is projected to grow to a population of 21,122 to the year 2038. This allocation represents a 60% increase in the Municipality’s population. A comprehensive review will be conducted to plan for the Municipality’s population allocation in accordance with the policies of the Provincial Policy Statement and the Sustainable Communities Official Plan for the County of Lanark. The results of the comprehensive review will be implemented as an amendment to this plan.

2.5.3.2 Settlement Strategy

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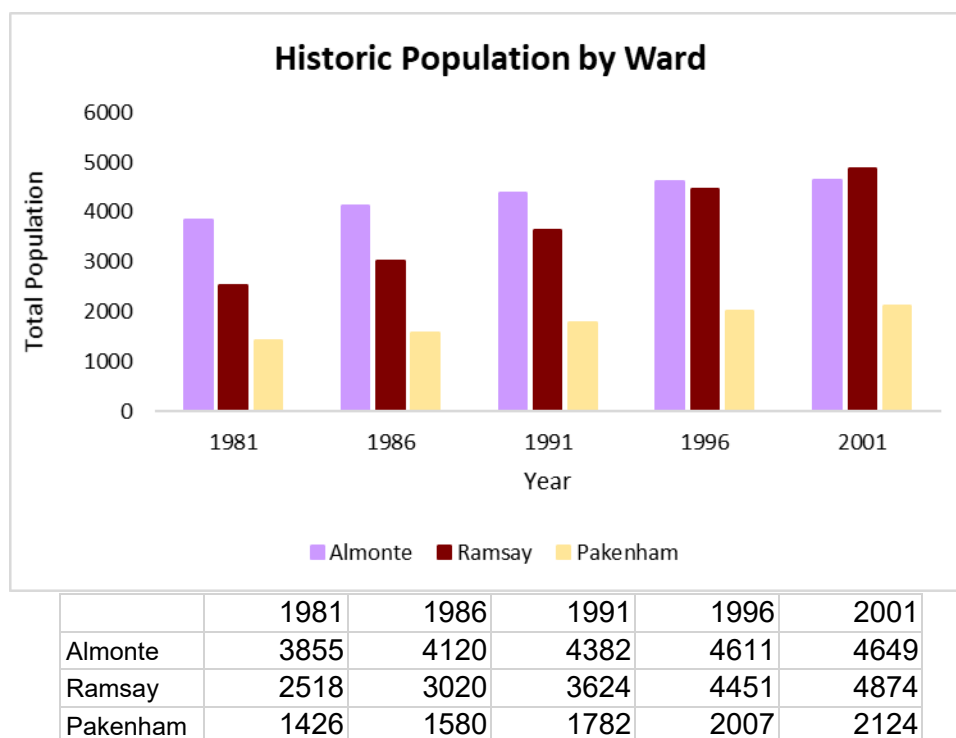
Determining where the projected growth will take place, or more importantly, where it should take place, is one of the most fundamental elements of this Plan.

Answering the question of “where should the growth go?” impacts on all the other decisions that are relevant to planning a healthy and vibrant community. Where people will live, work, shop, and play, the maintenance and enhancement of our health, education, social and recreation services, the protection of the environment, the management of rural resources, the maintenance of our roads, the quality of our water, the management of our waste, and how much this will cost are all matters that are affected by where growth is located.

2.5.3.2.1 Where Has the Growth Gone in the Past?

Prior to amalgamation, the former municipalities of Almonte, Pakenham and Ramsay planned for their own futures. The pressures of growth, the constraints to growth and the ability to direct growth to the most appropriate location were significantly different for each of the three separate municipalities.

The following chart demonstrates the growth that each of the former municipalities experienced between 1981 and 2001, based on Statistics Canada Census figures.



These figures demonstrate that the majority of the growth between 1981 and 2001 took place in Ramsay on private services. This trend represented a fundamental shift in where people live. Ramsay changed from being an agricultural community to an increasingly rural residential community.

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The trend during that period can be attributed to a number of factors:

- a desire to live in the country;
- a lack of sewer capacity in Almonte; and,
- the cost of subdivision development on full services vs. the cost of severing a lot in the country.

The growth during that period dramatically changed the rural character and physical landscape of Ramsay. This change brought about increased concerns about the loss of natural areas and the health of the environment with all the development being created on private wells and septic systems. It saw a loss of farmland and noticeable impacts on the local agricultural industry. The change was perhaps most noticeable in the visual impact of scattered rural residential severances and estate lot subdivisions. There were also concerns about cost and economies of scale of providing services to a dispersed population.

2.5.3.2.2 70/30 Settlement Strategy

The 70/30 Settlement Strategy of this Plan is based on a comprehensive review and will represent a fundamental shift in where growth will be accommodated. The comprehensive review has included the population projection information noted in Section 2.5.3.1. The Plan is designed to direct:

- 70% of future growth to Almonte on full municipal services; and
- 30% of future growth to rural areas, existing villages with large lots, developed on private services or new rural settlement areas with a form of servicing which can support lot sizes of approximately 1,000 to 2,000 square feet ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre).

2.5.3.2.3 General Policies

1. Population and employment allocations will be used as a basis for a comprehensive review and designating an adequate supply of land for development and for planning capital improvements, such as roads, sewer and water supply infrastructure and facilities, such as schools, parks and leisure areas.
2. Growth in Almonte will occur based on logical and economically efficient extensions of services and as adequate servicing capacity exists. Infilling and the efficient use of land within Almonte shall be promoted. Development within Almonte shall be connected to the municipal sewer and water system.
3. The Municipality will undertake a comprehensive review to identify sufficient lands for the 20-year growth of the Almonte Ward and determine if additional lands can be justified for inclusion into urban boundary. Additional lands which can be justified for inclusion into the Almonte urban boundary will require an amendment to Schedules "A" and "B" to this Plan.

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4. Due to the existence of municipal sewer and water services, Almonte can develop at a much higher density than Pakenham village, the smaller villages or rural settlement areas. The Municipality should strive for an urban residential density of approximately 15 to 35 residential units per gross hectare of land for development proposed by Plan of Subdivision. Intensification within existing built-up areas shall develop in accordance with the policies of Section 3.6.7 Infilling.
5. Schedule “B” to this Plan presents the “urban” boundary for the Almonte Ward. Future proposals to expand the urban boundaries of Almonte shall require a *comprehensive review* and a site-specific amendment to this Plan or be incorporated as part of a Community Official Plan update associated with a Five-Year Review. Minor adjustments to the boundaries for the proper configuration of development and the road system or to provide land necessary for community amenities, such as parks, recreation facilities or schools and which do not involve the construction of new buildings or the extension of municipal services outside of the identified boundary may be considered through an amendment to the Zoning By-law.
6. Rural Settlement Areas and the villages do not currently have centralized or communal water supply and wastewater treatment systems. Such areas shall be limited to infilling and minor rounding out of existing development until such time as centralized services are established. The range of uses shall be limited to those which can be supported by private services. The size of new residential lots shall generally be greater than 0.4 hectares (1 acre). Minimum lot sizes shall be based on supporting hydrogeologic information, the existing lotting pattern of the surrounding area and on the ability of the land to support development on private services.
7. The introduction of municipal or communal water supply and wastewater treatment systems into existing or new Rural Settlement Areas and Villages shall require the preparation of a detailed secondary plan and an official plan amendment to direct growth and development. In such cases, residential development may take place at a density of 5 to 10 residential units per gross hectare (2 to 5 residential units per acre).
8. This Plan clearly identifies the boundaries of rural settlement areas, the smaller villages and the village of Pakenham. The limits of these areas established by this Plan are intended to be fixed limits for the life of this Plan. Proposals to expand the boundaries of these settlement areas shall only be considered through a comprehensive review, a site-specific amendment to this Plan and/or be incorporated as part of a Community Official Plan update associated with a Five-Year Review. Minor adjustments to the boundaries for the proper configuration of development and the road system or to provide land necessary for community amenities, such as parks, recreation facilities or schools and which do not involve the construction of new buildings outside of the identified boundary may be considered through an amendment to the Zoning By-law.

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9. The creation of new residential lots outside of identified settlement areas shall take place by consent to sever. Generally, non-farm rural residential lots shall be 1 ha (2.4 acres) in size. The number of lots created by consent per land holding shall be a maximum of two plus the remnant lot, except as otherwise provided for in this Plan. A holding is defined as either a parcel of land held in a conveyable ownership as of July 1, 1973 or an original township lot. Consents for a boundary adjustment, partial discharge of mortgage, easement or right-of-way shall not be considered toward the maximum consents per holding. Notwithstanding the above, consideration may be given to “cluster lot” development proposals in compliance with the policies contained in Section 3.3.7 of this Plan.
10. This Plan prohibits the creation of new rural residential subdivisions or rural settlement areas supported by private services.
11. The creation of new rural settlement areas supported by communal sewer and water services or full municipal services may be considered subject to a *comprehensive review*, the preparation of a detailed secondary plan and an official plan amendment. In such cases, residential development shall be subject to Section 4.2.5, Rural Settlement Areas and Villages Design. Such development may take place at a density of 5 to 10 residential units per gross hectare (2 to 5 residential units per acre).
12. The detailed servicing policies of the Plan are located in Section 4.8.3 Sewage Disposal and Water Supply.
13. Section 5.13 of this Plan sets out the policies for utilizing the *Development Charges Act*. This Act provides the authority for the Municipality to collect funds from new growth to offset the costs attributed to new growth. This provides the Municipality with the means to ensure that the capital cost of meeting growth related demands for municipal services does not place an excessive financial burden on the existing taxpayers.

3 LAND USE POLICIES

The following sections contain the goals, objectives and policies related to the various land use designations established by this Plan. The implementation of these policies should be carried out with consideration to the Basis of this Plan, the General Policy section and the Implementation section of this Plan.

3.1 ENVIRONMENT LAND USE POLICIES

Mississippi Mills is located within two watersheds. The majority of the area is within the Mississippi River watershed, and a small part is within the Madawaska River watershed.

Geographically, the Municipality is located at the interface between two ecozones, the Canadian Shield to the west and the much younger Paleozoic limestone plains to the east. In terms of ecoregions, Mississippi Mills is within Ecoregion 6E (roughly eastern half of Municipality) and Ecoregion 5E (roughly western half of Municipality). The 5E/6E ecoregion line traverses the Municipality not as a line on a map does, but rather as a gradient from one set of ecological conditions to another. This diversity of ecological conditions contributes to the unique natural heritage of Mississippi Mills, where bedrock geology plays a key role. An especially high biodiversity is found in the broad interface between the ecozones and ecoregions, due to many interspersed habitats (including wetlands, lakes, streams, grasslands, forests, granite barrens and alvars).

The protection of the environmental features, water resources and ecosystems within Mississippi Mills are of central importance to the long-term health and prosperity of the area. Our environment is made up of many diverse natural systems, maintained through a web of water resources and complex ecological processes. The challenge for environmental planning is to anticipate how these natural systems and water resources are affected by human activity and to act so that the integrity of the environment can be preserved under changing conditions.

Much of the unpolluted natural beauty of Mississippi Mills is the result of generations of responsible stewardship of the land. However, this Plan recognizes that most changes to the environment occur through small steps, each one having some negative impact on the environment. Over time, these small steps can have significant cumulative impacts that are undesirable.

This Plan contains policies which attempt to protect water resources, natural heritage features and other natural resources that may be impacted through site-specific development proposals. It also contains policies which recognize that we need to be proactive and better understand our ecosystems, so that we can more effectively assess cumulative impacts and overall ecological health. The natural heritage

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features and other natural resources to be protected include water resources, wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSI), wildlife habitat, habitats of endangered and threatened species, woodlands, fish habitat, air quality, and the night sky.

The following goals, objectives and policies apply to both rural and urban lands located within the various environmental land use designations and overlays.

3.1.1 Goal and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan that:

As the Municipality's long-term prosperity, environmental health, and social well-being depend on conserving biodiversity, it is important to protect its natural heritage, water, and agricultural resources. Thus, with the support of all residents, its natural landscapes, features and ecosystems shall be identified, and their diversity and connectivity should be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved, recognizing linkages between and among natural heritage features and areas, surface water features and ground water features. All objectives of this Plan shall attempt to satisfy this overarching environmental goal.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goal:

1. Support development which is environmentally sustainable, energy efficient and which conserves the natural features and characteristics of the land, lakes and rivers;
2. Establish an inventory of environmentally sensitive/significant areas to be protected (wetlands, ANSIs, water bodies, significant wooded areas, significant areas of wildlife habitat, fish habitat and endangered and threatened species habitat);
3. Require an environmental review for development proposed on lands within or adjacent to areas that have been identified as environmentally sensitive/significant;
4. Offer locally and provincially significant wetlands, on and off the Canadian Shield, the same high level of protection;
5. Establish an inventory of surface and groundwater resources to be protected, such as watercourses, wetlands, recharge and discharge areas, aquifers, headwaters and well heads;
6. Establish setbacks from the highwater mark of water resources which conserve the riparian zone in shoreline areas;
7. Direct development away from areas having inherent environmental

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hazards, such as flooding, erosion, steep slopes or other physical conditions which could endanger human life and property;

8. Require that identified sources of water, land and air pollution meet accepted treatment and/or emission standards;
9. Regulate the use of pesticides and herbicides for cosmetic purposes;
10. Establish Mississippi Mills as a “dark skies” community through the promotion of responsible lighting standards (reduce light pollution);
11. Establish clear policies for the alteration, replacement or expansion of existing uses which do not meet the environmental goals and actions of the Plan.
12. Identify a Natural Heritage System for the Municipality of Mississippi Mills that considers linkages at the regional and site level;
13. Recognize the need to protect natural heritage features and functions for the long-term at both a site and landscape level; and
14. Protect and enhance the quality of the environment and the long-term health of its component ecosystems by considering what practices are needed to ensure:
 - a. the long-term protection of individual natural features; and,
 - b. how individual natural features can best be linked for connectivity and interaction with each other to contribute to biodiversity such as by incorporating natural environment restoration, as appropriate, especially as it pertains to Linkages.

3.1.2 Natural Heritage System

A natural heritage system means a system made up of natural heritage features and areas, linked by natural corridors which are necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species and ecosystems. These systems can include lands that have been restored and areas with the potential to be restored to a natural state.

Within this diverse landscape, there are many “natural heritage features” including wetlands, woodlands, areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSI’s), fish habitat, water bodies, water streams, municipal drains, significant wildlife habitat, linkages, habitat of endangered and threatened species and ground water resources.

The diversity and connectivity of natural features in an area, and the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of natural heritage systems, should be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved, recognizing linkages between and among natural heritage features and areas, surface water features and ground water

features.

The Natural Heritage System is not a designation with a list of permitted uses. Rather, it functions as an overlay on top of the land use designations, subject to the Natural Heritage policies. The interconnected natural heritage features and areas creates Linkages intended to provide connectivity (at the regional or site level).

It is expected that the identification and planning for natural heritage systems will be achieved through a comprehensive approach consistent with the PPS definition for “natural heritage system”. Such approach will involve the inclusion of the fundamental components and characteristics as well as the inclusion of landscape and features-based analyses (e.g. diversity and connectivity; long-term ecological function and biodiversity; linkages with natural heritage and water features) outlined in section 3.4 of the Natural Heritage Reference Manual.

New development or site alteration in the Natural Heritage System (as permitted by the policies of this Plan) shall demonstrate that:

1. There will be no negative impacts on key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features or their functions;
2. Connectivity between key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features is maintained, or where possible, enhanced for the movement of native plants and animals across the landscape;
3. The municipality will encourage the creation of a linked Natural Heritage System through the integration of:
 - (i) Natural heritage features and areas as identified and described in this Section, including land owned by local municipalities, provincial and federal ministries, and land trusts;
 - (ii) Natural corridors such as streams, flood plains, steep slopes, valleys, contiguous woodlands and wetlands that connect two or more natural heritage features;
 - (iii) Existing municipal rights-of-ways;
 - (iv) Established and proposed service and utility corridors, where appropriate;
 - (v) Watercourses, where appropriate;
 - (vi) Linkages provided through the subdivision approval process;
 - (vii) Agreements with private lands owners; and
 - (viii) Land acquisition.

3.1.3 General Policies

Council acknowledges that its decisions regarding land use and development can affect the significant natural heritage features of Mississippi Mills. Therefore, policies are required to protect these features from the potential negative impacts of development or, in some cases, to conserve them by prohibiting development. The following general policies shall apply:

1. Council shall designate on the Land Use Schedules those features where

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development is prohibited. These include provincially significant wetlands which are shown as Provincially Significant Wetlands Policy Area, locally significant wetlands and other wetlands which may be identified in the future through an Official Plan amendment. The habitat of endangered or threatened species will not be identified on the Land Use Schedules as publicly identifying these features may prove to be harmful.

2. Council shall identify areas where development must be controlled. These include Areas of Natural or Scientific Interest (ANSI's), fish habitat, significant woodlands, significant wildlife habitat, major waterways and ground water resources.
3. Council shall consider minor alterations to the boundaries of natural heritage features without the need to amend the Official Plan where evidence consistent with Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry criteria clearly demonstrates that such modifications are justified. Boundary alterations to provincially significant wetlands and Areas of Natural or Scientific Interest (ANSI's) are subject to the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.
4. Council shall work collaboratively with rural landowners who wish to build or construct buildings or structures adjacent to natural heritage features that are incidental, accessory or essential to a permitted land use to avoid unnecessary delay and minimize costs.
5. Council shall consider the public acquisition of natural heritage lands by the municipality or in partnership with other levels of government where such acquisition or conditional leases would lead to the preservation of significant natural heritage areas or contribute to the consolidation of significant features which are partially in public ownership.
6. Development control shall be implemented primarily through the use of zoning and Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Development Agreement or similar agreement and accordance with the relevant sections of this Official Plan.
7. Where two or more natural heritage features overlap, the policies that provide the most protection shall apply (i.e. wildlife habitat and provincially significant wetlands).
8. Generally, the Municipality will not support the extension of the public road system within a natural heritage feature. Minor extensions, including private roads, will only be entertained when supported by an EIS that demonstrates that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions.
9. Nothing in these policies is intended to limit the ability of agricultural uses to continue.

3.1.4 Environmental and Natural Heritage Features

This Plan identifies certain environmental and natural heritage features by means of land use designations (i.e. provincial and locally significant wetlands and waterways). Other features and areas are identified by means of symbols or overlays, specifically ANSIs and significant wildlife habitat (including deer yards). Others, such as forestry resources, fish habitat and significant habitat of endangered or threatened species are addressed through policy only.

A number of other natural environment and heritage features has yet to be assessed. The Municipality shall work together with other agencies and groups to identify the features and areas. As information becomes available, Council shall undertake the appropriate Amendments to this Plan to address these matters. Council may, with the co-operation of appropriate agencies and/or the Environmental Advisory Committee carryout public education on the environmental land use policies of this Plan.

3.1.4.1 *Provincially and Locally Significant Wetlands*

Wetlands are lands where the presence of water has caused the formation of hydric soils and hydrophilic or water-tolerant plants to predominate. They are essential components of the Natural Heritage System that contribute to the high quality of the natural environment in Mississippi Mills. The four major types of wetlands are swamps, marshes, bogs and fens. Wetlands play an important role in maintaining the ecological health of the Natural Heritage System and the Municipality as a whole, including moderating the flow of water, contributing to groundwater recharge, improving water and air quality, storing carbon, and providing habitat for a broad range of species.

Using the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES), Wetlands are evaluated by MNRF or other accredited professionals. They may be identified as Provincially Significant, evaluated, and unevaluated. The PPS sets out minimum policies which municipalities are required to adopt for wetland protection.

If at any time during the duration of this Plan, additional provincially significant wetlands or other wetlands are identified by the MNRF or a qualified person, the Policies of this Plan related to wetlands shall apply and the appropriate schedules shall be updated to reflect the new wetlands through an Official Plan Amendment.

The Municipality endorses and encourages the principles of sustainable land stewardship of wetlands. Information on the presence of wetlands on a property may be obtained from the Municipality or MVCA. Tax incentives are available through the MNRF, when it is demonstrated that proper land stewardship is being carried out on lands that are identified as provincially significant wetlands.

3.1.4.1.1 *General Policies*

The policies governing development in and around lands designated as

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provincially significant wetlands or locally significant wetlands are as follows:

1. The boundaries of provincially significant and locally significant wetlands shall be derived from mapping provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). Where the actual location of the boundary line on the ground is uncertain, the Municipality shall consult the MNR in making such a determination.
2. No development or site alteration shall be permitted within provincially significant or locally significant wetlands, with the exception of sustainable forestry, conservation, wildlife management, passive outdoor recreation and educational activities. This Plan encourages the owners of identified wetlands to retain these lands in their natural state.
3. Development within 120 m of provincially significant wetlands or 50 m of a locally significant wetlands may take place in accordance with the land use designation shown on land use Schedules to this Plan only when it has been demonstrated through an Environmental Impact Study that there shall be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions of these wetlands. This is not a setback requirement, but rather a requirement for a review of development proposals within the relevant adjacent lands.
4. Notwithstanding the above policy #3, development shall not be permitted within a 30 metre setback from the highwater mark associated with a water resource. Decreases to the 30 metre setback from the highwater mark shall only take place through a Planning Act approval and shall require an Environmental Impact Study. Decreases shall only be considered for existing lots of record when there is no other practical alternative for development of the land.
5. Notwithstanding the above policy #3, the Zoning By-law may contain regulations which allow for minor expansions or alterations to existing buildings or structures or the construction of accessory buildings or structures within the adjacent lands without an Environmental Impact Study. The regulations in the zoning by-law would relate to maintaining a minimum 30 m setback from the wetland, identification of a building envelope, sedimentation control, stormwater management, maintaining an adequate natural vegetative buffer and tree retention between the development and the wetland.
6. All development within 120 m of provincially significant wetlands or 50 m of a locally significant wetland shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.
7. If a proposal for development is made in a wetland which has not been evaluated as provincially or locally significant, Council may require an

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Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to demonstrate that there shall be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions of these wetlands.

8. Notwithstanding the above policies, established agricultural uses, existing at the date of the adoption of this Plan, are permitted to continue within and adjacent to provincially and locally significant wetlands. New or expanded agricultural structures or the clearing or draining of lands within the limits of wetlands are prohibited.
9. This Plan discourages the destruction of beaver dams where such destruction would significantly alter established local water levels.
10. As additional wetlands are evaluated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), the Council shall incorporate the new wetlands into this Plan through an Official Plan Amendment.
11. The Municipality endorses and encourages the principles of sustainable land stewardship of wetlands. Tax incentives are available through the MNRF when it is demonstrated that proper land stewardship is being carried out on lands that are identified as provincially significant wetlands.
12. For a wetland that is unevaluated but has characteristics or contains components that may be typical of a significant wetland (e.g. significant species or functions) the approval authority may require that a wetland evaluation is undertaken using the guidelines outlined in the “Natural Heritage Reference Manual for Natural Heritage Policies of the Provincial Policy Statement” (MNRF, 2010). The MVCA regulates Provincially Significant Wetlands as well as other wetlands that meet certain criteria. MVCA should be contacted prior to conducting any work in or around any wetland in order to assess if permission required from the MVCA.

3.1.4.1.2 Special Policy Area – Unevaluated Wetland

- i. Lands designated as “Special Policy Area - Unevaluated Wetlands, the unevaluated wetland is required to be assessed through an appropriate study / studies and shall be reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities, (i.e. Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority), prior to any consideration for any development. The Special Policy Area - Unevaluated Wetland will only be considered for development through an amendment to the Official Plan when it has been demonstrated through an Environmental Impact Study that there shall be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions of these unevaluated wetlands. The setback from the unevaluated wetland boundary shall be a minimum of 30 metres.

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3.1.4.2 *Endangered or Threatened Species Habitat*

Endangered and threatened species can encompass any of the many types of living things: birds, mammals, plants, fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. The existing habitat sites of any endangered or threatened species in the municipality are not identified in this Plan in order to protect endangered or threatened flora or fauna.

It is important to protect the habitat of endangered and threatened species found within the municipality. The municipality will work with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to develop a mutually acceptable protocol for sharing available endangered and threatened species habitat information. Where this information indicates there is a potential for the habitat of endangered and / or threatened species to be present, any development proposal shall be accompanied by an Ecological Site Assessment to confirm the presence and extent of the habitat.

Where endangered or threatened species habitat have been identified, the following policies shall apply:

1. Development and/or site alteration is prohibited in habitat of endangered or threatened species.
2. Approval authorities shall, subject to federal or provincial legislation, refuse development applications where the development review process, which can include an Ecological Site Assessment, confirms the existence of habitat of endangered or threatened species.
3. Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 2 above, development and site alteration may be permitted on lands within 120 metres of the habitat of endangered or threatened species provided it has been demonstrated through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or the ecological functions for which the area is identified.

3.1.4.3 **Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)**

Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) play an important role in the protection of Ontario's natural heritage, since they best represent the full spectrum of biological communities, natural landforms and environments across Ontario outside of provincial parks and conservation reserves. An **ANSI** contains important natural landscapes or features that have been identified and evaluated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry based on five (rated) selection criteria including:

- Representation – the representation of landform-natural features;
- Condition – existing and past land uses, which are used to assess the degree of human-induced disturbances (and the potential for restoration);
- Diversity – the number of assessed high-quality, representative features that exist within a site;

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- Other ecological considerations – ecological and hydrological functions, connectivity, size, shape, proximity to other important areas, and so on;
- Special features – for example, populations of species at risk, special habitats, unusual geological or life science features, and educational or scientific value.

3.1.4.3.1 General Policies

The policies governing development in and around lands identified as ANSIs on Appendix A are as follows:

1. Within the area identified as ANSI, existing development shall be permitted. The establishment of single dwellings on existing lots of record shall be permitted, subject to all of the relevant policies of this Plan. Development (subdivisions, site plan, zoning amendments, minor variances, consents) may take place in accordance with the land use designation shown on the Schedules to this Plan only when it has been demonstrated through an Environmental Impact Study that there shall be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions of the ANSI.
2. Development (subdivisions, site plan, zoning amendments, minor variances, consents) within 120 metres of a life science ANSI and within 50 metres of an earth science ANSI, may take place in accordance with the land use designation shown on the Schedules to this Plan only when it has been demonstrated through an Environmental Impact Study that there shall be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions of the ANSI. This is not a setback requirement, but rather a requirement for a review of development proposals within the adjacent lands.
3. Notwithstanding the above, existing agricultural uses are permitted to continue within and adjacent to ANSIs.
4. As additional ANSIs are evaluated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Council shall incorporate the new ANSIs into this Plan through an Official Plan Amendment.
5. The Municipality endorses and encourages the principles of sustainable land stewardship of ANSI resources. Tax incentives are available through the MNRF when it is demonstrated that proper land stewardship is being carried out on lands which are identified as ANSIs.

3.1.4.4 Significant Woodlands and Vegetation Cover

The forests (*woodlands*) of Lanark County are typical of the Great Lakes-St Lawrence Forest Region, which is characterized by pine, hemlock, and yellow birch. Sugar and red maple, beech, red oak, basswood, white elm is also found, as are typical boreal species including white spruce, balsam fir, and white birch. The unique location of the Municipality at the interface of the pre-Cambrian Shield to the west and the Paleozoic limestone plains to the east provides for increased biodiversity in tree species.

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Southern species present include white oak, bitternut hickory, butternut, and white cedar. Several tree species are at their northern range (bur oak, shagbark hickory), and some are threatened by disease or insects (elm, butternut, beech, ash).

Woodlands include treed areas, woodlots, or forested areas and vary in their level of importance. *Woodlands* provide environmental and economic *benefits* to both the private landowner and the general public, such as flood and erosion prevention, hydrological and nutrient cycling, clean air and the long-term storage of carbon (carbon sink). They can provide a *sustainable* harvest of a wide range of wood products along with providing *wildlife habitat*, outdoor recreational possibilities and tourism opportunities. Mississippi Mills is home to high quality hard maple *woodlands* that support a significant maple syrup industry.

Forestry is sustainable when it maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living organisms, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations. Property owners have the right to harvest forest resources on their lands and are encouraged to practice *sustainable* forest management, as described in the Eastern Ontario Model Forest Code of Forestry Practice. They may also seek professional advice from Conservation Authorities or join Woodlot or Forest Owner Associations. Within the Municipality, Forestry is guided by the County of Lanark Forest Conservation Bylaw.

To mitigate potential impacts due to site alteration and tree cutting in lands identified as containing significant woodlands, Council may adopt appropriate by-laws to prohibit or regulate the placing, dumping, removal or regrading of topsoil or fill, and the destruction or injuring of trees.

This Plan recognizes that the retention or restoration of a native vegetation buffer adjacent to surface water features, on sites subject to development and along roadways contributes to the overall environmental health of the area. This helps lessen the environmental impact of development and improves the visual appeal of newly developed areas.

Property owners are eligible for the province's Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) and the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP), which are voluntary programs that lower property taxes for participating landowners. MFTIP requires a Forest Management Plan approved by MNRF and offers a 75% tax reduction. CLTIP offers tax exemption to landowners who agree to protect the Natural Heritage features on their land identified by MNRF. Activities that would degrade, destroy, or result in the loss of natural values of the site may not be carried out.

The boundaries of the significant woodlands were identified using digital data provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – this digital data has not been ground checked. Accordingly, there may be areas identified as significant woodlands that may not actually be so, as well as areas which may be significant woodlands that have not been mapped. In this regard, site assessments will be an

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important part of environmental impact studies to verify actual site conditions.

3.1.4.4.1 General Policies

The policies governing development and forestry resources are as follows:

1. The establishment of single dwellings on existing lots of record shall be permitted, subject to all other relevant policies of this Plan.
2. Development and site alteration within significant woodlands may take place in accordance with the underlying land use designation only when it has been demonstrated through an Environmental Impact Study that there shall be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions of the woodland.
3. Development and site alteration within 120 m of a significant woodland, may take place in accordance with the land use designation shown on the Schedules to this Plan only when it has been demonstrated through an Environmental Impact Study that there shall be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions of the woodland. This is not a setback requirement, but rather a requirement for a review of development proposals within the 120 metres adjacent lands.
4. Agricultural forestry activities such as maple syrup production and the harvesting of trees in accordance with accepted forestry practices, the use of properties as recreation hunt camps, the establishment of new recreational trails for non-motorized and motorized vehicles on existing roads or logging trails are considered as appropriate activities in woodlots and therefore are permitted without an environmental impact study. Such activities are to be carried out in an environmentally sensitive manner so as to preserve the overall woodlot function.
5. This Plan shall require the retention and/or establishment of mature tree cover and native shrubs and vegetative cover on lands within 15 metres (49 feet) of a highwater mark of a water resource in order to protect the riparian and littoral zones and associated habitat, prevent erosion, siltation and nutrient migration, maintain shoreline character and appearance, and minimize the visual impact of development. Notwithstanding the 15 metre vegetative buffer, a water access area of a maximum of 9 metres in width may be permitted provided the natural shoreline is disturbed as little as possible and the balance of the waterfront outside of the access area is maintained in a natural state. Within the natural vegetative buffer, the pruning of trees for viewing purposes or the removal of trees for safety reasons may be permitted provided the intent of the policy is maintained. All other policies and approvals for work near water resources shall apply.
6. In rural areas, retaining existing natural vegetation along public roads shall be encouraged. Developers shall be encouraged to remove as little vegetation as

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possible when establishing roads, building sites and servicing facilities. Specific provisions relating to protection of vegetation may be incorporated into site plan agreements. The retention of natural vegetation is not meant to include noxious weeds.

7. In urban areas, selective protection of significant trees or shrubs shall be promoted. Provisions relating to protection of vegetation may be incorporated into subdivision or site plan agreements.
8. The Municipality shall ensure that trees along municipal road allowances and on other municipal property are preserved while allowing appropriate maintenance and the removal of trees which may constitute safety hazard. Any private removal of trees on municipal property shall require the approval of Council.
9. Applications for subdivisions, official plan and zoning by-law amendments, minor variances or Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, shall be supported by a Landscaping Plan. Such a plan shall:
 - i. retain as much natural vegetation as possible, especially along watercourses, on steep slopes, in valued woodlots, in areas linking green spaces and along roadways;
 - ii. determine which stands of trees or individual trees warrant retention based on a preliminary assessment;
 - iii. outline measures for the protection of those trees or stands of trees being retained during construction;
 - iv. describe the area and nature of tree loss and compensation measures proposed. Such compensation measures may include off-site plantings;
 - v. indicate tree planting or vegetative cover required to provide protection for stream courses or steep slopes;
 - vi. investigate the use of native species in tree planting strategies
 - vii. provide guidelines for property owners on the importance and care of trees on their property;
 - viii. consider the impact on the environment during and after construction and propose mitigation measures where there is substantial alteration of the existing tree cover on the site.
10. Natural features/functions may be protected and enhanced by incorporating them into public open spaces and recreational pathways.

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3.1.4.5 Fish Habitat

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills is fortunate to have an abundance of lakes, rivers and creeks located within the municipal boundaries. These bodies of water include the Mississippi River, Indian River, White Lake, Lake Madawaska, Mississippi Lake, Indian Creek and Stanley Creek, along with many smaller rivers, streams and small inland lake systems. While these features create an important recreation asset for the Municipality, they also have established an important and diverse aquatic environment that supports local *fish habitat*. *Fish habitat* forms an important component of the *Natural Heritage System* for the Municipality.

Fish habitat, as defined by the *Fisheries Act*, means the spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas on which *fish* depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life process. The aquatic ecosystem is most often described as *fish habitat* since *fish* communities are important resources, and as such, have a long history of being used as indicators of aquatic ecosystem health. Aquatic habitat is an integral part of the watershed's ecosystem as it provides feeding, breeding and rearing areas for resident and migratory *fish* as well as invertebrate species. Opportunities to restore permanent and *intermittent stream* and *fish habitat* shall be encouraged and supported.

Lakes, rivers, and all other natural watercourses in the Municipality are potential fish habitat. The policies governing fish habitat protection are as follows:

1. The harmful alteration, disturbance or destruction of fish habitat without the authorization of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, or their delegate, is prohibited under Section 35 of the Fisheries Act. Applicants should consult with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, or their delegate, to determine if approval is required.
2. Development and site alteration shall not result in a net loss of fish habitat, result in harmful alteration, disruption, degradation or destruction of fish habitat or restrict fish passage.
3. Development and site alteration shall be setback a minimum of 30 metres from fish habitat. Decreases to the 30 metre setback shall only take place where it has been demonstrated through an Environmental Impact Study that there shall be no net negative impact on the fish habitat. Near-shore or in- water development, such as docks, water access points and swimming areas shall be carefully assessed through the appropriate review process. Decreases to the 30 metre setback from fish habitat shall only take place through a Planning Act approval. Decreases shall only be considered when there is no other practical alternative for development of the land.
4. Development or site alteration within 30 m of fish habitat shall provide for a net environmental gain of the productive fishery capacity of the area.

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3.1.4.6 *Wildlife Habitat*

Protection of *Significant Wildlife Habitat* contributes to the overall environmental goal of this Plan. Some wildlife species (flora and fauna) require a variety of interconnected habitats that offer food, shelter, habitat, diversity, water and sufficient interior forest, to sustain their populations. Some of these wildlife species provide socio-economic benefits to the area such as nature observation, hunting and trapping. This includes areas, such as raptor nesting sites, heronries, deeryards and *Significant Wildlife Habitat* for species identified as species of Conservation Concern under Federal and Provincial species at risk legislation. A number of such species or species communities have evolved throughout the Municipality, specifically in areas of Provincial importance, such as the Burnt Lands Alvar or the Panmure Alvar. Criteria for identifying these and other forms of SWH are provided by MNRF guidance documents.

The policies governing significant wildlife habitat protection are as follows:

1. Development in areas of significant wildlife habitat or within 120 metres of significant wildlife habitat shall be permitted only where an Environmental Impact Study has demonstrated that there shall be no negative impact on the habitat or its ecological function. In certain circumstances, the adjacent lands may need to be expanded depending on the habitat identified, as supported by an Environmental Impact Study.

3.1.4.7 *Significant Valleylands*

There are no significant valleylands identified within the Municipality at the time of approval of this Plan. Appendix A1 Natural Features will be amended as an update when significant valleyland information becomes available. The following policies will apply to significant valleylands once these areas have been identified:

1. Development or site alteration shall not be permitted in significant valleylands unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on natural features.
2. Development and site alteration may only be permitted within 120 metres of a significant valleyland, if an impact assessment demonstrates that there will be no negative impact on the natural features or ecological function of that valleyland."

3.1.5 **Environmental Impact Study**

Where a development proposal could affect certain natural heritage features or land adjacent to such features and areas, an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) shall be conducted to determine whether or not the development shall have negative effects

on the natural heritage features or areas. An EIS shall be prepared to support planning applications, such as official plan amendments, zoning by-law amendments, minor variances, plans of subdivision, consents and Site Plan Control, in accordance

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with the Planning Act.

An EIS shall be submitted to the Municipality and/or approval authority by the proponent of the development or site alteration prior to any decision on a development application being made (e.g. official plan amendment, zoning by-law amendment, Site Plan Control in accordance with the Planning Act, subdivision, consent). Based on the nature, type and intensity of the development proposed, Council, in consultation with the appropriate authorities, shall determine whether the EIS is to be a check list, scoped or full assessment. The EIS shall be prepared by a qualified individual.

Scoped EIS

The Municipality may consider reducing an EIS to a scoped study if the proposal is:

- minor in nature;
- consistent and not contradictory to the policies of the Community Official Plan; and
- located in an area where previous studies are sufficient to provide the necessary technical information to assess a proposal.

If the scoped study indicates potential impacts to a natural heritage feature or area that warrants a more complete review, a full EIS shall be prepared.

The policies governing Environmental Impact Studies are as follows:

1. The Municipality, in conjunction with the MVCA, shall establish a check list EIS form. Where it is determined that a checklist EIS is not adequate to assess the potential negative effects on the natural heritage feature or areas, a scoped or full EIS, prepared by a qualified individual (i.e. environmental consultant, biologist) shall be required.
2. The Municipality may use various tools available (e.g. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, site specific zoning, registration of agreements on title, etc.) to ensure that the development or site alteration occurs in accordance with the recommendations of the EIS.
3. Should the EIS determine that there are no feasible options to prevent negative impacts on the natural features or area from the proposed development, development or site alteration shall be not be permitted.
4. Development proposals shall be required to identify enhancement and remediation measures which shall result in a net environmental gain. This may take place through such measures as remediation of degraded ecosystems, re-naturalization of stream corridors, the creation of wildlife linkages and ecological buffer strips comprised of native plant and tree species as detailed in an Environmental Impact Assessment.

3.1.6 Environmental Hazards and Constraints

Environmental Hazards and Constraints are defined as either naturally occurring or man-made characteristics which may adversely affect people and property. Development in such areas may also be harmful to the natural environment. Such constraints may render an area unsuitable for development and/or may require specific studies and mitigative measures to overcome the identified constraint.

Accordingly, this Plan shall carefully regulate land uses in and around areas identified as having an environmental constraint.

Environmental hazards and constraints include:

- Lands prone to flooding
- Organic soils
- Leda clay soils
- Lands with steep slopes and ravines
- Sites of potential human made contamination

Efforts have been made through this Plan to identify lands subject to potential environmental hazards and constraints. New information or detailed site examination may result in additional lands being identified as having environmental hazards and constraints. If such hazards and constraint lands are identified through a comprehensive program, Council shall incorporate the identified new lands into this Plan through an Official Plan Amendment. In cases where hazards and constraints are identified on a site-specific basis, only an amendment to the Zoning By-law shall be required to identify the land.

3.1.6.1 Flood Plain Policies

The majority of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills is located within the Mississippi River watershed. This watershed is under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA). There is a small portion of the Municipality located in the northern portion of Pakenham Ward which is within the Madawaska watershed and under the jurisdiction of the MNRF.

MVCA has completed engineered flood plain mapping for Mississippi and Clayton Lakes, sections of the Mississippi River, Indian River and Cody Creek.

Lands which have been identified as flood plain are also subject to the Ontario Regulation 153/06 – “Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses” administered by MVCA. A permit is required from MVCA for any new development including construction or reconstruction; a change in size to a building or the number of dwelling units; and site grading including the placing, dumping or removal of fill, within the flood plain.

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3.1.6.1.1 Mapping & Boundaries of Flood Plain

1. Where mapping is available, lands which have been identified as flood plain have been placed in the "Flood Plain" designation on the Land Use Schedules. Detailed flood plain mapping shall be obtained from MVCA. The Zoning By-law shall also identify lands deemed flood plain.
2. Where flood plain mapping is not available, the extent of the flood plain shall be determined on a site-by-site basis.
3. The proponents of development may be required to complete flood plain mapping to the satisfaction of the Municipality and MVCA, prior to development taking place.
4. This Plan shall encourage the undertaking of a program, in conjunction with MVCA, to identify and map all lands within the Municipality which are susceptible to flooding.
5. As new or revised flood plain mapping is made available by MVCA or as the boundaries change as a result of site-specific assessments associated with development proposals, no amendment to this Plan will be required to update the Land Use Schedule. An amendment to the Zoning By-law shall be required in order to incorporate the revised flood plain mapping into the Zoning Schedule.

3.1.6.1.2 Permitted and Prohibited Uses

1. No development shall be permitted within the flood plain except for flood or erosion control structures, shoreline stabilization, water intake facilities and marine facilities, such as docks.
2. Uses, such as agriculture, forestry, conservation, wildlife management, outdoor recreation uses, and similar activities shall be permitted provided no buildings or structures are located within the flood plain.
3. Facilities, which by their nature must locate near water or traverse watercourses, such as roads, bridges, railways and other public services having an approved hydraulic design acceptable to MVCA shall be permitted.
4. No use, building or structure which involves the storage of hazardous or toxic materials shall be permitted within the flood plain.
5. New development associated with institutional uses, such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, daycare centres, residential care facilities or similar uses and residential buildings, where there would be a threat to the safety of inhabitants or occupants in the event of flooding or emergency evacuation shall not be permitted to locate within the flood plain.
6. Portable structures including mobile homes shall not be permitted to locate within the flood plain.

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7. New development associated with essential or protective services, such as police, fire, ambulance, or major electrical substations shall not be permitted to locate within the flood plain. Notwithstanding this policy, dry- hydrants associated with fire protection may be permitted in the flood plain subject to approval from MVCA.
8. Septic systems shall generally be prohibited within the floodplain. They may only be permitted within the flood plain for existing development located within the flood plain and where it is demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Municipality and MVCA, that such system cannot be located outside of the flood plain.

3.1.6.1.3 General Policies

1. Development shall be located outside of the flood plain or 30 metres from the highwater mark, whichever is greater. Provisions for restricting development within flood plains will be included in the implementing zoning by-law.
2. Where development is by plans of subdivision or by consent involving lands abutting waterfront in urban areas, the creation of lots which extend into the flood plain lands shall be discouraged. The Municipality may consider the protection of waterfront lands through conservation easements, public land trusts or other means deemed appropriate on a site by site basis.
3. Where the creation of new lots includes lands within the flood plain, the calculation of the minimum lot size required by this Plan shall not include such flood plain lands.
4. The creation of new lots which are deemed inaccessible due to flooding hazards is prohibited (i.e., the access road does not meet safe access standards).

3.1.6.1.4 Existing Development within the Flood Plain

1. Minor expansions or alterations to existing buildings or structures within the flood plain may be permitted where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Municipality and MVCA that:
 - No adverse effects on the hydraulic characteristics of flood plains shall occur;
 - No new dwelling units are created;
 - MVCA floodproofing requirements can be met, and a permit is obtained from MVCA; and,
 - The proposal meets all other relevant policies of this Plan including setbacks and natural vegetative buffer.
2. Where minor expansions or alterations to existing buildings or structures within the flood plain are deemed appropriate, such development shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.

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3. Any building located in the flood plain that has been destroyed by fire or other causes beyond the owner's control may be rebuilt to the same size. At minimum, the replacement building must be designed so that it is not more vulnerable to flooding than the original building; however, full floodproofing measures shall be encouraged. Proposals to reconstruct to a larger size will be subject to the appropriate MVCA Regulation Policies.
4. If access does not meet safe access standards, expansions or alterations to existing buildings or structures shall be limited to minor increases as defined by MVCA's Regulation Policies.
5. Existing lots of record which do not have an appropriate building envelope outside of the flood plain shall not be developed if such development involves significant encroachment into the flood plain.
6. All development within the flood plain shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.
7. All development within the flood plain shall be subject to MVCA permission, pursuant to Ontario Regulation 153/06 – "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses".

3.1.6.1.5 Mississippi Lake Two Zone Flood Plain Policies

1. For the Mississippi Lake flood plain, two zone flood plain policies have been developed. Lands within the flood plain in the Two Zone Policy Area shall be divided into the Floodway and Flood Fringe zones defined as follows:

Floodway: Lands lying below the 135 m elevation - the hazardous portion of the flood plain where flood depths and/or velocities are considered to be such that they pose a significant threat to life and/or property. The floodway is that area of the flood plain required for the safe passage of flood flows. In all circumstances the floodway shall be defined and approved by MVCA based on depth or a combination of depth and velocity parameters.

Flood Fringe: Lands lying between the 135 m elevation and 135.73 m elevation - the portion of the flood plain between the limits of the floodway as established by MVCA and the regulatory flood line establishing the limits of the flood plain. Flood depth and velocity is generally less severe in this portion of the flood plain.

2. The use of the Two Zone Flood Plain concept may allow for some development within the flood fringe areas of the flood plain that can be safely developed. Development in the flood fringe shall be restricted to development on existing lots of records, redevelopment, replacement and additions or alterations of existing buildings and structures. Such development shall be regulated through the Zoning By-law and MVCA's Ontario Regulation 153/06 – "Development,

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Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses”.

3. Development within the Floodway shall be limited to minor additions to existing uses.
4. The creation of new lots all or partially within the floodway or the flood fringe shall only be permitted if a building envelope, and safe access thereto, exists outside of these hazards.
5. All development within the Two Zone Flood Plan shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.

Prior to development taking place within the flood fringe or floodway, or within the Regulation Limit of these hazards, a permit shall be obtained from MVCA pursuant to Ontario Regulation 153/06 – “Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses”.

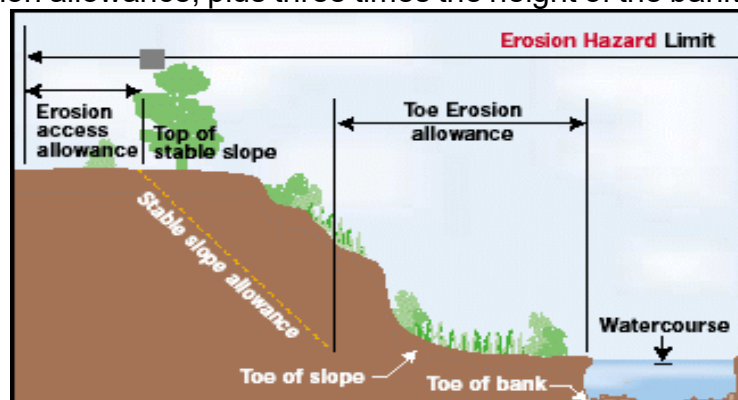
3.1.6.2 Erosion Hazards and Slopes

Erosion hazards and slopes are classified as:

- Steep Slopes adjacent to a Watercourse which are actively eroding, or which may be subject to erosion by water or ice during flooding runoff events.
- Unstable Soils which are comprised of specific types of soil which, if developed upon, may be prone to instability and slope failure. In Mississippi Mills there are two types of unstable soils: sensitive marine clays (Leda Clay) and organic soils.

3.1.6.2.1 Erosion Hazard Limits

1. The Erosion Hazard Limit associated with a watercourse bank is based on three components: a toe erosion allowance, a stable slope allowance and an erosion access allowance. Generally, the erosion hazard limit is defined as a distance, measured horizontally from the toe of the bank that is equal to the toe erosion allowance, plus three times the height of the bank, plus six metres.



The toe erosion allowance is the setback that ensures safety if the toe of the slope

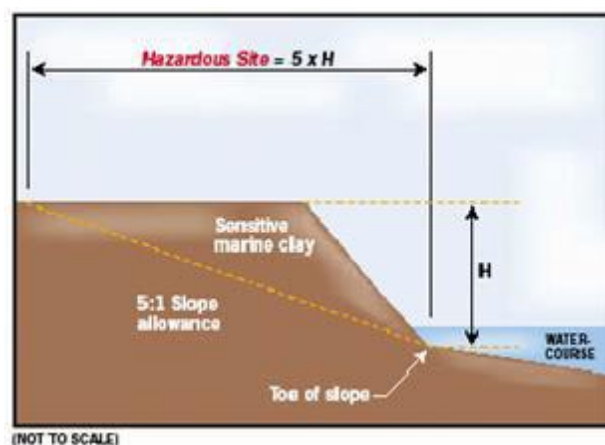
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adjacent to the watercourse erodes and weakens the bank, thereby increasing the risk of slope failure.

The stable slope allowance is the setback required for the slope to reach a long-term stable position that resists further slope failure. The stable slope allowance is generally defined as a horizontal setback measured from the toe of the bank, bluff or slope, equivalent to 3.0 times the height of the bank, bluff or slope.

The erosion access allowance is the setback that ensures sufficient space for equipment to access the slope side of a building or structure in the event of a slope failure. The erosion access allowance is generally a distance of 6 metres measured horizontally from the stable slope allowance.

1. Where detailed geotechnical engineering information is available or has been provided by a developer, the erosion hazard limit shall be defined based on the findings of the engineering recommendations.
2. The hazard limit for areas containing organic soils, including muck, marsh and peat type soils, is equivalent to the limit of the organic soils.
3. The erosion hazard limit for areas containing or suspected of containing sensitive marine clays (Leda Clay) and where there is no evidence of slope failure, is calculated as the horizontal allowance of five times the height of slope, measured landward from the toe of slope.
 - i. Where there is evidence of slope failure in areas containing sensitive marine clays (Leda Clay) a geotechnical slope evaluation by a qualified engineer shall be required to determine the extent of the erosion hazard limit.
 - ii. An erosion access allowance of 6 m may also be applied, measured horizontally from the stable slope allowance.



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3.1.6.2.2 General Policies

1. Development and/or land uses that may be susceptible to damage from erosion or may cause or aggravate bank erosion or slope failure will be prohibited within the erosion hazard limit.
2. A developer may be required to produce an engineer's geotechnical slope evaluation, at his expense, for any new development proposed in the vicinity of erosion hazards and slopes.
3. Development on existing lots of record containing erosion hazards and slopes shall be subject to the following:
 - i. Where possible, the development shall be placed outside of the erosion hazard limits; and,
 - ii. Where there is insufficient area to place the development outside of the erosion hazard limits, development shall only proceed where an assessment, approved by the MVCA, prepared by a qualified geotechnical engineer determines the property can be safely developed. A geotechnical evaluation must contain erosion control measures associated with all structural, landscaping and surface drainage components of the development of the property.
4. Additions to existing buildings and structures within the erosion hazard limit shall be generally discouraged. Additions shall only be considered when:
 - i. the addition is supported by a geotechnical evaluation, approved by the MVCA; as deemed appropriate by MVCA Regulation Policies, minor additions may be permitted without the requirement for a geotechnical evaluation;
 - ii. the addition does not extend further into the erosion hazard limit than the existing structure; and,
 - iii. the addition incorporates all identified erosion control measures associated with all structural, landscaping and surface drainage components of the development of the property.
5. The Zoning By-law shall contain specific erosion hazard and slope setbacks.
6. Where development on existing lots of record or additions to existing buildings and structures on erosion hazards and slopes is deemed appropriate such development shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Development Agreement or similar agreement.
7. This Plan encourages the undertaking of a program, in conjunction with MVCA to identify and map lands within the Municipality which represent a hazard to

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development due to soils or topography.

8. It is the direction of the province for slopes that are potentially unstable, the slope must be determined to be stable in its existing state, rather than engineered to support the development.
9. Where detailed mapping exists and MVCA regulations apply, written permission is required from MVCA prior to any grade alteration or development.
10. In areas of concern where mapping does not exist and the MVCA regulation does not apply, MVCA may make recommendations to the municipality to assess if development can proceed in safe manner.

3.1.6.3 Contaminated Sites

Potentially contaminated sites include lands where contaminants may be present due to previous industrial, transportation, utility, or other uses. Sources of site contamination can include disposal of waste materials, raw material storage, residues left in containers, maintenance activities and spills. Some commercial uses, such as gasoline stations and automotive repair garages, have a similar potential.

It is the intent of this Plan to ensure that proper decommissioning and clean-up of contaminated sites takes place prior to their development or re-use.

The policies governing contaminated sites are as follows:

1. The Municipality shall attempt to create and maintain an inventory of sites within the municipality where existing and/or past use may have contributed to the presence of contaminants.
2. In order to ensure that there will be no adverse effects from any proposed development or redevelopment, environmental site assessments and remediation of contaminated sites are required by this Plan prior to any activity or development occurring on the site that is known or suspected to be contaminated. The Municipality will require the proponent of development of such sites to determine the nature and extent of contamination and the necessary remediation measures in accordance with the policies below.
3. The Municipality will require all applications for development in areas known or suspected of former land use activities that may lead to soil contamination be supported by a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment(ESA).
4. Where a Phase I ESA reveals that a site may be contaminated, a Phase II ESA will be required. A Phase I or II ESA is an assessment of property conducted in accordance with Part XV.I of the Environmental Protection Act of Ontario Regulation 153/04, or their successors by or under the supervision of a qualified person to determine the location and concentration of one or more contaminants on the site proposed for development.

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5. Prior to a development being approved on a site where information reveals that the site may be or is contaminated, the applicant will provide a Record of Site Condition in accordance with Part XV.I of the Environmental Protection Act and Ontario Regulation 153/04 or their successors. The Record of Site Condition, which details requirements related to site assessment and cleanup, must be uploaded to the Electronic Brownfields Registry, confirming that the site has been made suitable for the proposed use. The Record of Site Condition and MOECP acknowledgment will be provided to the Municipality. If a Certificate of Property Use (CPU) is required, it must be registered on title.
6. If contamination has spread beyond the affected property, the Municipality shall require that an “Off-Site Management Plan” and “Remedial Action Plan” be implemented.
7. Where a gasoline station site is being redeveloped and there is no change in use to a more sensitive use, the Municipality shall require a letter of continued use from the Technical Standards and Safety Authority.
8. All contaminated sites shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Development Agreement or similar agreement, as a measure to manage site decommissioning and remediation.
9. Sites known to be contaminated may be placed in a holding category in the Zoning By-law to ensure that they are properly decommissioned prior to development. The holding symbol may be removed when the site is decommissioned according to the site remediation plan. A Record of Site Condition acknowledged by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks may also be required.

3.1.6.4 Wildland Fire Hazards

Certain lands within the Municipality have been identified as areas that may be unsafe due to the presence of hazardous forest types for wildland fire. Development will generally be directed to areas outside lands identified as a high to extreme risk for wildland fire, unless the risk may be appropriately mitigated.

3.1.6.4.1 General Policies

1. Development will generally be directed to areas outside of lands that are unsafe for development due to the presence of hazardous forest types for wildland fire. Potential forest hazard classifications for wildland fire identified as high to extreme risk for wildland fire are illustrated on Appendix A2. The information is intended to provide a screening tool for identifying areas at risk for wildland fire. Where updated and/or more detailed assessments are undertaken, Appendix A2 may be revised without requiring an amendment to this Plan.
2. Development may be permitted in lands with hazardous forest types for

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wildland fire where risk is mitigated in accordance with the wildland fire assessment and mitigation standards, as identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

3. In the absence of detailed municipal assessments, proponents of development applications will undertake a site review to assess for the presence of areas of high to extreme risk for wildland fire on the subject lands and adjacent properties, to the extent possible. Where areas of high to extreme risk for wildland fire are present, measures should be identified as to how the risks will be mitigated. FireSmart planning should be considered, including mitigation programs.
4. Environmentally appropriate mitigation measures will be promoted. Wildland fire mitigation measures which would result in development or site alteration will not be permitted in significant wildlife habitat unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions.

3.1.7 Source Protection Policies

The *Clean Water Act*, 2006 was created by the Ontario government to implement the recommendations in Justice O'Connor's "*Report of the Walkerton Inquiry*" 2002. The Report of the Walkerton Inquiry highlighted the need for a watershed based, multi-barrier approach to prevent overuse and contamination of drinking water. Land use planning, planning of future water services, and the land development process are among several lines of defense in this multi-barrier approach to source water protection.

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills is included within the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan (SPP) as it applies to the wellheads for the Almonte drinking water system, the intake for the Town of Carleton Place Water Treatment Plant where it draws water directly from the Mississippi River and for lands that are identified as Highly Vulnerable Aquifers or Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas.

Under the *Clean Water Act*, 2006, every region was required to establish a Source Protection Committee (SPC) responsible for the preparation and implementation of a Source Protection Plan (SPP). The policies created by the SPP came into effect in August 2014.

The SPP describe the actions and measures that must be taken by various agencies, including municipalities, to protect surface and groundwater sources that supply municipal drinking water. The Mississippi-Rideau SPP, which applies to the Municipality, and beyond, focuses on *significant* threats but also includes policies for moderate and low threats and includes policies for education, outreach and monitoring. The SPP establishes the role of a Risk Management Official (RMO) who is charged with the implementation of the SPP policies. The Municipality may delegate this authority to the Conservation Authority.

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The vulnerable areas within the boundaries of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills are:

- Almonte Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) – primarily the area south and east of the municipal wells which draw groundwater from the Nepean Sandstone Aquifer which is well known for supplying a good volume of quality drinking water as shown on Schedules D1 and D2.
- Carleton Place Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) the area upstream of the intake at the Carleton Place Water Treatment Plant on the Mississippi River where land use activities have the potential to affect the quality of water at the intake as shown on Schedule D3.
- Highly Vulnerable Aquifer (HVA) (almost the entire Municipality is designated HVA) - an aquifer that is vulnerable to surface contaminants due to overlying soils that are thin or absent and bedrock that is fractured as shown on Schedule “L” to the SPP.
- Significant Groundwater Recharge Area (SGRA) - an area where an aquifer is replenished through the infiltration of rainfall and snowmelt (because of gravel deposits or other soil features) as shown on Schedule “M” to the SPP.

The SPP includes numerous recommendations for the protection of the drinking water supply. Some of these recommendations are to be implemented through planning policy changes, while others are related to the operations of other municipal departments (i.e. Fire Department, Public Works), or through administrative processes, while others are educational in nature.

The following policies establish how the Municipality will work with the Risk Management Official (RMO), including the review of development applications that require planning approvals, i.e. subdivisions, and how development on existing lots will be dealt with in the Zoning By-law, which, when taken together, will enable municipal staff in the Planning and Building Departments to complete the review of applications.

3.1.7.1 Goals

The following policies are consistent with the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan in order to protect Almonte’s Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA), as well as to protect the portion of the Town of Carleton Place Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) that lies within the Municipality of Mississippi Mills as well as the Highly Vulnerable Aquifers and the Significant Ground Water Recharge Areas.

It is a goal of this Plan to:

1. Appoint a Risk Management Official or maintain an enforcement transfer agreement with another body which has an appointed Risk Management Official (such as the Conservation Authority or Health Unit). A Risk Management Official is required to enforce the Source Protection Plan policies that invoke Part IV of

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the Clean Water Act. These policies either prohibit activities under Section 57 or require a Risk Management Plan (to reduce risks to drinking water sources) under Section 58 of the Clean Water Act.

2. Make decisions in the areas identified by the SPP that conform to the policies of the SPP.
3. Work in partnership with adjacent municipalities, the Conservation Authority, provincial ministries, the Health Unit and other partners to develop practices that maintain and improve the quality and quantity of lakes and watercourses, and to protect headwater areas from land uses that have the potential to contaminate downstream water systems.
4. Co-operate with the Conservation Authority and adjacent municipalities in identifying and mapping surface water features, groundwater features, hydrologic functions and natural heritage features and areas which are necessary for the ecological and hydrological integrity of the watershed.
5. Identify SPP areas through inclusion into the Plan as Schedules.
6. Work with the RMO for lands identified by the SPP to complete the review of all development applications within areas identified for protection, and for those identified as Highly Vulnerable Aquifers and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas.

3.1.7.2 Policies for Lands included within Source Protection Plan

1. Development, site alteration, the creation of new land uses, expansion of existing uses or any proposal requiring land use planning review and comment, including a Building Permit, for lands located within vulnerable areas identified on Schedules D1, D2, D3 and/or lands shown as Highly Vulnerable Aquifers or Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas as shown on Schedules “L” and “M” of the SPP, will include Source Water Protection Information, if required by the Municipality or the Risk Management Official (RMO) prior to acceptance of the application as a complete application.
2. The requirement to provide Source Water Protection information can include a “Source Water Protection Checklist” or a Risk Management Plan if required by the Municipality or the RMO.
3. If an application can be processed concurrently by the Municipality and the RMO, based upon the requirement for a Risk Management Plan to be developed during the review of the application, the Municipality will consider the application complete to permit the consideration of the application, but no decision will be made until the information has been provided to the satisfaction of the RMO.
4. It is necessary to determine whether development, site alteration or proposed

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land uses as identified and defined by the SPP, may constitute a significant drinking water threat. Uses of land that include the following components may require a review prior to the use being permitted:

- waste disposal sites,
 - sewage works,
 - agricultural source material,
 - non-agricultural source material,
 - the manufacturing storage or handling of:
 - fertilizer,
 - pesticides,
 - pathogens,
 - chemicals, or
 - dense non-aqueous phase liquids,
 - fuel storage or handling,
 - road salt storage handling or application,
 - snow storage, and
 - aircraft de-icing.
5. A Risk Management Plan, to the satisfaction of the RMO, may be required as a condition of approval where the development, redevelopment of land, or proposed land use involves activities that can be managed to address the potential threat to ground or surface water, including approaches to development such as Low Impact Development.
 6. The Municipality will work with the RMO to ensure that all applications within the SPP Areas are complete to ensure the protection of the drinking water supply as defined as the Wellhead Protection Area for Almonte and the Town of Carleton Place Intake Protection Zone.
 7. The Municipality shall not support any application for development within the defined areas without the concurrence of the RMO.
 8. The Municipality will not issue a Building Permit on existing lots excluding residential applications, for any development, within the identified SPP areas without review of a "Source Water Protection Checklist" which can be used as a guide to determine if an application should be approved or reviewed by the RMO.
 9. All industrial, commercial, institutional, open space and high-density residential areas located within Source Water Protection areas identified on Schedules D1, D2 and D3 shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act and in accordance with the policies of Section 5.3.6.
 10. The identification of SPP areas are considered as overlays. The uses permitted and the form of development shall be considered in accordance with the

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applicable provisions of this plan in addition to any restrictions that are required to implement the intent of the Source Protection Plan.

11. Where the RMO is required to approve either the “Source Water Protection Checklist” or a Risk Management Plan, the Municipality will not finalize any approval prior to the consent of the RMO being received, as any land use planning decision is required to conform to the requirements of the approved Source Protection Plan.
12. Council shall amend the Zoning By-law to implement these policies to ensure implementation of the restrictions on development.
13. By February 1 of each year, Council shall provide the Source Protection Authorities with a summary of implementation activities for the previous calendar year related to the legally binding policies where the Municipality is responsible for implementation.
14. Council may prepare and implement a Road Salt Management Plan to apply within the Wellhead Protection Area with a vulnerability score of 10 where the application of road salt is considered to be a significant threat to the drinking water source. As resources permit, the Road Salt Management Plan may also be implemented elsewhere in the Municipality to help protect the Highly Vulnerable Aquifer from the effects of road salt application.
15. Council recognizes the location of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant and will work with the RMO and MOECP during any review of this facility within the Wellhead Protection Area with a vulnerability score of 10 to reduce the potential for impact on the aquifer and shall ensure that the Municipality’s sanitary sewer monitoring program identifies the lands that are within the area identified with a vulnerability score of 10.
16. Council shall work with the Source Protection Authority to establish an appropriate education and outreach program to raise awareness about drinking water sources and good stewardship practices to protect them.

3.2 AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

The agricultural industry found in Pakenham and Ramsay is a major economic and social contributor in Mississippi Mills. Directing approximately \$30 million per year into the local economy based on farm gate sales of \$12.1 million, Mississippi Mills’ agricultural industry is one of the largest in Lanark County. Approximately 16,000 hectares (38,500 acres) of land or 30% of the total land base of Mississippi Mills is covered by Classes 1 to 3 soils. This represents roughly 35% of the prime agricultural lands and 70% of the Class 1 soils found within Lanark County.

Over the last 30 years, there has been a fundamental change in our rural areas with the influx of non-farm residential development. This influx has placed pressures on the available agricultural lands and the way in which modern agriculture is carried

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out. Farmers need to be assured that their investment in and commitment to agricultural production shall not be adversely affected by conflicting land uses.

Recognizing the importance of the agricultural industry and the threats faced by the urbanization of the rural lands, this Plan establishes a policy direction which shall ensure the protection of the agricultural land base within Mississippi Mills from conflicting land uses.

This Plan recognizes the significance of local farmers and the positive impact both large scale and small-scale agricultural operations have on the local economy. The Municipality shall work with local commodity groups, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the County of Lanark Agricultural Committee and other groups supportive of the agricultural industry in order to maintain a positive climate for farmers to invest into the local agricultural industry.

The “Agricultural” designation has been placed on provincially significant prime agricultural areas identified through an alternative agricultural land evaluation system (LEAR) approved by the Province following public consultation and input from the Agricultural Committee and endorsed by the Mississippi Mills Agricultural Advisory Committee.

This Plan recognizes that traditional rural uses of land, notably agricultural uses, forestry uses, rural recreational activities such as hunting, fishing and snowmobiling, and pit and quarry operations take place in the rural area and should be allowed to continue to take place. Through the specific land use policies of this Plan, these traditional uses shall be permitted as integral parts of the rural character of the Municipality. In this regard, future developers and residents should be aware that there are certain activities associated with these uses which result in noise, odours, traffic, hours or seasons of operations, etc. which may be viewed as being incompatible with other uses, particularly rural non-farm residential uses.

The Plan attempts to separate non-compatible rural land uses and protect all aspects of rural character of the Town Municipality. However, those who live in the rural areas must expect to continue to encounter traditional rural land uses.

The following goals, objectives and policies apply to lands placed within the “Agricultural” land use designation.

3.2.1 Goal and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Protect agricultural resources for *agricultural use*.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goal:

1. Protect prime agricultural areas identified through an alternative agricultural land evaluation system known as Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) for their long-term use.
2. Restrict development on agricultural lands to those uses which are

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compatible with or supportive of the agricultural industry.

3. Prohibit farmer “retirement lot” severances within the Agricultural designation.
4. Require development within rural areas to be buffered and setback from the boundary of the Agricultural designation.
5. Encourage the agricultural industry to carry out sustainable stewardship of the land in accordance with Environmental Farm Plans, Nutrient Management Plans and Provincial Best Management Practices.

3.2.2 Permitted Uses

On lands designated as “Agricultural”, permitted uses shall include:

- i. *agricultural uses* including the growing of crops (including nursery, market gardens and horticultural crops), the raising of livestock and other animals for food or fur, (including dairy or beef cattle, poultry, swine, sheep, fish and non-traditional livestock, such as deer, bison, emu, pheasant, etc.), equine related activities, aquaculture, apiaries, forestry, maple syrup production, orchards and associated farm buildings and structures.
- ii. agriculturally related businesses and services, such as farm implement dealers, feed mill or seed cleaning plants, livestock assembly points, grain drying, animal husbandry services, storage for farm produce, abattoirs, custom machinery operators, or similar agri-businesses. These uses may be permitted upon lands designated as Agriculture provided it has been demonstrated that there are no reasonable alternative locations which avoid Agricultural designated lands and that there are no reasonable alternative locations within the Agriculture designation with lower priority agricultural lands. Such uses shall be placed in a separate zoning category.
- iii. farm gate retailing, home-based businesses (Section 3.6.11 of the Plan), agriculturally related tourist commercial uses, such as farm vacations and pick-your-own operations, value-added packing and processing of primary agricultural products, agricultural education enterprises and similar activities which are secondary and incidental to the farming operation are also permitted.
- iv. special consideration will be given to compatible uses that reuse traditional agricultural buildings provided the use is secondary to the principle use of the property;
- v. forestry;
- vi. conservation and management of the natural environment;
- vii. residential dwellings which are accessory to an agricultural use, including

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additional dwellings for farm help or retiring farmers;

- viii. non-farm residential dwellings and accessory uses, including garden suites (Section 3.6.13 of the Plan), Second Dwelling Units (Section 3.6.9), home-based businesses (Section 3.6.11 of the Plan), group homes (Section 3.6.12 of the Plan) and bed and breakfast establishments (Section 3.6.10 of the Plan), as defined in the Residential section of this Plan.

The identified permitted uses are set out and subject to the Zoning By-law.

3.2.3 General Policies

1. The establishment of new buildings and structures or the expansion or change of use of existing structures within the Agricultural designation shall be subject to the appropriate Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) calculation as developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and as amended from time to time.
2. The establishment of new non-farm buildings and structures on lands adjacent to the Agricultural designation shall maintain a setback of 150 metres from the boundary of the Agricultural designation. The creation of new lots adjacent to the Agricultural designation shall ensure that there is an appropriate building envelope outside of the 150 metre setback. Where development is on an existing lot of record and the 150 metre setback cannot be achieved, development may take place within the 150 metre setback subject to the approval of the Committee of Adjustment. Such development proposals shall be assessed in terms of availability of natural vegetative screening, level and type of agricultural activity taking place on the abutting lands, characteristics of surrounding agricultural activities, existing and/or emerging agricultural trends and the likelihood for negative impact. The Committee of Adjustment may impose a condition on the decision including the registration of a covenant on the title of the property stating that the lot is adjacent to an agricultural area and may therefore be subjected to noise, dust, odours and other nuisances associated with agricultural activities. This policy does not apply to development within settlement areas however as part of development the registration of a covenant on the title of the property stating that the property is adjacent to an agricultural area and may therefore be subject to noise, dust, odours and other nuisances associated with agricultural activities might be required.
3. This policy shall apply to the expansion of all settlement areas in accordance with the Growth and Settlement policies of this Plan. Within the Agricultural designation there may be pockets of land which are of lower potential for agricultural use due to their size, shape, topography, soil, drainage or other characteristics. These limitations shall not constitute justification for an Official Plan amendment to permit the designation of the lands to a non-agricultural designation. The use of such pockets for permitted commercial and industrial agricultural uses or other similar agricultural permitted uses which do not require

sites with high potential for agriculture shall be encouraged.

3.2.4 Land Stewardship, Sustainable Operations and Nutrient Management

1. Agricultural operations will be subject to nutrient management legislation regulated by the province under Bill 81. Bill 81 provides for the management of materials containing nutrients in ways that shall achieve optimal crop yields and product quality, manage input costs and enhance the protection of soils and water resources. It provides for a sustainable future for agricultural operations and rural development.
2. Agricultural operations shall be encouraged to operate their business under best management practices and to participate in farmer-led stewardship initiatives, such as the Environmental Farm Plan, which protect the long-term productivity of soils and minimize or eliminate negative environmental impacts. In order to minimize negative impacts on water bodies, agricultural operations are encouraged to maintain appropriate setbacks or buffer strips from water bodies.

3.2.5 Residential Development

Residential development within the Agricultural designation shall be subject to the following policies:

- i. one single detached dwelling and related accessory structures shall be permitted on a lot having frontage on an open and maintained road and subject to other provisions of this Plan and the Zoning By-law;
- ii. a second dwelling shall be permitted for farm help or a retiring farmer on the same lot as the principal dwelling;
- iii. a permitted second dwelling may be a permanent dwelling or a temporary mobile home which may be removed once it is no longer needed;
- iv. a permitted second dwelling shall not be allowed to be severed from the balance of the property; and, all residential dwellings shall be subject to the Minimum Distance Separation calculation.

3.2.6 Agricultural Commercial & Industrial Development

Permitted agricultural commercial or industrial development within the Agricultural designation shall be subject to the following policies:

- i. the Minimum Distance Separation calculation shall apply;
- ii. development shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act;

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- iii. any accessory residence remains as part of the commercial or industrial holding and shall not be permitted as a separate lot;
- iv. it shall be demonstrated that there are no other reasonable alternative locations designated other than Agriculture and there is no reasonable alternative location in the Agricultural designation with lower capability soils for agriculture; and,
- v. such uses shall be placed in a separate zoning category in the Zoning By- law.

3.2.7 Severances and Lot Creation

Severances and the creation of lots within the Agricultural designation shall be limited to the following:

1. Farm-related severances may be considered for a surplus farm dwelling, built prior to the adoption of the Community Official Plan (December 13, 2005), made surplus to a farming operation as a result of farm consolidation. Farm consolidation means the acquisition of additional farm parcels to be operated as one farm operation. Farm consolidation may include existing situations where a farm operation has two dwellings located on separate agricultural holdings. Only farmers who are expanding their farm holdings shall qualify for surplus farm dwelling severances. The Municipality shall impose a condition on the severance of the surplus farm dwelling which shall require a zoning by-law amendment prohibiting the construction of a new residential dwelling on the farmland parcel rendered vacant as a result of the severance. The Municipality may request a condition on the Land Division Committee decision to sever to require the registration of a covenant on the title of the property stating that the lot is adjacent to an agricultural area and may therefore be subjected to noise, dust, odours and other nuisances associated with agricultural activities. The lot area and frontage for surplus farm dwelling lots will be kept to a minimum in order to keep as much land in agricultural production as possible, but generally should not be less than 0.4 ha in size. Surplus farm dwellings will not be subject to the Minimum Distance Separation Formula I (MDS).
2. Farm consolidation severances on undersized agricultural properties may be considered provided the severed agricultural lands are consolidated with an abutting agricultural property.
3. Severance for boundary adjustments between agricultural holdings may be permitted provided that no new lot is created, and the size of the lots are appropriate for the type of agriculture proposed.
4. Severances for agricultural uses may be considered for the creation of a new agricultural holding provided that:
 - Generally, the minimum lot area for agricultural parcels shall be approximately 40 hectares (100 acres). To this extent, this Plan

encourages the creation of agricultural parcels in accordance with the original township lot fabric of the area.

- The lots are of a size that is appropriate for the type of agricultural use(s) common in the area and are sufficiently large to maintain flexibility for future changes in the type of size of agricultural operations.
5. Severance of a permitted agricultural commercial or industrial use may be considered provided the lot size is kept to a minimum in order to keep as much land in agricultural production as possible. Efforts should be made to locate the operation on land of low capability for agriculture. The creation of such lots must meet the *Minimum Distance Separation* calculations. The severance of a commercial or industrial property shall not result in a situation where there have been more than 2 severances for commercial, industrial or residential purposes from the holding since July 1973.

3.2.8 Prime Agriculture Area Re-designation

In evaluating an amendment to this Plan to change the designation from Agriculture to another designation, the Municipality shall be satisfied that there is a demonstrated need for the proposed use for which the amendment is sought, and that it cannot be reasonably located on lands outside the Agriculture designation or on lands within the Agriculture designation with a lower agricultural capability. In the case of adjusting the urban designated lands upon lands designated as Agriculture then it must also be demonstrated that the Municipality does not have sufficient lands already designated urban to accommodate projected growth.

3.2.9 Farming and Food Production Protection Act

This Plan acknowledges and endorses the application of the “Farming and Food Production Protection Act (FFPPA)” throughout the Municipality of Mississippi Mills.

The FFPPA states that it is desirable to conserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural lands for the production of food, fibre and other agricultural or horticultural products. Agricultural activities may include intensive operations that may cause discomfort and inconveniences to those on adjacent lands. Because of the pressures exerted on the agricultural community, it is increasingly difficult for agricultural owners and operators to effectively produce food, fibre and other agricultural or horticultural products. It is in the provincial interest that in agricultural areas, agricultural uses and normal farm practices be promoted and protected in a way that balances the needs of the agricultural community with provincial health, safety and environmental concerns. Accordingly, the FFPPA offers the protection of farming operations from nuisance complaints and protection from restrictive municipal by-laws.

3.3 RURAL POLICIES

When Ramsay and Pakenham townships were first settled, agriculture and forestry represented the predominant economic base. To a large extent, these primary industries have defined the rural character of Mississippi Mills. The land base of rural Mississippi Mills tends to be highly varied and fragmented. The large areas of *prime agricultural lands* have been placed in the Agricultural designation; the balance of lands have been placed in the Rural designation.

During the last 20 years, there has been a significant influx of urbanites into the rural areas of the Municipality living on severed non-farm residential lots and in rural estate subdivisions.

The pressure for residential development on rural lands is clearly recognized and can be beneficial to the municipality provided that it is limited and does not encroach upon agricultural operations, other resource-based industries and environmental features.

This Plan recognizes the significance of local farmers and the positive impact both large scale and small-scale agricultural operations have on the local economy. The Municipality shall work with local commodity groups, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the County of Lanark Agricultural Committee and other groups supportive of the agricultural industry in order to ensure a positive climate for farmers to invest into the local agricultural industry is maintained.

This Plan recognizes that traditional rural uses of land, notably *agricultural uses*, forestry uses, rural recreational activities such as hunting, fishing and snowmobiling, and pit and quarry operations take place in the rural area and should be allowed to continue to take place. Through the specific land use policies of this Plan, these traditional uses shall be permitted as integral parts of the rural character of the Municipality. In this regard, future developers and residents should be aware that there are certain activities associated with these uses which result in noise, odours, traffic, hours or seasons of operations and other nuisances associated with traditional rural land uses which may be viewed as being incompatible with other uses, particularly rural non-farm residential uses. The Plan attempts to separate non-compatible rural land uses and protect all aspects of rural character of the Municipality. However, those who live in the rural areas must expect to continue to encounter traditional rural land uses.

The following goals, objectives and policies apply to lands placed within the “Rural” land use designation.

3.3.1 Goal and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Provide for an appropriate range of rural land uses which protect rural resources, traditional land uses, and environmental features.

The following objectives are designed to implement this goal:

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1. Require development within rural areas to be buffered and setback from the boundary of the “Agricultural designation” and other non-compatible rural resources.
2. Provide direction to the location of new rural non-farm residential lots and the placement of houses on such lots is to be considerate of traditional rural land uses and environmental features.

3.3.2 Permitted Uses

On lands designated as “Rural” the following shall be permitted:

- i. agricultural uses including the growing of crops (including nursery, market gardens and horticultural crops), the raising of livestock and other animals for food or fur, (including dairy or beef cattle, poultry, swine, sheep, fish and non-traditional livestock, such as deer, bison, emu, pheasant, etc.), aquaculture, apiaries, forestry, maple syrup production, orchards and associated farm buildings and structures;
- ii. agriculturally related businesses and services, such as farm implement dealers, feed mill or seed cleaning plants, livestock assembly points, grain drying, animal husbandry services, storage for farm produce, abattoirs, custom machinery operators, or similar agri-businesses. Wherever possible, these uses shall be located on land that is of low capability for agriculture and shall not adversely affect agricultural operations in the general vicinity. Such uses shall be placed in a separate zoning category.
- iii. farm gate retailing, home-based businesses (Section 3.6.11 of the Plan), agriculturally related tourist commercial uses, such as farm vacations and pick-your-own operations, value-added packing and processing of primary agricultural products, agricultural education enterprises and similar activities which are secondary and incidental to the farming operation are also permitted;
- iv. forestry;
- v. conservation and management of the natural environment;
- vi. residential dwellings which are accessory to an agricultural use, including additional dwellings for farm help or retiring farmers; and,
- vii. non-farm residential dwellings and accessory uses, including garden suites (Section 3.6.13 of the Plan), Second Dwelling Units (Section 3.6.9) home-based businesses (Section 3.6.11 of the Plan), group homes (Section 3.6.12 of the Plan) and bed and breakfast establishments (Section 3.6.10 of the Plan), as defined in the Residential section of this Plan.
- viii. Small scale rural commercial and industrial enterprises which primarily engage

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in the buying and selling of goods and services to area residents, farms, business or to the travelling public. Such uses include but are not limited to antique and craft shops, artisan studios, butcher and bakery shops, farm-related commercial and industrial, sawmills, feed mills, agricultural processing facilities, contractor's yards, and tourist commercial establishments.

- ix. Rural commercial and industrial uses shall be limited to those that can operate on private services without danger of pollution or a serious drawdown of groundwater supplies and which create minimal obnoxious sound, odour, dust, vibration, fumes, smoke or solid waste disposal problems and are not deemed to be obnoxious uses in accordance with Ministry of Environment Guidelines.
- x. Special consideration will be given to compatible commercial and industrial operations that reuse heritage agricultural buildings which are no longer appropriate for agricultural uses.
- xi. Resource-based or resource-related industries shall be permitted.
- xii. An accessory residential dwelling for the owner or operator of a permitted rural commercial or industrial use may be permitted on the same lot as the principal rural commercial/industrial use where the type of commercial/industrial activity presents no reason to prohibit a residential dwelling.
- xiii. The following tourist commercial uses shall be permitted:
 - a. tourist lodging facilities (such as hotels, motels, resorts, country inns, rental cottages), summer camps, clubs, places of entertainment, recreational facilities (such as hunt camps, and marinas;
 - b. retail commercial establishments catering to the day-to-day needs of the tourist;
 - c. cultural uses, such as sites of historic interest, museums and related facilities;
 - d. maple syrup bushes, maple syrup processing facilities, accessory pancake houses, museums and meeting rooms shall be permitted; and,
 - e. an accessory residential dwelling for the owner or operator of a permitted principal commercial/industrial use.

The identified permitted uses are set out in the Zoning By-law.

3.3.3 General Policies

- 1. The establishment of new buildings and structures or the expansion or change of use of existing structures within the Rural designation shall be subject to the appropriate Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) calculation as developed by

the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

2. The establishment of new non-farm buildings and structures on lands adjacent to the Agricultural designation shall maintain a setback of 150 metres from the boundary of the Agricultural designation. The creation of new lots adjacent to the Agricultural designation shall ensure that there is an appropriate building envelope outside of the 150 metre setback. Where development is on an existing lot of record and the 150 metre setback cannot be achieved, development may take place within the 150 metre setback subject to the approval of the Committee of Adjustment. Such development proposals shall be assessed in terms of availability of natural vegetative screening, level and type of agricultural activity taking place on the abutting lands, characteristics of surrounding agricultural activities, existing and/or emerging agricultural trends and the likelihood for negative impact. The Committee of Adjustment may impose a condition on the decision including the registration of a covenant on the title of the property stating that the lot is adjacent to an agricultural area and may therefore be subjected to noise, dust, odours and other nuisances associated with agricultural activities. This policy does not apply to development within settlement areas however as part of development the registration of a covenant on the title of the property stating that the property is adjacent to an agricultural area and may therefore be subject to noise, dust, odours and other nuisances associated with agricultural activities might be required.
3. Agricultural operations within the Rural designation shall operate with the Land Stewardship and Sustainable Operations policies found in the Agricultural policies of this Plan (Section 3.2.4).

3.3.4 Residential Development

Residential development within the Rural designation shall be subject to the following policies:

1. One single detached dwelling and accessory structures shall be permitted on a lot having frontage on an open and maintained road and subject to other provisions of this Plan and the Zoning By-law. This policy does not apply to development within settlement areas however as part of development the registration of a covenant on the title of the property stating that the property is adjacent to an agricultural area and may therefore be subject to noise, dust, odours and other nuisances associated with agricultural activities might be required.
2. For active farming operations, a second dwelling shall be permitted for farm help or a retiring farmer on the same lot as the principal dwelling. In such cases the second dwelling may be a permanent dwelling or a temporary mobile home which may be removed once it is no longer needed.
3. A permitted second dwelling shall not be allowed to be severed from the balance of the property.

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4. All residential dwellings shall be subject to the *Minimum Distance Separation* calculation.
5. A garden suite, home-based business and bed and breakfast operation shall be permitted in accordance with the Residential policies of this Plan.
6. When placing a residential dwelling and associated accessory structures on a rural property, special consideration should be given to the visual impact the development may have on the surrounding rural character. The Zoning By-law shall contain specific setback requirements which move rural residential dwellings an appropriate minimum distance back from the road. Special provisions may be established for development abutting scenic or heritage roads in accordance with Section 4.3.7 of this Plan. Efforts should be made to take advantage of existing topography, trees and fence lines when choosing a building location so as to fit in with the surrounding area.
7. Development shall take place in accordance with the Rural Design Guidelines of this Plan (Section 4.2.3).

3.3.5 Severances and Lot Creation

Severances and the creation of lots within the Rural designation shall be limited to the following:

1. Farm-related severances may be considered for a farm dwelling built prior to 1978 adoption of the Community Official Plan (December 13, 2005), made surplus to a farming operation as a result of farm consolidation. Farm consolidation means the acquisition of additional farm parcels to be operated as one farm operation and may include existing situations where a farm operation has two dwellings located on separate agricultural holdings. Only farmers who are expanding their farm holdings shall qualify for surplus farm dwelling severances. The Municipality shall impose a condition on the severance of the surplus farm dwelling which shall require a zoning by-law amendment prohibiting the construction of a new residential dwelling on the farmland parcel rendered vacant as a result of the severance. The lot area and frontage for surplus farm dwelling lots should be kept to a minimum in order to keep as much land in agricultural production as possible. The Municipality may request a condition on the Land Division Committee decision to require the registration of a covenant on the title of the property stating that the lot is adjacent to an agricultural area and may therefore be subjected to noise, dust, odours and other nuisances associated with agricultural activities.
2. Severance for boundary adjustments between agricultural holdings may be permitted provided that no new lot is created, and the size of the parcels are appropriate for the type of agriculture proposed.
3. Farm-related severances may be considered for the creation of a new agricultural holding provided that:

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- Generally, the minimum lot area for agricultural parcels shall be approximately 40 hectares (100 acres). To this extent, this Plan encourages the creation of agricultural parcels in accordance with the original township lot fabric of the area. Nothing in this Plan shall prohibit severance applications which result in the creation of original township lots. For the purpose of this Plan an original township lot shall be considered a holding.
 - The size of the parcels to be severed and retained is appropriate for the type of agriculture being carried out in the area.
 - The minimum lot area shall be sufficiently large to ensure the long- term flexibility of land to accommodate different agricultural uses in the future.
4. The number of rural non-farm residential lots created by severance per land holding shall be limited to two lots plus the remnant lot except where otherwise specifically provided for in this Plan. A third severance for a non- farm residential lot may be considered as long the severance is to sever an existing accessory detached dwelling that is deemed surplus to the farming operation. The accessory detached dwelling must be a permanent structure and have been built with a building permit between 1998 and 2005 and have an independent well, septic system and entrance. A holding is defined as a parcel of land held in a conveyable ownership as of July 1, 1973 or an original township lot. Consents for a boundary adjustment, partial discharge of mortgage, easement or right-of- way shall not be considered toward the maximum number of consents per holding. A rural non-farm residential severance must be consistent with the following policies.
5. The permitted uses on a rural residential lot include a single dwelling, a home-based business, garden suite, bed and breakfast establishment and limited agricultural activities.
- The access point of the driveway onto the public road must be located so that no safety hazards are created. A severance shall be permitted only where the centre of the driveway shall be 150 metres from immediate neighbouring driveways on the same side of the road. Council may reduce the 150 metre requirement where soil conditions, topography, safety, sight lines or other sound planning considerations suggest that a lesser distance would be appropriate.
 - There is a demonstrated capacity for the lot to support the proposed development on private services.
 - The lot has frontage on a maintained public road of acceptable standard to support year-round maintenance and emergency vehicle access. Direct access onto a County Road or Provincial Highway shall be discouraged.

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- Each lot must be at least one hectare. Council may require larger lots when site conditions warrant an increase in lot size. The minimum lot size shall not include lands within the “Flood Plain” designation.
 - The creation of non-farm lots adjacent to an active agricultural operation within the Rural designation shall ensure that there is an appropriate building envelope outside of the 30 metre setback from lands which are being utilized as part of an active agricultural operation.
 - The placement of a rural residential severance must avoid having an adverse impact on significant landscape features, significant vegetation, wildlife habitats or other significant natural resources on the property.
 - Council may permit two or more lots to share a single driveway where soil conditions, topography, safety, sight lines or other sound planning considerations suggest that such an arrangement would be beneficial.
 - Residential uses (including accessory structures), private or communal wells and sewage disposal facilities, and access road shall not be permitted on prime agricultural lands, or where there are aggregate resources, wetlands, flood plains or significant habitat of endangered or threatened species. Where the development affects lands adjacent to natural heritage features or areas, the appropriate policies of this Plan shall be followed.
6. A severance of a permitted commercial or industrial use may be considered provided the lot size is kept to a minimum in order to keep as much land in agricultural production as possible and efforts have been made to locate the operation on land of low capability for agriculture. The severance of a commercial or industrial property shall not result in a situation where there have been more than 2 severances for commercial, industrial or residential purposes from the holding since July 1973.

3.3.6 Cluster Lot Development

A cluster lot development is a grouping of three (3) to five (5) severed lots (not including the retained parcel) created by consent for clustered, rural, non-farm residential development. The main purpose of this alternative form of rural residential development is to direct housing away from public roads and reduce the visual impact of strip residential development.

The number of lots permitted in any specific cluster lot development proposal shall be determined based on the number of lots which were previously severed from the original township lot. The number of previous severances shall include all lots, including those created prior to July 1973:

- a. If an original township lot has had one (1) or fewer previous severances, a

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cluster lot development proposal involving the maximum of five (5) rural residential lots could be considered.

- b. Where the original township lot has had two (2) previous severances, a cluster lot development proposal involving four (4) rural residential lots could be considered.
- c. Where the original township lot has had three (3) previous severances, a cluster lot development proposal involving the minimum three (3) rural residential lots could be considered.
- d. In no case shall a cluster lot development proposal, plus previous severances, result in a situation where there are more than six (6) rural residential lots created from an original township lot, excluding the remnant parcel.

Generally, the establishment of cluster lot development shall not be permitted within 1 kilometre of the Almonte urban boundary.

If there is an original township lot which has not had any previous severances, the property owner may be able to pursue the creation of lots under severance policies of Section 3.3.5 or a cluster lot development proposal, but not both. This means that previous severances from an original township lot used in the above calculations must have existed prior to the date indicated in Section 3.3.5.

The following policies shall apply to cluster lot development proposals:

- 1. Non-farm, rural residential lots on private roads may only be created through the cluster lot development process and are to be located only within the “Rural” designation and zoned “Limited Service Residential (LSR)”.
- 2. The retained property from which the cluster lot development is severed shall be a minimum lot of 20 hectares.
- 3. The single internal road serving the cluster lot development shall be a private road built and maintained to standards set by the Municipality in accordance with the private road policies of this Plan found in Section 4.6.8. New private roads shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, and managed under a Common Elements Condominium.
- 4. The intersection of the private road and the public road must be located so that no safety hazards are created at the intersection, adjacent intersections, or existing entrances.
- 5. Lots are to be serviced by private individual water and sewage systems. Appropriate servicing studies, including a hydrogeological review, shall be required.
- 6. The overall density of cluster lot development shall be approximately one residential lot per hectare of land. The minimum lot size shall generally be 1.0

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- ha. and shall not include lands described as significant natural heritage features within the Plan. Any lot(s) less than 1.0 ha. will demonstrate that the lot(s) are of sufficient size to adequately accommodate individual private services.
7. Generally, the placement of dwellings within the cluster lot development shall be determined based on the following considerations:
 - a. Houses should either be set back from the nearest public road a minimum of 100 metres, or the dwelling(s) must be screened from the public road by topography such as berms, mature vegetation, or through new plantings. When the 100 metre setback is waived due to a screen of mature vegetation, agreements must be entered into that to ensure that the screening effect of the vegetation is not compromised during development and into the future. The Site Plan Agreement shall be used to implement this requirement;
 - b. The siting of dwellings shall take into consideration landscape features, vegetation, wildlife habitats or other resources on the property and avoid such area;
 - c. Any identifiable features of rural character are maintained or enhanced through the location of the dwellings;
 - d. The location of dwellings shall blend as much as possible with the natural landscape so that the rural character is relatively undisturbed; and
 - e. Buffering shall be provided where a cluster lot development is in close proximity to an active agricultural operation or Agricultural designation.
 8. The cluster lot development may include land held in common ownership to be used as open space for recreation. This land cannot be developed further and shall be managed under the Common Elements Condominium.
 9. Where cluster lot development includes lands adjacent to natural heritage features, the appropriate policies of this Plan apply. If cluster lot development is proposed within 120 metres of natural heritage features, an Environmental Impact Assessment shall be required in accordance with Section 3.1.6 of this Plan.
 10. New private roads or extension to existing private roads will not be permitted to cross private lands via an easement or other such legal instrument; rather the private road shall be a distinct parcel of land identified within the cluster lot development where the ownership, maintenance and liability of the private road shall be included under a Common Elements Condominium.
 11. Cluster lot development including accessory structures, private services and private roads are prohibited within the "Agricultural" designation; and shall not

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be permitted where there are aggregate resources, wetlands, significant woodlands, flood plains, significant habitat of endangered or threatened species or areas of natural or scientific interest unless supported by appropriate studies such as an Aggregate Impact Study or Environmental Impact Statement.

12. Proponents of cluster lot developments shall be required to submit an accurate site plan based on an up to date survey and R-Plan which identifies lot sizes, frontage, lands to be held in common ownership, proposed building and septic system envelopes, well locations, existing and proposed natural features including treed areas and landscaping, slopes, watercourses, grading and drainage plans, and any additional information that may be required by the Municipality.
13. The Mississippi Mills Rural Design Guidelines shall apply to all cluster lot developments, as applicable.
14. New cluster lot developments shall be subject to a holding zone that may or may not be lifted until the following requirements have been met:
 - a. The new private road has been designed, constructed and approved by the Municipality;
 - b. A Common Elements Condominium has been registered that includes details related to the ownership, maintenance and liability of the private road; and
 - c. Completion of the Site Plan Control process, in accordance with the Planning Act, with all securities, insurance and registration of all applicable agreements completed.

3.3.7 Rural Commercial & Industrial

Various commercial and industrial uses are appropriate in rural areas by virtue of their specialized function. Rural commercial and industrial development which is supportive of sustainable economic development in the rural area must demonstrate compatibility with surrounding uses, environmental features, and natural resources and be consistent with the rural character they are located in.

It is the intention of this Plan to direct most commercial and industrial activities to Almonte, Pakenham village and the smaller villages. Rural areas will generally be the focus of resource activity, resource-based recreational activity and other rural uses.

3.3.8.1 Rural Commercial & Industrial Policies

1. The proposed commercial/industrial use shall be compatible with surrounding uses and shall have minimal impact on the environmental features, natural resources and rural character of the surrounding area. Such development must

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meet the Minimum Distance Separation from agricultural operations.

2. Rural commercial and industrial uses should not exert demands for water beyond those considered necessary for the private use of employees. Uses requiring considerable amounts of water must be accompanied by an approved hydrogeological report which addresses adequacy of groundwater supply and soil suitability for disposal of wastes.
3. Lot sizes shall be adequate for the proposed use. In assessing the appropriateness of the proposed lot size, consideration shall be given to parking and loading, servicing, storage, signage, landscaping and buffering requirements. Such lots shall have frontage on and direct access to an open public road, maintained year-round.
4. Access to and from rural commercial and industrial uses shall be limited in number and appropriately marked to identify their purpose. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to shared access points, service roads and similar traffic design features which limit access onto public roads.
5. Council may require a traffic study or evaluation to determine the volume of traffic to be generated, needs and/or standards for entrances, turning lanes, vehicle stacking, signalization, on-site directional movements, parking, etc. Traffic engineering should include the integration of both on- site traffic movement and the configuration, type and width of roadways.
6. Lighting poles and utility structures shall be carefully sited in keeping with good design and highway safety practices. Lighting shall be in accordance with the Municipality's responsible lighting by-law.
7. Signage shall be carefully sited in keeping with good design and highway safety practices. Signage shall be in accordance with the Municipality's sign by-law.
8. Adequate off-street parking and loading facilities shall be provided. Where possible, parking areas shall be sited on a property such that large expanses of parking fronting on public streets are avoided. The visual appearance of parking areas and structures shall be enhanced through the use of diversity of plant forms, rural landscaping methods, naturalized landscape or other architectural elements. Parking areas adjacent to residential areas shall be appropriately screened.
9. Outdoor storage areas (equipment, garbage, etc.) shall be screened or fenced from adjacent uses and the street. Permanent display areas shall not be located in designated parking areas. Temporary or seasonal displays shall be permitted where they do not conflict with traffic flows or the safety of pedestrians.
10. Where rural commercial and industrial development is located adjacent to residential uses, appropriate screening, buffering, distance separation or other measures designed to minimize or mitigate potential land use conflicts or

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adverse effects shall be required.

11. Rural industrial development shall also be subject to the policies found in Section 3.7.5.2 of this Plan.
12. The Zoning By-law shall place rural commercial and industrial uses in a separate zoning category.
13. Rural commercial and industrial development or redevelopment shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, shall also apply to changes, additions or alterations to established uses.

3.3.8.2 Tourist Commercial Policies

Tourism is an important part of the local economy with many of the tourism assets are located in the rural area. This Plan shall allow for tourist-related commercial development in the rural area in accordance with the following policies:

1. New tent and trailer campgrounds, golf courses and ski hills shall only be permitted through an amendment to this Plan.
2. The proposed tourist commercial use shall be compatible with surrounding uses and shall have minimal impact on the environmental features, natural resources and rural character of the surrounding area. Such development must meet the Minimum Distance Separation from agricultural operations.
3. Uses requiring considerable amounts of water shall be assessed in accordance with the Surface and Ground Water Site Specific Development Criteria of Section 4.1.1 of this Plan.
4. Lot sizes shall be adequate for the proposed use. In assessing the appropriateness of the proposed lot size, consideration shall be given to parking and loading, servicing, storage, signage, amenity areas, open space, landscaping and buffering requirements. Such lots shall have frontage on and direct access to an open public road, maintained year- round.
5. Access to and from tourist commercial uses shall be limited in number and appropriately marked to identify their purpose. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to shared access points, service roads and similar traffic design features which limit access onto public roads.
6. Council may require a traffic study or evaluation to determine the volume of traffic to be generated, needs and/or standards for entrances, turning lanes, vehicle stacking, signalization, on-site directional movements, parking, etc. Traffic engineering should include the integration of both on- site traffic movement and the configuration, type and width of streets, roadways and sidewalks.

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7. Lighting poles and utility structures shall be carefully sited in keeping with good design and highway safety practices. Lighting shall be in accordance with the Municipality's responsible lighting by-law.
8. Signage shall be carefully sited in keeping with good design and highway safety practices. Signage shall be in accordance with the Municipality's sign by-law.
9. Adequate off-street parking and loading facilities shall be provided. Where possible, parking areas shall be sited on a property such that large expanses of parking fronting on public streets are avoided. The visual appearance of parking areas and structures shall be enhanced through the use of diversity of plant forms, landscaping methods or other architectural elements. Parking areas adjacent to residential areas shall be appropriately screened.
10. Outdoor storage areas (equipment, garbage, etc.) shall be screened or fenced from adjacent uses and the street. Permanent display areas shall not be located in designated parking areas. Temporary or seasonal displays shall be permitted where they do not conflict with traffic flows or the safety of pedestrians.
11. Where a tourist commercial development is located adjacent to residential uses, appropriate screening, buffering, distance separation or other measures designed to minimize or mitigate potential land use conflicts or adverse effects shall be required.
12. The Zoning By-law shall place tourist commercial uses in a separate zoning category.
13. Tourist commercial development or redevelopment shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, shall also apply to changes, additions or alterations to established uses.

3.3.8.2.1 Golf Courses

Mississippi Mills has two existing golf courses and one vacant property zoned to permit a golf course. The existing courses provide a high-quality recreational opportunity. Golf courses include a number of accessory uses, such as club houses, pro shops, driving ranges, banquet halls, reception areas, maintenance shops, storage sheds and other similar uses catering to the day-to-day needs of the clientele and management of the operation.

New Golf Courses shall only be permitted through an amendment to this Plan. Existing Golf courses have been designated as Parkland and Open Space. Golf courses shall not be permitted within the agricultural designation. In reviewing an application for a golf course, consideration shall be given to the proposal's ability to satisfy the following development criteria, in addition to other relevant sections of this Plan:

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1. A golf course must be located an adequate distance from sensitive land uses so that the amenities of such areas or uses are protected. In determining appropriate separation distances, the Town shall assess design of the golf course in relation to surrounding lands uses.
2. Lot size shall be adequate for the type of golf course being developed.
3. Appropriate studies shall be undertaken to determine the general need of the proposed operation, potential impact on environmental features, natural resources, rural character and the requirements for services.
4. Golf courses shall be required to present a number of studies, prepared by qualified individuals, including hydrogeological assessment, stormwater management, nutrient management and pesticide management. Development proposals will be required to demonstrate compliance with Section 4.1.1 Surface and Ground Water Site Specific Development Criteria.
5. The Zoning By-law shall place golf courses in a separate zoning category.
6. All lands placed in the golf course zone in the Zoning By-law shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, shall also apply to changes, additions or alterations to established uses.

3.3.8.2.2 Tent and Trailer Campgrounds

Tent and trailer campgrounds include seasonally operated parks for tents and recreation vehicles, including park model trailers and such facilities as an accessory dwelling, marina and convenience store catering to the day-to-day needs of the visitors and non-permanent/seasonal residents.

New tent and trailer campgrounds shall only be permitted through an amendment to this Plan. Existing Tent and Trailer Campgrounds have been designated as Parkland and Open Space. In reviewing an application for a new tent and trailer campground, consideration shall be given to the proposal's ability to satisfy the following development criteria, in addition to other relevant sections of this Plan:

1. The minimum lot area for a tent and trailer campground shall be two hectares. The minimum campsite shall be 235 square metres with a minimum width of at least 15 metres at one point in the campsite. The density shall not generally exceed 30 campsites per hectare. The maximum number of sites for a Travel Trailer Park or Commercial Campground development shall generally not exceed 100. Provisions may be made for group camping sites.
2. Central water stations and toilet facilities satisfactory to the Municipality and the appropriate approval authority shall be provided by the owner.

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3. Each campsite shall have adequate buffer planting at the rear and side of each site. No campsite shall be located within the flood plain.
4. Adequate buffer planting shall be provided between the Travel Trailer Park and Commercial Campground and any adjacent residential areas and such buffer planting or screening shall include the provision of grass strips, berms, trees, shrubs and screening, as required.
5. Adequate on-site parking shall be provided, and the internal road system shall provide for safe movement of vehicular, pedestrian and emergency vehicle traffic.
6. Existing topographic and physical features of the site shall be retained in their natural state as far as possible. Existing trees shall be preserved, where possible. Vegetation and landscaping plans may be required to demonstrate incorporation of natural features and retention of existing vegetation.
7. As part of the development review process, the developer shall provide to the Municipality information regarding:
 - i. existing site conditions including soil capability, drainage, erosion susceptibility, forest stands, unique wildlife habitats, unique flower species and access (Where the existing site has high capability for agriculture or low recreation capability, reasons shall be given for the selection of the site. Furthermore, information shall also be included concerning the preservation of any existing natural features);
 - ii. the demand for the type of facility proposed exists taking into account the existing supply; and,
 - iii. satisfactory methods of sewage disposal and water supply. Proposed servicing shall meet the approval of the MOECP.
8. The Zoning By-law shall place tent and trailer campgrounds in a separate zoning category.
9. Tent and Trailer campgrounds shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, shall also apply to changes, additions or alterations to established uses.

3.3.8.3 Wrecking and Salvage Yards

Wrecking Yards provide for the storage, dismantling and salvage of used motor vehicles or other equipment. Such sites need to be chosen carefully because of the appearance and characteristics of this use. New wrecking or salvage yards shall only be permitted through an amendment to this Plan. The following policies shall regulate

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wrecking or salvage yards.

1. A wrecking yard shall be located an adequate distance from sensitive land uses so that the amenities of such areas or uses are protected. In determining appropriate separation distances, the Municipality shall have regard for “Guideline D-6, Compatibility between Industrial Facilities and Sensitive Land Uses”, produced by MOECP.
2. The lot size shall be adequate for the proposed use.
3. Appropriate studies shall be required to determine the general need for the proposed operation, potential impact on ground water, natural resources, and rural character and the requirements for services.
4. The wrecking yard shall be adequately screened from public view either naturally or by fencing, berming or planting. There shall be a requirement to maintain the visual screen.
5. Access to the wrecking yard shall be controlled by fencing, gates or other appropriate devices.
6. The wrecking yard shall be an adequate distance from any waterbody or designated wetland to reasonably ensure that pollution of the waterbody or designated wetland does not occur.
7. The Zoning By-law shall place wrecking and salvage yards in a separate zoning category.
8. Wrecking and salvage yard development or redevelopment shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, shall also apply to changes, additions or alterations to established uses.

3.4 RURAL SETTLEMENT AREAS & VILLAGES

A number of small settlement areas are located throughout Mississippi Mills. These settlement areas consist of three long established small villages: Appleton, Blakeney and Clayton and a number of existing rural estate lot subdivisions. Both of these forms of settlement are designated as “Rural Settlement Areas & Villages” in this Plan.

The three villages represent concentrations of development in a community setting consisting of dwellings, local commercial and business uses, as well as supporting services, such as churches, post offices, and recreational areas. The villages were originally established as service centres to the largely agricultural economy. Over the years, the villages have experienced some growth and change through infilling and minor expansions and each has evolved with its own identity. There are also some common characteristics among the villages which can serve as the basis for developing policies for future growth in these areas.

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The rural estate lot subdivisions have been largely created during the last 30 years and typically consist of single detached residential development and accessory uses, such as home-based businesses and bed and breakfasts. For the most part, the existing rural estate lot subdivisions are fully developed.

Existing rural settlement areas and villages shall be defined with a fixed boundary on Schedule A of this Plan. These boundaries shall recognize the existing developed area with some potential for infilling.

The following goals, objectives and policies apply to lands placed within the “Rural Settlement Areas & Villages” land use designation.

3.4.1 Goal and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Preserve the general character as well as the individual identity of each rural settlement area or villages.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goal:

1. Ensure that the established pattern of development is continued.
2. Enhance or encourage a focal point for each settlement area.
3. Encourage good pedestrian access and public interaction spaces.
4. Promote the natural and heritage attributes as an integral part of the community.

3.4.2 Permitted Uses

1. The uses permitted within the three existing villages include low density residential and accessory uses, multiple residential, garden suites (Section 3.6.13 of the Plan), home-based businesses (Section 3.6.11 of the Plan), group home (Section 3.6.12 of the Plan), bed and breakfast establishments (Section 3.6.10 of the Plan), local commercial, institutional and public uses, community facilities, parks and recreational facilities and limited agricultural activities.
2. The uses permitted within the rural estate lot subdivisions include low density residential and accessory uses, including garden suites, home-based businesses and bed and breakfast establishments, and parks and recreational facilities.

3.4.3 Policies

1. The boundaries shown on Schedule A represent the limits for development within each rural settlement area or village. Any proposal for the expansion of the boundaries shown on Schedule A shall only take place in accordance with Section 2.5.3.2.3 of this Plan. Any such amendment shall have regard for the relevant policies of this Plan, specifically the growth and settlement,

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environmental, agricultural and design sections.

2. All new development and redevelopment shall demonstrate adequate water supply and sewage disposal facilities. Only those uses which do not require large volumes of water or produce large volumes of sanitary waste shall be permitted. The Municipality may require a hydrogeological or other servicing study to be provided with any planning application. Such studies shall be prepared to the satisfaction of the Municipality and the province or its delegate.
3. New local commercial uses may be permitted subject to a site-specific zoning by-law amendment and in accordance with the following policies:
 - the site is large enough to accommodate the building and servicing infrastructure;
 - adequate off-street parking and loading space are provided;
 - the range of identified uses is appropriate for the area;
 - uses which generate significant amounts of traffic shall be located or designed to minimize the impact on surrounding uses and existing transportation infrastructure;
 - the development satisfies the environmental and design policies of this Plan with respect to sustainability and compatibility;
 - the style and character of the building integrates reasonably well with surrounding properties;
 - sufficient new landscaping is provided on the site; and,
 - local commercial uses shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.
4. The Municipality, together with the community associations, shall carry out further studies to define the existing focal points within the rural settlement areas and villages and to develop strategies for enhancing and improving on the elements that contribute to these communities.
5. Minimum lot sizes within rural settlement areas and villages shall be based on the appropriate requirements for the proposed water and sewage systems as well as site specific considerations of topography and vegetation. Generally, single detached residential lots should be a minimum of 0.4 hectares (1 acre) in size. In waterfront situations, larger minimum lot sizes will most likely be required to ensure sufficient area to accommodate the 30 metre setback from the highwater mark, shoreline buffering requirements, flood plain considerations and other environmental constraints.

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6. New multiple residential uses within the three existing smaller villages, such as row housing or low-rise apartment buildings, may be permitted subject to a site-specific zoning by-law amendment and in accordance with the following criteria:
 - the site is large enough to accommodate the building and servicing infrastructure;
 - adequate off-street parking is provided;
 - the development satisfies the environmental and design policies of this Plan with respects to sustainability and compatibility;
 - the style and character of the building integrates reasonably well with surrounding properties;
 - sufficient landscaping is provided on the site; and,
 - multiple residential uses shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.
7. Institutional uses within the three existing smaller villages may include education centres, day care centres, health care facilities, museums, churches, libraries, community centres, service clubs and other similar public or quasi-public uses and facilities. New institutional uses shall be permitted subject to a site-specific zoning by-law amendment and in accordance with the following policies:
 - the site is large enough to accommodate the building and servicing infrastructure;
 - adequate off-street parking and loading space are provided;
 - uses which generate significant amounts of traffic shall be located or designed to minimize the impact on surrounding land uses and existing transportation infrastructure;
 - the development satisfies the environmental and design policies of this Plan with respect to sustainability and compatibility;
 - the style and character of the building integrates reasonably well with surrounding properties;
 - sufficient new landscaping is provided on the site; and,
 - institutional uses shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.
8. Within the Rural Settlement Areas and Village designation there are vacant lands

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which abut non-urban lands designated “Agriculture” shown on Schedule A. During the subdivision or consent design and approval process all development proposed within 150 metres of the Agriculture designation shall be assessed in terms of potential land use conflicts. Appropriate mitigating measures shall be incorporated through the subdivision or consent design and approval process which would reduce the potential negative impacts the two land uses may have on each other. The subdivision or consent proposals shall be assessed in terms of availability of natural vegetative screening, level and type of agricultural activity taking place on the abutting lands, characteristics of surrounding agricultural activities, existing and/or emerging agricultural trends and the likelihood for negative impacts. The Municipality may request that conditions be imposed on the creation of new lots, including the registration of a covenant on the title of individual properties stating that the lot is adjacent to an agricultural area and may therefore be subjected to noise, dust, odours and other nuisances associated with agricultural activities. Under no circumstance shall the subdivision or consent design result in residential dwellings being located closer than 30 metres to the boundary of the Agriculture designation.

3.4.4 Special Uses

The following special policies have been established through an amendment to previous official plans.

3.4.4.1 Special Policy Area 1

On the lands designated as Special Policy Area 1 in the Appleton village, the following special conditions shall apply exclusively:

1. The permitted uses shall be restricted to a private hydro-electric power generating facility and related buildings and structures and to the existing semi-detached dwelling.
2. Any structures relating to the power generating facility shall meet all of the requirements of the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act.
3. Any structure which has an impact on water levels shall satisfy the requirements of Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.
4. Access to the power generating facility and to the existing semi-detached dwelling may be from a private right-of-way registered on title.

3.4.4.2 Special Policy Area II

On the lands designated as Special Policy Area II in the Clayton village, the following special conditions shall apply in addition to the other relevant policies of this Plan that apply to multiple residential developments:

1. The dwelling type allowed shall be limited to a one storey multiple residential building.

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2. The maximum number of dwelling units permitted shall be 25.
3. No development shall be permitted below the 1:100-year flood line of the Indian River as established by MVCA.

3.5 AGGREGATE & MINERAL RESOURCES POLICIES

Aggregate resources include gravel, sand, clay, earth, shale, stone, limestone, dolostone, sandstone, marble, granite and rock, all of which are suitable for construction, industrial, manufacturing and maintenance purposes. Aggregates are a non-renewable natural resource and are essential for road building and maintenance as well as for construction projects.

The aggregate resources of Lanark County have been assessed and identified in Aggregate Resource Inventory of the County of Lanark prepared by the Ontario Geological Survey, Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM). This assessment classifies the important resources in terms of sand and gravel deposits and bedrock resources.

In Mississippi Mills, there are only small reserves of sand and gravel and these are generally of low quality. Mississippi Mills does contain large areas of good bedrock resources east of the Canadian Shield. The Municipality is required to identify and protect the aggregate resources that exist within Mississippi Mills.

The licensing, regulation and enforcement of aggregate operations within the Municipality is the responsibility of OMNRF.

This Plan recognizes that aggregate resources are necessary and valuable and has established policies which protect the viable sand and gravel resources and licensed bedrock resources. At the same time, the Plan recognizes that the utilization of aggregate resources has an impact on other land uses and the environment and has sought to ensure adequate protection for both the aggregate industry, the environment and surrounding land owners in the vicinity of the resource.

This Plan recognizes the authority of the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to regulate mineral resources.

The following goals, objectives and policies apply to lands placed within the "Aggregate Resource" land use designation.

3.5.1 Goal and Objective

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Protect a sufficient supply of the non-renewable aggregate resources and to ensure proper utilization of the resource.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goal:

1. Designate the resources on the Land Use Schedule so that resource areas are

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clearly identified.

2. Ensure that the utilization of the resources takes place in an orderly and controlled manner.
3. Protect legally existing extractive operations.
4. Restrict development on and adjacent to known aggregate deposits to those uses which are compatible with and/or supportive of the aggregate industry.
5. Prohibit new residential lots on aggregate deposits or within the influence area of the Aggregate Resource designation.
6. Require that development within rural areas is buffered and set back a minimum distance from aggregate deposits.
7. Require that extraction and processing of aggregate deposits has a minimal impact on the natural and built environments.
8. Require the timely and satisfactory rehabilitation of lands once the resource is exhausted in accordance with the Aggregate Resources Act licences and site plans.

3.5.2 Aggregate Resource Boundaries and Permitted Uses

On the Land Use Schedule, the areas designated as Aggregate Resource have been further identified as Pit or Quarry. These designations include both existing licensed operations as well as reserve areas. The following policies apply to lands designated Aggregate Resource.

1. In the areas identified as Aggregate Resource-Pit, only pit operations together with accessory uses, such as crushing facilities, stockpiles, offices, open and enclosed storage and screening operations shall be permitted. Asphalt plants, ready-mix concrete plants and aggregate transfer stations shall be permitted within Class A pit operations and prohibited in Class B pit operation.
2. In the areas identified as Aggregate Resource-Quarry, pit and quarry operations shall be permitted together with accessory uses, such as crushing facilities, stockpiles, offices, open and enclosed storage and screening operations. Asphalt plants, ready-mix concrete plants and aggregate transfer stations may also be permitted within the land designated as Aggregate Resource-Quarry.
3. Within the reserve areas, interim land uses, such as agriculture, forestry and outdoor recreational uses which require minimal investment and site alterations may be permitted provided that these do not include buildings or activities which would preclude the establishment of a pit or quarry.
4. For the areas designated as Aggregate Resource-Quarry, the area to be zoned

or licensed must be located within the boundaries of the designation shown on the Schedule. Any proposal to expand beyond these limits shall require an amendment to the Official Plan. For the areas designated as Aggregate Resource-Pit, the area to be zoned or licensed may extend beyond the boundaries of the designation shown on the Schedule, provided such expansion is reasonable, respects any separation distances, does not encroach on existing uses in the area and meets the environmental and water resource goals of this Plan.

3.5.3 Aggregate Resource General Policies

1. All pit and quarry operations must be licensed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) and must meet the requirements of the Aggregate Resource Act. Through the licensing procedure, Council may recommend to OMNRF that certain conditions be placed on the license.
2. Generally, only existing licensed pit and quarry operations shall be zoned in the Zoning By-law. The zoning shall define the specific uses to be allowed as well as the zone requirements that shall apply.
3. The establishment of a new pit or quarry or expansion of an existing operation within the area designated as Aggregate Resource shall be placed in the appropriate zoning category.
4. The lands within the Aggregate Resource designation which are not zoned for a pit or quarry may be placed in a separate zone category which protects the lands from incompatible development.
5. All pits and quarries must satisfy the requirements of MOECP with respect to pumping and dewatering, water supply, wastewater, solid and liquid waste disposal, dust and all emissions to the atmosphere including noise and vibrations.
6. Small pit operations (Class B licence) which excavate up to a maximum of 20,000 tonnes of material per year shall be permitted on lands designated Rural or Agriculture in this Plan. Such operations normally provide fill material where large demands are not warranted or expected. It is intended that by limiting the amount of material to 20,000 tonnes per year, that this type of operation can proceed and should have minimal impact on surrounding uses. Any such pit must be zoned in accordance with the appropriate zone category in the Zoning By-law. Such operations must also be licensed by MNRF, meet the requirements of MOECP and comply with any other relevant provisions of this Plan including the influence areas set out in Section 3.5.4. Any pit operation which exceeds the limit of 20,000 tonnes per year which is not within an area designated Aggregate Resource shall require an amendment to this Plan.

3.5.4 Aggregate Resource Influence Area

1. The concept of an influence area is recognized as a means of protecting sensitive land uses from pits and quarries and protecting existing pits and quarries and lands designated Aggregate Resource from encroachment by incompatible land uses. The Zoning By-law shall incorporate the following separation distances from sensitive land uses:
 - 150 m for licensed pits above the water table
 - 300 m for licensed pits below the water table
 - 300 m for Aggregate Resource-Pit reserve areas
 - 500 m for licensed quarries above or below the water table
 - 500 m for Aggregate Resource-Quarry reserve areas

These distances shall apply reciprocally, meaning that new pits and quarries must be set back from sensitive land uses and new sensitive land uses must be set back from lands designated for pits and quarries.

2. Where development is on an existing lot of record and separation distances cannot be achieved, development may take place within the separation distance subject to the approval of the Committee of Adjustment. Such development proposals shall be permitted only if:
 - The resource use would not be feasible; or
 - The proposed land uses, or development serves a greater long-term public interest; and
 - Issues of public health, public safety and environmental impact are addressed.

The proposal will also be assessed in terms of availability of natural vegetative screening, level and type of aggregate activity taking place on the abutting lands, characteristics of surrounding agricultural activities and the likelihood for negative impact. The Committee of Adjustment may impose a condition on the decision including the registration of a covenant on the title of the property stating that the lot is adjacent to an aggregate resource and may therefore be subjected to noise, dust, odours and other nuisances associated with aggregate activities.

3. The establishment of new non-farm buildings and structures on lands adjacent to aggregate resources shall maintain the separation distances. The creation of new lots adjacent to aggregate resources shall ensure that there is an appropriate building envelope outside of the separation distances.

3.5.5 Removal or Expansion of Aggregate Resource Designation

1. The removal of part of the Aggregate Resource designation from the Land Use Schedule shall require an amendment to this Plan. Such an amendment shall

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provide justification for the change in designation and clearly demonstrate and document the need for the alternate land use. In considering such amendments, Council shall take into account the following:

- evidence provided by the applicant that aggregate extraction is not feasible due to quality, quantity or other development constraints;
 - the necessity of the alternate land use in comparison to the necessity of the aggregate resource;
 - the reason for the choice of the location and consideration given to alternate locations on non-aggregate lands;
 - the consideration given to the option of sequential land use in which the aggregate is removed prior to development of land for the proposed use; and, the aggregate resource has been depleted and the site fully rehabilitated in accordance with the conditions of the Aggregate Resources Act license and site plans.
2. The establishment of any new Aggregate Resource area shall require an amendment to this Plan. In proposing any such amendment, the applicant must provide sufficient information for Council to properly evaluate the proposal. The information that the applicant shall provide may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:
- the type and location of any neighbouring land uses;
 - the location of access routes, including consideration of upgrading of existing roads; and
 - reports from qualified professionals regarding noise, blasting, hydrogeology, archaeology, drainage and any other relevant matters.
3. An erosion access allowance of 6 m may also be applied, measured horizontally from the stable slope allowance.
4. Local First Nations communities shall be consulted for input where any archeological assessment, submitted in support of an Official Plan amendment that proposed to establish a new Aggregate Resource area, indicates areas of First Nations interest or potential for encountering First Nations artifacts.

3.5.6 Aggregate Extraction on Prime Agricultural Lands

Aggregate extraction may be permitted on prime agricultural lands provided that the site is rehabilitated by restoring substantially the same area and the same average soil quality for agriculture. Complete agricultural rehabilitation shall not be required in the following circumstances:

there is a substantial quantity of aggregate below the water table warranting extraction or the depth of planned extraction in a quarry makes restoration of pre-extraction agricultural capability unfeasible; other alternatives have been considered by the applicant and found unsuitable. The consideration of other alternatives shall include resources in areas of Canada Land Inventory Class 4 to 7 soils, resources on lands identified as designated growth areas, and resources on prime agricultural lands where rehabilitation is feasible. Where no other alternatives are found, prime agricultural lands shall be protected in this order of priority: specialty crop areas, Canada Land Inventory Classes 1, 2 and 3; and, agricultural rehabilitation shall be maximized in remaining areas.

3.5.7 Wayside Pits and Quarries

Wayside pits and quarries are temporary operations established by or on behalf of a public authority on short notice to fulfil temporary projects for road construction or road maintenance. Wayside pits and quarries are permitted throughout the Municipality without the need to amend this Plan or the Zoning By-law, except in areas of existing development, settlement areas, wetlands, ANSIs or natural heritage features and areas. Prior to the establishment of a wayside pit or quarry for provincial purposes, Council shall be satisfied that the proposed operation qualifies as a wayside pit or quarry. Prior to the establishment of a wayside pit or quarry for municipal purposes, Council shall be advised by the Director of Public Works that the proposed operation qualifies as a wayside pit or quarry. Where a wayside pit or quarry is located on prime agricultural lands, the site shall be rehabilitated in accordance with Section 3.5.6 of this Plan.

3.5.8 Portable Asphalt Plants and Portable Concrete Plants

1. *Portable asphalt plants* and portable concrete plants used on public road authority contracts are permitted throughout the municipality without the need to amend this Plan or the Zoning By-law except in areas of existing development, settlement areas, wetlands, ANSIs or natural heritage features and areas. Prior to the placement of a portable asphalt plant or a portable concrete plant, the operator shall notify the Town Municipality in writing of the proposed location for the plant and the anticipated completion date of the construction project.
2. Portable asphalt plants and portable concrete plants shall be subject to the following requirements:
 - a portable asphalt plant and portable concrete plants shall be removed from the site upon completion of the contract;
 - the minimum separation distance requirements of MOECP shall apply and a Certificate of Approval must be obtained from MOECP;
 - where a portable asphalt plant or a portable concrete plant is located on prime agricultural lands, the site shall be rehabilitated in accordance with

Section 3.5.6 of this Plan; and,

- approval of MOECP shall be obtained for the discharge of water from washing or screening operations.

3.5.9 Mineral Resources

It is the intention of Ministry of Northern Development & Mines to obtain information regarding mineral resources, to identify areas of mineral potential and abandoned mine sites.

For the purpose of this Plan, mining is understood to include above the ground and underground work, pits and quarries used for mineral extraction, as well as associated processing, transportation, waste and tailings storage, and directly related activities. Mining excludes pits and quarries used for aggregate extractions as part of the Aggregate Resource policies of this Plan.

1. Mineral exploration and mine development will be encouraged through the identification of mineral deposits and areas of mineral potential as “Areas of Mining Potential” on the land use schedules once this information becomes available.
2. Mining and related activities will only be permitted outside of identified settlement areas. The compatibility of mining activities with surrounding land use designations will determine the specific nature of permitted mining related activities.
3. The establishment of mining related activities shall be subject to the approval of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines under the Mining Act.
4. An influence area will be used as a means of protecting existing land uses in the vicinity of proposed mining operations from a land use conflict and reciprocally to protected areas of high mineral potential and mining operations from the encroachment of incompatible land uses. Development may be permitted in the influence area only where demonstrated that the activity will not have a negative impact on mining operations and identified areas of high mineral potential. The influence area arc shall be 1,000 metres (3,280 feet) from the proposed mining operation. The establishment or modification of the influence area should be carried out in consultation with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and may be done without an amendment to this Plan.
5. Known abandoned mine sites, along with a 1,000 metre influence area have been identified on Appendix A2, as an Abandoned Mine Site. No development within the influence area shall be approved until the nature and extent of any hazards have been determined and mitigated to the satisfaction of the Ministry

of Northern Development and Mines. Development within the influence areas of the abandoned mines may be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Development Agreement or similar agreement.

3.5.10 Aggregate Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of former mineral resource operation shall be required to address known or potential hazards and to promote compatibility with surrounding land uses. This best practice will be addressed as part of the licensing and rehabilitation plan.

3.6 RESIDENTIAL

In 2002 Canada Mortgage and Housing conducted a case study on the residential housing market of Mississippi Mills. The report concluded that the proximity of Mississippi Mills to Ottawa, the attractiveness of the area for young retirees and the focus on the creation of larger single detached home both within Almonte and the surrounding rural areas had resulted in significant increases in the cost of houses and a dramatic decrease in the availability of “affordable” housing.

The report called for a strong commitment in the Community Official Plan to promote a more balanced supply of housing, with less focus on larger single detached homes and more emphasis on a diversified, affordable housing stock.

This Plan strives to make affordable housing a major priority. The Residential goals, objectives and policies of this Plan direct the development industry to provide for a broader range of housing options in terms of housing types and rental opportunities (i.e. tenure).

The following policies shall apply to all lands designated Residential lands within the urban settlement areas of Almonte and notwithstanding Section 3.4.2, all lands designated rural settlement areas and villages of Pakenham, Blakeney, Appleton, and Clayton.

3.6.1 Goal and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Promote a balanced supply of housing to meet the present and future social and economic needs of all segments of the community.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goal:

1. Promote and support development which provides for affordable, rental and/or increased density of housing types.
2. Designate a sufficient supply of land to meet the residential goals of the Plan.
3. Ensure that land use policies and zoning do not establish barriers to a more

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balanced supply of housing.

4. Direct the majority of new residential development to areas where municipal sewer and water services are/will be available, and which can support new development.
5. Ensure that residential intensification, infilling and redevelopment within existing neighbourhoods is compatible with surrounding uses in terms of design.
6. Permit a range of activities in residential areas including home-based businesses, bed and breakfasts, group homes, churches, schools, community facilities and open space.
7. Work in conjunction with other levels of government and non-government organizations to establish necessary social housing.

3.6.2 Residential Permitted Uses

Lands designated "Residential" shall be predominately used for low and medium density residential uses and associated accessory uses.

Other uses compatible with residential neighbourhoods may also be permitted, such as parks, public and community facilities, bed and breakfasts, home-based businesses, group homes, garden suites, day nurseries, country inns, and local commercial use, subject to policies contained in this Plan.

On lands designated "Residential – Community Facility" the permitted uses shall be limited to identified uses in Section 4.7, Community Facilities of this Plan.

3.6.3 Affordable Housing

Council will provide for affordable housing by enabling a full range of housing types and densities to meet projected demographic and market requirements of current and future residents of the municipality by:

1. Monitoring the need for social assisted housing for households and seniors through periodic surveys in co-operation with area municipalities. Where specific needs are identified, Council will work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Social Services Department of the County of Lanark to meet identified needs.
2. Encouraging infill and housing intensification particularly in urban core areas. This may be achieved through the conversion of single detached dwellings to multiple units, through redevelopment at higher densities, through land severances on large under-utilized lots which create opportunities for development on the severed lot (subject to the relevant policies elsewhere in this plan) and through infill on vacant lands.

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3. Ensuring a minimum 10-year supply of residential land at all times.
4. Working with the development industry to ensure that a 3-year minimum supply of registered or draft approved lots and blocks for new residential development is available at all times.
5. Monitoring population projections and the residential development targets discussed in this Plan.
6. Encouraging cost-effective development standards and densities for new residential development to reduce the cost of housing. The Municipality shall encourage an adequate supply of affordable housing.
7. The Municipality shall attempt to have 25% of all new residential construction affordable. In a given year the residential development may meet, exceed or fall short of the 25% target and therefore, to achieve a more realistic picture of the progress made in achieving this target, three-year averages shall be used to meet affordable housing objectives.
8. The Municipality shall ensure that the Zoning By-law does not require standards which preclude the development of affordable housing, especially as it relates to house and lot sizes.
9. The Municipality may use incentives, such as reduced development charges or the increased height and density provisions in order to achieve the affordable housing policies of this Plan.

3.6.4 Supply of Serviced Residential Land

1. In order to accommodate projected residential demand, the Municipality shall strive to maintain a three-year supply of residential units available through lands suitably zoned to facilitate residential intensification and redevelopment and land with servicing capacity in draft approved or registered plans.
2. The Municipality shall maintain at all times the ability to accommodate residential growth for a minimum of 10 years through residential intensification and redevelopment, and if necessary, lands which are designated and available for residential development.
3. The Municipality shall establish and maintain an on-going inventory of potential sites for affordable or supportive housing projects.
4. The Municipality shall negotiate with developers in efforts to establish plans that include the types of housing needed within the community.

3.6.5 Range of Housing Types

1. The Municipality shall support a wide range of housing types, zoning standards and subdivision design standards.
2. The Municipality has established the following housing mix targets:
 - Low Density 60%
 - Medium Density 40%
3. Low density residential development shall include single detached, semi-detached, duplex, converted dwellings, and triplex housing. Low density residential areas will generally be developed in the range of 15 to 30 units per net hectare. Generally, density will be based on a net density approach.
4. Medium density residential development shall include four-plex housing, townhouses, 3 storey apartments, converted dwellings of three or more units and similar multi-unit forms of housing. Medium density residential areas will generally be developed in the range of 30 to 40 units per net hectare. Generally, density will be based on a net density approach.
 - Notwithstanding the requirements of sub-section 3.6.5.4 to the contrary, for the lands located within Part of Lot 14, Concession 10, being Block 70 on Plan 27M-88, Riverfront Estates Subdivision, Almonte Ward, Municipality of Mississippi Mills, County of Lanark, residential development shall include a three-storey; 42 unit apartment dwelling and a maximum net density of 91 units per net hectare (37 units per net acre)
5. All medium density residential development proposals shall address the following criteria:
 - a) Proximity to amenities such as grocery stores, parkland, health care facilities, schools and other community amenities;
 - b) Compatibility with existing land uses and the historical character of existing buildings;
 - c) Transitioning in built form and height with surrounding built form;
 - d) Availability of adequate off-street parking and appropriate access and circulation for vehicular traffic, including emergency vehicles;
 - e) Buffering from abutting uses;
 - f) Landscaping and on-site amenity spaces;

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- g) Four (4) storey apartment buildings and stacked townhomes are permitted in Areas 1 to 4 as identified in Official Plan Land Use Schedule A of Official Plan Amendment 22, dated September 2021; and
 - h) The availability of full municipal services to accommodate the proposed density of development.
- 6. Medium density residential development shall be appropriately zoned and be subject to Site Plan Control in accordance with the Planning Act.
- 7. To encourage a variety and mix of housing types, at least one model home with a purpose-built ARU is required to be offered for sale in new subdivisions and this requirement will be implemented via the Subdivision Agreement.
- 8. To ensure the new subdivisions meet the minimum residential density goals of this Plan, if a proposed subdivision does not meet the minimum density requirements of this Plan, at least 25% of the new dwellings are required to provide roughed-in ARUs and this requirement will be implemented via the Subdivision Agreement.

3.6.6 Special Needs Housing

- 1. The Municipality shall seek to improve access to housing for people with special needs, including assisted housing for low income people, seniors housing and housing for physically and developmentally handicapped individuals.
- 2. The Municipality shall work with local groups to determine the demand for special needs housing. The Municipality shall support appropriate applications and proposals for special needs housing.
- 3. The Municipality shall consider alternative approaches to providing housing targeted specifically to the seniors' population.

3.6.7 Infilling

- 1. The Municipality shall give priority to the infilling of existing residential areas as a means of efficiently meeting anticipated housing demand. Infilling shall be considered small scale residential development within existing residential neighbourhoods involving the creation of new residential lots or the development or redevelopment of existing lots.
- 2. Infilling development proposals in existing residential neighbourhoods should be compatible with the surrounding building form and demonstrate how the development meets the specific design policies for infill development in the Design Section of this Plan.
- 3. Infilling development shall be required to provide lot grading and drainage plans

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that take into consideration potential drainage impacts on abutting properties, to the satisfaction of the Municipality.

4. Infilling development may be implemented through a Site Plan Agreement in accordance with the Planning Act, Development Agreement or similar agreement which implements any conditions that are deemed appropriate by the Municipality.
5. Infilling development should generally be within the following density ranges unless it can be demonstrated that the surrounding neighbourhood has a higher net density than noted below:
 - 15 to 30 units per net hectare for low density residential development; and
 - 30 to 40 units per net hectare for medium density residential development.

The above noted density ranges do not include Additional Residential Units.

3.6.8 Residential Conversion Policy

The conversion of existing single detached residential dwellings into multiple unit dwellings is a means of providing affordable rental housing. Residential conversion is permitted within the Residential designation subject to the requirements of the Zoning By-law. Residential conversion proposals shall address the following development criteria:

1. The lot is of sufficient size to provide the required parking located in the rear, interior or exterior side yards or tandem in the front yard in a driveway leading to a garage or exterior parking space;
2. The lot is of sufficient size to accommodate any proposed additions;
3. Adequate outdoor amenity areas can be provided on the lot;
4. Any additions have specific regard for the relationship and transitioning to the surrounding built form;
5. Any required fire escapes and accessory structures for garbage enclosures and storage are generally located at the side or rear of the building;
6. Adequate access and circulation for vehicular traffic, including emergency vehicles is provided; and
7. Suitable landscaping and lot grading and drainage are provided.

3.6.8.2 Residential conversions may be implemented through a Site Plan Agreement in

accordance with the Planning Act, Development Agreement or similar agreement which implements any conditions that are deemed appropriate by the Municipality.

3.6.9 Additional Residential Policy

In accordance with the Planning Act, additional residential units are permitted. The Zoning By-law provides provisions for additional residential units including the following:

- 1) Adequate off-street parking and on-site outdoor amenity space is provided;
- 2) Landscaping and buffering of parking areas to adjacent residential uses is provided;
- 3) The lot meets the minimum lot area and frontage requirements of the zone or a minor variance is obtained to permit the development;
- 4) In the case of a property on municipal services, only one service is provided to a lot and as a result, any additional residential units must be connected to a singular residential, municipal service;
- 5) In the case of a property within the boundaries of Almonte, the Zoning By-law will generally require one parking space per Additional Residential Unit. A minor variance to eliminate the requirement of one parking space may be considered subject to the following policies:
 - a) it is demonstrated that on-site tandem parking is not feasible;
 - b) the property is located within 400 metres walking distance of a food retail store and other services;
 - c) the owner enters into an agreement with the Municipality that any resident of the Additional Residential Unit will be formally notified that on-site parking is not available and that the Municipality has an on-street winter parking ban in effect every season, through a lease agreement or other such means; and
 - d) on-street parking is available in the immediate area for visitors.
- 6) In the case of a property on private services, any Additional Residential Unit should share at least one of the two private services with the other dwelling;
- 7) In the case of a property on private services within the limits of a settlement area and in the villages of Pakenham, Clayton, Blakeney and Appleton:
 - a) the minimum lot area should be at least 1.0 ha in size. For any lots less than 1.0 ha, a minor variance may be obtained to permit the development provided that it is demonstrated through a Hydrogeological Study or similar study, that the property is of sufficient size to support the required private servicing; and

- b) the Zoning By-law will require one parking space for each Additional Residential Unit. Due to the lack of food retail stores, employment areas and other services within walking distance, minor variances to eliminate the required parking is generally not supported by the policies of this Plan unless it can be demonstrated that parking cannot be provided because of extenuating circumstances.

3.6.10 Bed & Breakfast Policy

Bed & Breakfast operations are permitted within a single detached dwelling subject to the requirements of the Zoning By-law. The Zoning By-law may provide Bed & Breakfast regulations which ensure:

- i. the residential character of the area is not changed;
- ii. adequate off-street parking, minimum floor area for guest rooms;
- iii. the use is conducted in the principal residence of the operator; and,
- iv. the maximum number of guest rooms for overnight accommodations shall not exceed 3.

Bed & Breakfast operations may be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.

3.6.11 Home-Based Business Policy

Home-based businesses are an important means of realizing small business start-ups and stay-at-home self-employment. Home-based businesses are permitted subject to the requirements of the Zoning By-law. The Zoning By-law may provide home-based business regulations which:

- i. include a detailed list of permitted home-based business uses;
- ii. generally, limit the number of employees, other than residents of the house to two individuals;
- iii. provide a maximum percentage of the floor area of the residence which may be used for the home-based business, or in the case of a rural residence the maximum floor area of an accessory structure;
- iv. ensure the external appearance of the residence is maintained and regulate outdoor storage and signs;
- v. provide appropriate parking standards for such uses; and,
- vi. limit traffic impact, ensure safe access, and prohibit uses that are deemed to be significant traffic generators.

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Home-based businesses may be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.

3.6.12 Group Home Policies

The term Group Home is used to describe a residence for the accommodation of three to ten persons, exclusive of staff, living under supervision in a single housekeeping unit and who, by reason of their emotional, mental, social or physical condition or legal status, require a group living arrangement for their well-being. Group homes permit residents a degree of independent living in a residential setting that ensures that their specific needs are provided for.

It is the intent of this Plan to recognize the need for group homes, the needs and concerns of the residents of the Municipality and to ensure the effective integration of group homes into the community so that they shall function successfully and obtain community acceptance. Group homes are permitted subject to the requirements of the Zoning By-law.

1. A group home shall be licensed or funded under an Act of Parliament of Canada or the Province of Ontario. Council shall provide input to licensing or funding agencies on applications for group homes within the Municipality, to ensure that in addition to the housing needs of the residents, additional supportive services and facilities exist for the residents.
2. The Zoning By-law shall permit group homes in all residential zones subject to the approval for use under the licensing or funding agency.
3. The Zoning By-law shall set out criteria and regulations on such matters as:
 - health, safety and building code compliance,
 - number of residents and staff,
 - parking requirements and amenity areas.
4. On-site parking requirements shall be established on the basis of the expected number of residents, support staff and visitors.
5. Group Homes may be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.

3.6.13 Garden Suite Policies

The term Garden Suite is used to describe a temporary dwelling unit accessory to a primary residence which offers an alternative arrangement for housing elderly parents, handicapped family members or other similar individuals.

Garden Suites may be permitted subject to the requirements of the Zoning By-law.

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1. The Zoning By-law may provide Garden Suite regulations which:
 - sets out the duration of the temporary nature of the dwelling unit;
 - require the dwelling unit to be accessory to a primary residential dwelling;
 - allow the garden suite dwelling unit to be attached or detached;
 - restrict any business or commercial enterprise from taking place within the garden suite; and,
 - require the dwelling unit to meet all requirements of the Zoning By-law, including yard setbacks and parking.
2. The Municipality may enter into an agreement with the property owner which addresses issues, such as:
 - conditions under which the Garden Suite shall be removed from the property or converted so that it is no longer a separate dwelling unit;
 - the Garden Suite not be used as a rental dwelling unit for profit or gain;
 - the Garden Suite meets all health, safety, servicing and building code standards;
 - the need for bonding or security to ensure that certain conditions of the agreement are met; and,
 - other issues deemed important by the Municipality. Garden Suites may be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Development Agreement or similar agreement.

3.6.14 Day Nurseries

The term "Day Nursery" is used to describe a licensed facility that receives more than five children, primarily for the purpose of providing temporary care or guidance for children under the age of ten years and/or developmentally handicapped children under the age of 18 years.

Day Nurseries may be permitted within the Residential designation subject to the following requirements of the Zoning By-law.

1. The Zoning By-law may provide Day Nursery regulations which require:
 - a demonstrated community need exists for the facility;
 - the establishment of the facility does not negatively impact upon the residential character of the neighbourhood and that specific attention be

paid to the noise impact associated with play areas;

- a safe area for the drop-off and pick-up of the children; and,
 - all requirements of the Zoning By-law, including yard setbacks, signage and parking are met.
2. The facility shall be licensed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services under the Day Nurseries Act, R.S.O., 1990, as amended.
 3. The facility shall provide for the temporary care or guidance of the children for a continuous period not exceeding 24 hours.
 4. The facility shall meet all health, safety and building code standards.
 5. Day Nurseries may be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Development Agreement or similar agreement.

3.6.15 Country Inn

The term "Country Inn" is used to describe a unique form of accommodation for the travelling public, similar to a Bed and Breakfast, but of a slightly larger scale. Such facilities are ideally suited for older buildings with historic character. In addition to serving meals to those seeking accommodation, Country Inns may also serve meals to the general public, although this should not be the principal function of the Inn.

Country Inns shall be placed in a separate zoning category and subject to the following requirements.

1. Country Inns within the Residential designation shall be located in residential Buildings with heritage value and the unique historic characteristics of the building shall be preserved in keeping with the heritage and design sections of this Plan.
2. The Zoning By-law may provide Country Inn regulations which ensure that:
 - i. the Country Inn maintains the residential facade of the building being utilized and not significantly change the residential character of the area;
 - ii. all requirements of the Zoning By-law are met, including adequate off-street parking, minimum floor area for guest rooms, signage, and buffering between surrounding uses;
 - iii. such uses have a minimum of four guest rooms and a maximum of ten; and,
 - iv. that the Country Inn is generally located on or near an arterial road and

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has minimal traffic impact, including safe vehicle and pedestrian access.

3. Country Inns shall meet all licensing, health, safety and building code standards for motels/hotels.
4. Dining facilities associated with a Country Inn shall be located in the principal building of the Country Inn.
5. Country Inns shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Development Agreement or similar agreement.

3.7 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LAND USE POLICIES

The economic base of Mississippi Mills is very diverse. The local economy consists of a strong agricultural industry, a vibrant small business sector, tourism and growing arts and high-tech sectors. There is also a very successful home-based industry. Like many rural small-town communities, the public sector (health, education, local government) represents the largest source of employment.

Recognizing the strengths of the local economy and the challenges that exist by being located close to a major urban market, this Plan establishes a clear policy direction which shall provide a positive climate for economic investment and job creation. The Plan also undertakes to identify an adequate supply of land to allow existing businesses to expand and for new businesses to locate within the Municipality.

Inherent in the growth and development of the local economy is the preservation of the area's small-town character. This is achieved through a strong commitment to the existing downtown cores of Almonte and Pakenham village as vibrant mixed use areas.

The land use policies relating to commercial and industrial development are intended to permit a broad mix of land uses and to provide entrepreneurs with a clear set of policies on which to make investment decisions. The various areas of commercial and industrial development are intended to complement each other through a varying scope of permitted uses.

The following policies shall apply to all lands within the various commercial and industrial land use designations within Almonte and Pakenham village detailed in Schedules B and C of this Plan.

3.7.1 Goal and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Develop the economic potential of the area and create employment opportunities which strengthen the social fabric of the community.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goal:

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1. Promote economic development which shall generate a balanced tax base and offer a comprehensive range of services within the community.
2. Promote the expansion and retention of existing business and economic sectors and promote opportunities for new business in order to diversify the area's economy, add to the commercial/industrial tax base and create new employment opportunities.
3. Direct the majority of new business to established commercial and industrial locations, including the downtown areas of Almonte and Pakenham village, the Mississippi Mills Business Park and established highway commercial areas.
4. Promote and preserve the downtown cores of Almonte and Pakenham village as vibrant mixed-use areas with potential for infilling and redevelopment.
5. Permit a broad range of home-based businesses in residential and rural areas, provided they are compatible with surrounding uses.
6. Protect and preserve Employment Areas for current and future uses.

3.7.2 Downtown Commercial

The "Downtown Commercial" land use designation applies to the two established downtown commercial areas within Mississippi Mills in Almonte and Pakenham village. Each has similar characteristics and distinct differences. This Plan shall promote and preserve the uniqueness and vibrancy of these two areas.

Generally, downtown commercial areas should contain a mix of commercial, residential and institutional land uses, which together make for a people-oriented, vibrant downtown core. The image of our downtown areas is based on their rich architectural heritage, visual landmarks, mix of land uses and importance to the community's social fabric. Sustaining this image and strengthening the economic role of these areas shall be dependent upon:

- conservation and renewal of the building stock;
- streetscaping measures;
- improving parking;
- encouraging the development of people places, such as riverwalks, rest areas, parks and open spaces, pedestrian walkways and public art.

3.7.2.1 Permitted Uses

On lands designated as "Downtown Commercial" permitted uses shall serve the whole of the Town Municipality's market area. Such uses include:

- i. a wide variety of retail, office, service, administrative, cultural, institutional, medical and entertainment uses (service uses include hotels, restaurants, personal service establishments and financial institutions). Retail uses in the storefront of buildings shall be encouraged;

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- ii. residential uses, in the form of apartments above or behind the principal commercial use of the building, and providing that residential uses on the ground floor do not exceed 50% of the total gross floor area of the ground floor;
- iii. existing residential development;
- iv. medium density residential development, as defined in the Residential section of this Plan, subject to an amendment to the Zoning By-law and provided the goals and objectives of this Plan are satisfied; and,
- v. notwithstanding Section ii), permitted residential development within the Downtown Commercial area of Pakenham village include all types of residential development in accordance with the Residential section of this Plan.

New commercial uses which are oriented to vehicle traffic, such as automobile dealerships, gas stations, truck depots and motels shall be discouraged within the Almonte Downtown Commercial designation and shall be directed to more appropriate lands within the Highway Commercial, Industrial, or Business Park designations.

3.7.2.2 Downtown Commercial Policies

1. The Plan shall provide for commercial and accessory residential intensification and infilling within the lands designated Downtown Commercial as a means of creating a compact downtown commercial core.
2. Development and redevelopment within the Downtown Commercial designation shall conserve the architectural and heritage characteristics of the existing street in terms of building profiles, massing and height. Specific design guidelines are found in the Design and Heritage sections of this Plan.
3. New development shall maintain the average height profile of the main buildings in the area and shall not exceed three (3) storeys in height. Due to the historic character of the Downtown Commercial area, new development greater than three (3) storeys will require an amendment to this Plan.
4. Development and redevelopment within the Downtown Commercial designation shall maintain the established setback pattern on the street.
5. The Municipality, in conjunction with the owners and/or operators of businesses within the Downtown Commercial designation, shall maintain and improve the streetscapes of the downtown areas by undertaking improvements to the lighting of public areas and walkways, the provision of street furniture and rest areas, the identification of pedestrian crossings, the planting of trees, consistent signage, and such initiatives as a riverwalk.
6. No open storage of goods or materials shall be permitted in the Downtown Commercial designation.

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7. The Municipality may use the increased height and density provisions and development charges provisions of this Plan to promote and achieve the Downtown Commercial policies.
8. All development within the Downtown Commercial designation shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.

3.7.2.3 Downtown Commercial Parking Policies

The Town Municipality recognizes public and private parking as important resources within the Downtown Commercial areas.

1. All development and/or redevelopment shall be required to provide adequate off-street parking and loading facilities. Access to the parking areas be limited in number and designed to ensure traffic safety. Parking areas should be linked with pedestrian walkways. The sharing of mixed- use parking areas shall be permitted.
2. In downtown areas, off-street parking facilities shall be encouraged to locate to the rear and side of the buildings.
3. Off-street parking, driveways and/or loading areas adjacent to residential uses shall be screened or buffered through the use of fences, or other appropriate landscape treatment.
4. All parking areas shall be appropriately illuminated in accordance with the Municipality's responsible lighting by-law.
5. The Municipality, in conjunction with the owners and/or operators of businesses, shall strive to improve the management and supply of parking resources within the Downtown Commercial areas.
6. The Municipality, in conjunction with the owners and/or operators of businesses, shall provide an adequate number of conveniently located bicycle racks within the Downtown Commercial areas.

3.7.2.4 Cash-In Lieu of Parking Policy

The Zoning By-law contains provisions prescribing a minimum number of parking spaces for specific land uses. In some circumstances, a commercial development proposal is unable to accommodate the required number of parking spaces. In such cases, the Council may enter into an agreement with an owner of a building that is being developed or redeveloped to provide for the payment of cash-in-lieu of parking in accordance with the following:

1. If a commercial development is unable to provide enough parking spaces, the Council has the authority to offer an exemption from the parking requirements of the Zoning By-law and accept a cash payment in-lieu of each parking space not provided. The cash payment may be a one-time charge or an annual

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charge and shall be detailed in the Municipality's Cash- In-Lieu By-law.

2. The Council shall adopt a Cash-In-Lieu By-law enabling it to accept cash payments from developers of commercial development proposals unable to provide the necessary number of parking spaces.
3. This Plan considers the payment of cash-in-lieu of parking as an effective mechanism for encouraging a compact, efficient and viable downtown core.
4. Monies raised through cash-in-lieu of parking shall be placed in a special fund, separate from general revenues, dedicated to managing existing public parking resources and/or establishing new parking facilities. The Municipality will maintain a list of those properties which have contributed to cash-in-lieu of parking.
5. In order to determine the actual costs of providing a parking space and the appropriate fee to be charged for each space levied, the Council shall undertake periodic parking studies.
6. In order to encourage development/redevelopment within the downtown core, the Municipality may wish to have a cash-in-lieu fee which is less than the true cost of providing new parking spaces.
7. This Plan encourages a Downtown Parking Study for Almonte and Pakenham village. The details for such a study are found in the Parking Policies of the Transportation Section of this Plan.

3.7.3 Highway Commercial

The "Highway Commercial" land use designation applies to the following commercial areas within Mississippi Mills:

- between Paterson Street and County Road #17, along Ottawa Street in Almonte
- along County Road #29 in Almonte
- along County Road #20 (Kinburn Side Road) in Pakenham village

Generally, highway commercial areas contain uses that are largely automobile-oriented.

Where highway commercial areas abut residential areas, appropriate buffering and pedestrian linkages shall be established. This Plan encourages pedestrian- friendly design and connection between commercial development and residential neighbourhoods.

The type and size of uses permitted in highway commercial areas should complement the inventory and function of existing commercial uses and areas, especially the downtown commercial cores.

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The highway commercial areas at the edge of urban areas function as the entrances to the urban communities in which they are located. To this extent, there needs to be special attention paid to the design of these areas, so as to maintain a coordinated and pleasing gateway to our urban communities.

3.7.3.1 Permitted Uses

On lands designated as “Highway Commercial” permitted uses include:

- i. Uses dependent upon high volumes of traffic or which are heavily transportation oriented. The scope of uses include, but not be limited to, restaurants, recreational and automotive sales, repair and services establishments, building contractors, building supply and home furnishing retail and wholesale outlets, farm machinery, hotel/motel, lodging facilities, garden centres and nurseries, warehousing and distribution centres
- ii. Retail stores, factory outlets and business offices that require large land areas and/or have large parking and/or outdoor storage or display requirements not consistent with the compact nature of downtown commercial cores.

3.7.3.2 Highway Commercial Policies

- i. This Plan encourages the intensification and best use of existing highway commercial lands so as to limit the linear expansion of the Highway Commercial designation.
- ii. Lot sizes shall be adequate for the proposed use. In assessing the appropriateness of the proposed lot size, consideration shall be given to parking and loading, servicing, storage, signage, landscaping and buffering requirements.
- iii. Access to and from Highway Commercial uses shall be limited in number and appropriately marked to identify their purpose. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to shared access points, service roads and similar traffic design features which limit access onto public roads.
- iv. Council may require a traffic study or evaluation to determine the volume of traffic to be generated, the needs and/or standards for entrances, turning lanes, vehicle stacking, signalization, on site directional movements, parking, etc. Traffic engineering should include the integration of both on-site traffic movement and the configuration, type and width of streets, roadways and sidewalks. The developer shall be responsible for the installation of sidewalks and road improvements required by the traffic study.
- v. Development shall provide for safe, convenient and barrier free pedestrian travel within the site, between the site and adjacent properties and public pedestrian walkways.

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- vi. Lighting poles and utility structures shall be carefully sited and in keeping with good design and highway safety practices. Lighting shall be in accordance with the Municipality's responsible lighting by-law.
- vii. Signage shall be carefully sited and in keeping with good design and highway safety practices. Signage shall be in accordance with the Municipality's sign by-law.
- viii. Adequate off-street parking and loading facilities shall be provided. Where possible, parking areas shall be sited on the property such that large expanses of parking fronting on public streets are avoided. The visual appearance of the land surrounding parking areas and structures shall be enhanced through the use of professionally designed landscaping methods incorporating a diversity of plant forms. Parking areas adjacent to residential areas shall be appropriately screened. Landscape plans shall be incorporated as part of the approved site plans.
- ix. Outdoor storage areas (equipment, garbage, etc.) shall be screened or fenced from adjacent uses and the street. Permanent display areas shall not be located in designated parking areas. Temporary or seasonal displays shall be permitted where they do not conflict with traffic flows or the safety of pedestrians.
- x. Where highway commercial development is located adjacent to residential uses, appropriate screening, buffering, distance separation or other measures designed to minimize or mitigate potential land use conflicts or adverse effects shall be required.
- xi. The Zoning By-law shall place highway commercial uses in a separate zoning category.
- xii. Highway commercial development or redevelopment shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, shall also apply to changes, additions or alterations to established uses.

3.7.3.3 Highway Commercial Areas as Community Gateways

It is the intent of this Plan to improve the visual image of highway commercial areas and develop them as gateways to the urban communities. Highway commercial areas shall also be used to define the edges of the urban areas and rural areas. This may be achieved through a program of beautification and the establishment of design standards for highway commercial areas.

1. The Municipality shall work with property owners and interested parties in the design and development of comprehensive gateway plans. Such plans may include design and landscaping standards related to tree/vegetative planting, sidewalks and boulevards, and lighting. Signage and advertising shall be integrated with landscaping with the intent of minimizing the number and visual

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impact of signs having regard for highway safety and human scale.

2. New development proposals shall be required to implement gateway features in their design.
3. Once completed, the Municipality shall implement the preferred design options recommended by the Ottawa Street Gateway Study.

3.7.3.4 Shopping Centre Commercial Development

There are presently two properties within the highway commercial designation which have been approved for shopping centre commercial development within Mississippi Mills, both along Ottawa Street in the Almonte Ward. Shopping centre commercial development is defined as a group of retail, service commercial or other similar uses under separate ownerships which function as a unit within an enclosed building, with common parking and loading facilities and egress and ingress under one ownership. Freestanding buildings shall be permitted on lands zoned for shopping centre commercial development provided they do not adversely affect access or traffic circulation within the shopping area. In addition to the general highway commercial policies, the following policies shall also apply to lands zoned for shopping centre commercial development:

1. Shopping Centre Commercial development shall be permitted on lands designated Highway Commercial subject to an amendment to the Zoning By-law, placing the lands in a separate shopping centre commercial zoning category.
2. Where a proposed shopping centre commercial development would exceed 3,500 square metres of gross leasable floor area or where there is a proposal to expand an existing shopping centre beyond 3,500 square metres of gross leasable floor area, the implementing zoning by-law amendment shall be supported by a current market analysis study.
3. A market analysis study shall demonstrate that the additional retail floor space is justified by reason of changes in population, personal disposable income, retail sales per capita and inventory of existing retail floor space within the Municipality or relevant services area.
4. In order to facilitate the review of shopping centre commercial development proposals, the following information shall be supplied by the developer to support the proposed zoning by-law amendment:
 - i. a breakdown of the amount of floor space and size of individual leasable units to be devoted to food shopping, department store type merchandise, general retail and ancillary services within the Municipality or relevant service area;
 - ii. gross floor space of the proposed development;

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- iii. a study of the impact of the proposed development on existing commercial areas within the Municipality and an estimate of the anticipated recovery period from this impact; and,
- iv. a traffic impact analysis.

3.7.3.5 Special Site-Specific Policy for Highway Commercial (430 Ottawa Street) (OPA 26)

On lands described as Part Lot 16, Concession 10, geographic Township of Ramsay (430 Ottawa Street), the following provisions shall apply:

1. Medium to high density residential development shall be permitted as an additional use and shall be developed in accordance with the following:
 - i. A maximum residential density of 50 units per net hectare is permitted. For the purpose of this policy, residential density shall be interpreted to apply to the entirety of the property.
 - ii. Residential development may include apartment buildings and residential uses in the upper storeys of non-residential use buildings.
 - iii. Standalone residential buildings shall be located to the rear of commercial buildings facing Ottawa Street.
 - iv. Residential building height shall be limited to a maximum of 4 storeys for apartment buildings.

3.7.4 Business Park – Employment Area

The “Business Park – Employment Area” land use designation applies to lands on the east side of Almonte, south of County Road 49. Lands designated Business Park – Employment Area are planned to function as a major employment centre within the Municipality. The development policies are intended to promote high quality and consistent development standards for the Mississippi Mills Business Park – Employment Area. In addition to the Highway Commercial and Industrial policies of this Plan, the following shall apply to lands designated Business Park – Employment Area.

3.7.4.1 Permitted Uses

On lands designated as “Business Park – Employment Area” permitted uses shall include:

- i. Highway Commercial uses including those typically dependent upon high volumes of traffic or which is heavily transportation oriented. The scope of uses shall typically include, but are not limited to, restaurants, recreational and automotive sales, repair and services establishments, building contractors, building supply and home furnishing retail and wholesale outlets, farm machinery, hotel/motel, lodging facilities, garden centres and nurseries, warehousing,

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wholesaling and distribution centres;

- ii. Retail stores, factory outlets and business offices that require large land areas and/or have large parking and/or outdoor storage or display requirements not consistent with the compact nature of downtown commercial cores;
- iii. Medical clinics, rental outlets, garden centres, education and training facilities, industrial and business services, research and development facilities, computer, electronic or data processing establishments, scientific or technological establishments, communication and information establishments; and
- iv. Light Industry (Class I) and Medium Industry (Class II) as defined in the Industrial section of this Plan.

3.7.4.2 Business Park – Employment Area Policies

1. This Plan shall encourage the intensification, infilling and best use of existing business park lands so as to limit the need to expand the Business Park – Employment Area designation.
2. Lot sizes shall be adequate for the proposed use. In assessing the appropriateness of the proposed lot size, consideration shall be given to parking and loading, servicing, storage, signage, landscaping and buffering requirements.
3. Access to and from Business Park – Employment Area uses shall be limited in number and appropriately marked to identify their purpose. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to shared access points, service roads and similar traffic design features which limit access onto public roads.
4. The Municipality shall maintain business park design guidelines which set out a unified master plan approach to the development of the business park. The design guidelines are intended to ensure high quality aesthetic standards for the Park and provide quality control assurances to protect the long-term investment of property owners and tenants. The design guidelines establish overall business park elements, such as entrances and streetscapes, as well as individual development standards. Development within the Business Park – Employment Area shall be in accordance with the Business Park Design Guidelines.
5. The Zoning By-law shall place the business park lands in a separate zoning category.
6. Business park development or redevelopment shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act shall also apply to changes, additions or alterations to established uses.

7. The Municipality may permit conversion of lands within employment areas to non-employment uses only through a municipal comprehensive review, where it has been demonstrated that the lands are not required for employment purposes over the long term and that there is a need for the conversion.

3.7.5 Industrial – Employment Area

The Municipality's primary industrial investment area is the Mississippi Mills Business Park and designated "Business Park – Employment Area". There are also a number of industrial uses located throughout the rural and urban areas of the community which are designated "Industrial – Employment Area". Industrial development is an important component of the Municipality's economic base. This Plan recognizes existing industrial uses and provides for an adequate supply of land for future industrial development.

The intent of this Plan is to encourage the development of light (Class I) and medium (Class II) industries, since these types of uses are most compatible with the nature of the area. The scope of permitted uses shall be sufficiently broad to enable the Municipality to attract a variety of industrial types and to focus on more specialized types, such as the high-tech industry.

It is the desire of the Municipality to have industrial development that is both an aesthetic and economic asset to the community. To this extent, there needs to be special attention paid to the design of these uses.

3.7.5.1 Permitted Uses

On lands designated as "Industrial – Employment Area" permitted uses include:

- i. **Class I Industry – Light Industrial**

A place of business for a small scale, self-contained plant or building that produces, manufactures, assembles or warehouses a product which is contained in a package and has a low probability of fugitive emissions e.g. noise, odour, dust and vibration. Such industries generally operate in the daytime only with infrequent movement of products and/or heavy trucks and no outside storage. Examples may include electronics manufacturing and repair, high technology industries, furniture repair and refinishing, beverage bottling, package and crafting services, small scale assembly, parts supply.

- ii. **Class II Industry – Medium Industrial**

A place of business for medium scale process and manufacturing with outdoor storage of wastes or materials (e.g. it has an open process) and where there are periodic or occasional outputs of fugitive emissions e.g. noise, odour, dust and/or vibration. Shift operations occur and there is frequent movement of products and/or heavy trucks during daytime hours. Examples include dry cleaning services, printing establishments, paint spray booths, welding shops, courier and transport services, heavy vehicle repairs, bulk fuel storage, raw

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product storage (aggregates, logs/lumber), warehousing, and contractors' yard.

Ancillary uses, excluding residential uses, may include the incidental retailing or wholesaling of goods and services produced, manufactured or offered which have been produced on the premises. The scale of ancillary commercial uses should be relatively minor compared to the primary industrial use.

Uses shall not be permitted that are considered to represent a significant health or safety risk to the residents of Mississippi Mills or the environment by reason of noise pollution, pollution of the environment or by virtue of any other adverse environmental impact.

Uses that are compatible with industrial uses, such as banks, restaurants, wholesale, offices, research and communication facilities and other quasi-industrial or service industrial uses may be permitted.

An accessory residential use, such as a caretaker's residence may be permitted.

iii. Class III Industries (Heavy Industry)

Shall only be permitted through an amendment to this Plan. Class III industry is defined as a place of business for large scale manufacturing or processing with large physical size, outside storage of raw and finished products, large production volumes and continuous movement of products and employees during daily shift operations. It has frequent outputs of point source and fugitive emissions of significant impact and with a high probability of fugitive emissions.

3.7.5.2 Industrial - Employment Area Policies

The following policies apply to both urban and rural industrial activities.

1. The intensification and best use of existing industrial lands shall be encouraged, provided there are no adverse effects that cannot be mitigated and the influence area requirements between industrial uses and sensitive land uses can be met for the area of land on which any expansion occurs.
2. Influence areas for Classes I, II and III industrial uses shall apply between industrial uses and sensitive uses (reciprocally). Sensitive uses shall not be permitted within the influence area unless it is clearly demonstrated by a developer that adverse effects are clearly and fully mitigated to the satisfaction of Council and, where applicable environmental approval has been obtained from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. The influence area shall be measured from the nearest point of the property line of an industrial use to the nearest point of the property boundary of the sensitive land use. Where industrial development is located adjacent to a sensitive land use, appropriate screening, buffering, distance separation or other measures designed to minimize or mitigate potential land use conflicts or adverse effects shall be required.

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3. Lot sizes shall be adequate for the proposed use. In assessing the appropriateness of the proposed lot size, consideration shall be given to parking and loading, servicing, storage, signage, landscaping and buffering requirements, as well as the potential for future business expansion.
4. Access to and from Industrial uses shall be limited in number and appropriately marked to identify their purpose. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to shared access points, service roads and similar traffic design features which limit access onto public roads. Industrial traffic shall be directed to and from industrial areas by designated collector roads.
5. Council may require a traffic study or evaluation to determine the volumes of traffic to be generated, the needs and/or standards for entrances, turning lanes, signalization, on site directional movements, parking, etc. Traffic engineering should include the integration of both on-site traffic movement and the configuration, type and width of streets, roadways and sidewalks.
6. Lighting poles and utility structures shall be carefully sited in keeping with good design and highway safety practices. Lighting shall be in accordance with the Municipality's responsible lighting by-law.
7. Signage shall be carefully sited in keeping with good design and highway safety practices. Signage shall be in accordance with the Municipality's sign by-law.
8. Adequate off-street parking and loading facilities shall be provided. Where possible, parking areas shall be sited on a property such that large expanses fronting on public streets are avoided. The visual appearance of parking areas and structures shall be enhanced through the use of diversity of plan forms, landscaping methods or other architectural elements. Parking areas adjacent to residential areas shall be appropriately screened.
9. Outdoor storage areas (equipment, garbage etc.) shall be screened or fenced from adjacent uses and the street.
10. This Plan shall support and encourage the relocation of industrial uses from areas not designated as industrial where the uses are not compatible with surrounding land uses.
11. All Industrial – Employment Area uses shall comply with the requirements of the appropriate regulatory agencies regarding the disposal of wastes and water quality and quantity. Industries may be required to provide proof of compliance with other regulatory agencies requirements and licensing.
12. Industrial – Employment Area uses may be required to produce reports detailing demands for water and sanitary services, pollution abatement, emergency response and waste generation.
13. Industrial – Employment Area uses shall be placed in a separate zone in the

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Zoning By-law.

14. Industrial – Employment Area development or redevelopment shall be subject to Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, shall also apply to changes, additions or alterations to established uses.
15. The Municipality may permit conversion of lands within the employment areas to non-employment uses only through a municipal comprehensive review, where it has been demonstrated that the lands are not required for employment purposes over the long term and that there is a need for conversion.

3.7.5.3 Influence Areas

The influence area for a Class I Industry is 70 metres. The influence area for a Class II Industry is 300 metres. The influence area for a Class III Industry is 1,000 metres.

3.8 PARKLAND & OPEN SPACE

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills recognizes that rural and urban public parkland, waterfront areas and open spaces are essential to the overall character, quality of life and health of the community. Parkland and open spaces are valued for a variety of reasons:

- active recreational areas for sport activities, festivals and community events;
- playgrounds for tots and youth;
- passive areas for leisure and nature appreciation;
- open space linkages for recreational trails, bicycle paths and pedestrian ways;
- natural areas; and,
- “green” open spaces.

Mississippi Mills is fortunate to have a wide range of high-quality public parks and open spaces. It is important that as the community grows, so too does the quantity and quality of its parks.

In 2000, the Municipality undertook a Recreation and Culture Operational Review. This review recognized recreation as a social service in the same sense as health and education services. A number of the policy directions contained within this Plan are intended to implement the recommendations of the Operational Review.

This Plan acknowledges that the Municipality is only one provider of public parkland and open spaces. The Province of Ontario, County of Lanark, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, North Lanark Agricultural Society, the school boards and other public and private bodies all own and maintain significant open space lands within Mississippi Mills.

The following goals, objectives and policies apply to rural and urban lands designated “Parkland and Open Space”.

3.8.1 Goals and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Promote and develop public open spaces to service the recreation, leisure and quality of life needs of the community.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goal:

1. Adopt a public open space and municipal park system that accommodates a broad range of interests and needs in the area.
2. Create an inventory of public spaces within Mississippi Mills.
3. Establish a program to acquire new public lands.
4. Establish appropriate signage to identify public lands.
5. Support the continued maintenance and operation of public lands owned by the County of Lanark, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority and the provincial government.
6. Assist and encourage groups and organizations to develop and maintain trails throughout the community.
7. Involve members of the community in the design and development of public spaces.
8. Recognize Mississippi Lake, Clayton Lake, White Lake, Madawaska River and the Mississippi River and its tributaries as major recreational, social and economic assets within the community.
9. Preserve unopened road allowances for future access to water and other public uses.
10. Maintain and improve local beaches as important public spaces.
11. Encourage the development of riverside foot paths in both Almonte and Pakenham village which are linked to a broader trail system throughout the community.

3.8.2 Permitted Uses

In areas designated Parkland & Open Space, the predominant use of land shall be oriented towards active and passive recreation and natural conservation activities. Permitted uses shall include public parks, natural areas, pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths, playgrounds, picnic areas, swimming areas, sport fields, community

centres, arenas, farmers' markets, food services, tourist information centres, museums and other similar uses. Public utilities and cemeteries may also be permitted within the Parkland and Open Space designation. New cemeteries may be considered through an Official Plan Amendment. Existing ski hills, existing golf courses and existing tent and trailer campgrounds will be permitted to continue.

3.8.3 Parkland Classification

This Plan establishes a parkland hierarchy and classification system that shall guide the Municipality in the development and acquisition of parkland and open spaces. The classification system shall include neighbourhood parks, community parks, and regional parks.

1. Neighbourhood parks should generally be located in residential areas and accommodate multigenerational, neighbourhood interests. They should provide for unorganized play activities, quiet seating or rest areas, sports areas for minor leagues, such as mini soccer pitches, outdoor skating rinks, water play, playgrounds, neighbourhood events and informal activities. Wherever possible, neighbourhood parks should be established adjacent to or in conjunction with an elementary or secondary school. Neighbourhood parks are generally less than 4 hectares in size and located within ½ kilometre radius of the population being served. They should be easily accessible by pedestrians from local roads and pathways. They should be designed with extensive street frontage for visibility and safety.
2. Community parks should accommodate multigenerational social, cultural, education and physical activities of particular interest to the community, including multi-purpose, year-round, day/night activities, and organized recreational sports with some spectator space. Wherever possible, community parks should be established adjacent to or in conjunction with elementary or secondary schools. Community parks may vary in size from 1.5 to 10 hectares. There should be approximately ½ to 1 hectare of community park for every 1000 persons, located within a 2 kilometre radius of the population being served. Such parks should be directly accessible by arterial or collector roads and pedestrian networks and may have facilities for off-street parking.
3. Regional parks should provide specialized facilities for a wide segment of the population, including preservation of unique historical, cultural or natural areas and may include more passive activities. Regional parks may vary in size from 10 to 70 hectares.
4. In addition to blocks of parkland provided in accordance with the park classification system, the Municipality shall strive to develop pedestrian linkages between public open spaces throughout the Municipality. Public components of the linked open space system may include municipal lands, provincial, County or Conservation Authority lands, watercourses, utility corridors, schools, unopened road allowances, and other public areas. Where appropriate and necessary, the Municipality shall attempt to secure a public

right-of-way over private land in order to achieve a linkage between public open spaces. Wherever possible, the Municipality's pedestrian networks should be designed to connect with regional trail networks.

5. The Municipality shall establish an inventory guide of available parkland and open spaces.

3.8.4 Development Standards for Parks

1. The development of new parks or significant changes to existing parks shall be carried out through a three-stage process. The first stage shall involve public consultation on the function of the park, needs of the anticipated uses and specific features or characteristics valued by the residents. The second phase shall include the development of a general concept plan and cost estimate, prepared by a recreation planner or landscape architect, in conjunction with interested members of the public. The final stage shall include a detailed site development plan and the implementation and phasing of the park plan.
2. When designing parks, the following criteria should be considered:
 - Landscaping which will be used to enhance the visual appearance of the park, provide shade and screen activities or functions which may negatively affect adjacent land uses;
 - Responsible lighting which does not negatively impact on the adjacent land uses in conjunction with the Municipality's responsible lighting by-law;
 - Pedestrian and vehicle access and potential for negative traffic impact;
 - Adequate parking and drop-off areas;
 - Adequate frontage along roadways to ensure greater visibility and security, reduce conflicts with adjoining land uses and provide on- street parking opportunities;
 - Accessibility;
 - Incorporation/protection/enhancement of existing and/or native - vegetation, habitat or natural features on the property; Linkages with other public open spaces;
 - Consideration of four-season usage;
 - Demands for ongoing maintenance.
3. To improve the visibility of parkland and open spaces, the Municipality shall clearly sign and identify such lands.

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4. New ski hills, golf courses or tent and trailer campgrounds will require an amendment to this Plan and will be subject to the policies under Section 3.3.8.2 Tourist Commercial Policies.

3.8.5 Parkland Acquisition

The Town Municipality may acquire parkland or open spaces through all methods available including dedication as part of plans of subdivision, site plan, purchase, donation or bequest.

Under the Planning Act:

1. The Municipality, shall impose as a condition to the approval of a plan of subdivision, development or redevelopment of land, that land in an amount not exceeding, in the case of a subdivision, development or redevelopment proposed for commercial or industrial purposes, 2 per cent and in all other cases 5 per cent of the land included in the plan shall be conveyed to the municipality for park or other public recreational purposes. Alternatively, the Municipality may require cash-in-lieu of parkland in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act.
2. Where subdivision developments are large enough that the parkland dedication would constitute an appropriate park size and where there is insufficient parkland available within a reasonable distance, the Municipality shall require the dedication of land for park purposes.
3. Where the lands to be dedicated are too small to create an appropriate sized park or where there is already sufficient parkland in the vicinity, the Municipality may require a cash-in-lieu of parkland payment to be made. Such payments shall be used for acquiring, developing or maintaining parkland.
4. Land conveyed to the Municipality as part of the required parkland dedication will generally be classed as neighbourhood parks and will be expected to meet minimum standards for drainage, grading and shape in accordance with the intended function of the park and shall be assessed based on meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - the lands are located near or adjacent to and have linkage to school yards or natural areas;
 - the lands are within easy walking distance of the residential neighbourhood to be serviced by the park and are integrated into the design of the subdivision;
 - the lands have adequate street frontage to provide for visibility and safety;
 - where the lands being developed contain waterfront property, as much waterfront property as possible shall be dedicated as public parkland;

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- the lands are level, regularly shaped and not susceptible to major flooding, poor drainage or other environmental or physical conditions which would interfere with their development or use for public recreational purposes; and,
- the lands represent important scenic vistas or possess unique natural qualities.

3.8.5.1 Public Waterfront Access

The Mississippi and Madawaska River systems are defining natural features of Mississippi Mills. In addition to protecting the natural environmental features associated with the river systems, this Plan intends to enhance and maintain public access to the waterways to allow public enjoyment of these natural features.

Development proposals on lands abutting the area's lakes and rivers shall incorporate opportunities for public access and enjoyment of the waterways and shall comply with the policies of Section 3.1.3, Environmental Hazards and Constraints of this Plan. In addition, the Town Municipality shall pursue the following policies:

1. The Municipality shall establish a waterfront access and walkway plan which identifies possible points of access to water resources and possible routes for waterfront walkways/trails. It is recognized that access points to the water are most common in rural areas while walkways are more urban features. Such a plan shall utilize existing unopened road allowances, streets and other public lands as much as possible when determining access points and walkway routes.
2. It is the intention of the Municipality to use its parkland dedication provisions under the Planning Act to assemble identified private lands which are important waterfront access points and/or walkway routes. The Municipality may also use the increased height and density provisions of this Plan or other tools available in order to achieve this policy. Such walkways may be located within the "environmental hazard" lands provided the environmental integrity of the shoreline is maintained.
3. In terms of existing waterfront development, the Municipality shall pursue efforts to obtain and maintain public access points and walkways along waterfront areas where it is deemed appropriate.

3.8.5.2 Outside of the Planning Act

This Plan encourages new lands being added to the public land inventory through purchase, donation or bequest. The Municipality should adopt a "public lands acquisition policy" to provide guidance to Council on this matter. Particular emphasis should be given to obtaining additional rural public lands.

1. Where sufficient parkland cannot be obtained through parkland dedication requirements under the Planning Act, efforts should be made to acquire and

LAND USE POLICIES

develop additional parkland where needed.

2. The Municipality may accept additional lands over and above the parkland dedication required under the Planning Act and may incorporate these lands into its park and open space system. Such lands may include:
 - i. stormwater management areas;
 - ii. lands having environmental or physical conditions which render them unsuitable for development; and
 - iii. lands which represent important scenic vistas or possess unique natural qualities.
3. The establishment of future parkland areas shall, wherever feasible, be co-ordinated with the School Boards in order to achieve the integration of facilities and to maximize the recreational opportunities and use of the facilities.
4. The Municipality may establish a reserve fund to be dedicated to the development of recreation trails, bicycle paths, sidewalks and pedestrian walkways. Such funds may be used for the acquisition of necessary lands.

3.8.6 Non-municipal Public Lands

Mississippi Mills has extensive areas of public lands and open spaces owned and/or operated by other public authorities which contribute significantly to the rural character of the Town Municipality and are a major component of the tourism/recreation economy. This Plan designates lands, such as the Burnt Lands Provincial Park, the County of Lanark Agreement Forest and the Mill of Kintail as “Parkland and Open Space”.

1. This Plan recognizes that the Municipality does not have the jurisdiction to enforce provisions of this Plan as it relates to public lands owned by the Province, County or Conservation Authority. However, the Municipality shall work cooperatively with those public authorities in achieving the parkland and open space goal and objectives of this Plan and to ensure existing public lands remain within the public domain.
2. The Mississippi Lake and River, Clayton Lake, White Lake and Madawaska River represent important areas of open space and are defining features of the physical landscape of Mississippi Mills. This Plan shall strive to maintain and enhance public access to these water bodies. The Municipality shall undertake a program to clearly identify public access points along its water bodies.

3.8.6.1 Land Trusts

1. The Municipality endorses the concept of Land Trusts as a means of protecting natural and cultural areas. Land trusts:

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- i. protect and manage areas of natural, cultural and historical value;
 - ii. are non-governmental and operate for the public benefit;
 - iii. secure and protect heritage sites through land purchase or donation;
 - iv. conservation easements, or cooperative programs with landowners; and,
 - v. are community-supported through memberships, donations and volunteer involvement.
2. The Mississippi-Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy is a locally established, incorporated body which has the following objectives:
 - i. To acquire, secure and manage lands and interests in lands of environmental, heritage or landscape interest located within the general region of the drainage basin of the Mississippi River and of adjoining lands northward to the Madawaska River;
 - ii. To identify, conserve and restore the natural environment and heritage sites, including sites of ecological, scientific, scenic, open space, historic, architectural or archaeological interests;
 - iii. To identify, conserve and restore working landscapes and to develop trails within the framework of careful and sustainable stewardship;
 - iv. To receive, manage and disburse funds, donations and bequests;
 - v. To research and educate about the natural environment, heritage sites and landscapes; and,
 - vi. To co-operate with individuals, organizations, government agencies, conservation authorities and other bodies having similar aims and to encourage them in their activities.

3.8.7 Development Plan

1. A Development Plan shall be prepared in accordance with the following guidelines:
 - Council shall adopt an amendment to this Community Official Plan prior to any development;
 - In order to ensure the proper consideration of issues and problems, public participation and consultation with appropriate agencies shall be a mandatory component of the preparation of the Development Plan. When adopted, the Amendment to this Community Official Plan shall be

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subject to the approval of Lanark County.

- Until such time as the Development Plan is prepared for a specific “Future Expansion Area”, permitted uses and development shall be limited to the existing uses. Notwithstanding the above, Council may permit redevelopment of existing legal uses, limited to repairs and minor additions to buildings or structures, which would not prejudice the future development of the area.
- The Amendment to this Community Official Plan shall be implemented by Zoning By-Laws, development and site plans, subdivision plans and agreements, land acquisition, or other means as required.
- The Development Plan must consider and include policies for, amongst other things:
 - a) transportation, traffic, parking, walkability and cycling;
 - b) housing types, densities and mix;
 - c) population size and distribution;
 - d) community facilities and services, such as schools, parks, recreation and institutional uses;
 - e) commercial types and business office use, size and locations;
 - f) municipal services and utilities;
 - g) visual amenity, landscaping and conservation criteria or standards; and
 - h) means of implementation and staging.

4 GENERAL POLICIES

The following General Policies shall apply to all development within Mississippi Mills.

4.1 GENERAL ENVIRONMENT

The following general environmental policies shall apply to all development within Mississippi Mills.

4.1.1 Surface and Ground Water Protection

Water is a precious resource and vital to all life. The protection of the *quality and quantity* of surface water and ground *water resources* and the function of ground water recharge/discharge areas is a central concern of this Plan.

4.1.1.1 Goals and Objective

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Protect the quality and quantity of surface and ground water resources.

Protect surface and ground water resources from contamination associated with certain land uses and the long-term protection of a potable water supply for existing residents and businesses.

The following objective is designed to implement the goals:

1. Protect the quality and quantity of surface and ground water resources through:
 - The identification and mapping of water resources,
 - Co-ordinated watershed planning, and
 - The establishment of site-specific development review criteria.

4.1.1.2 Identification and Mapping of Water Resources

Identification and mapping of surface and ground water resources and major ground water users is one of the key components of protecting these resources. In the past, efforts were made to identify and map specific resources, such as provincially significant wetlands and regulatory flood plains. There are, however, many water resources that have never been mapped and are therefore difficult to protect. This Plan promotes efforts for the identification of all water resources.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change has approved the SPP for the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Area. This Plan shall implement the policies of the SPP in accordance with Section 3.1.4, and through the appointment of the RMO (Section 5.3.15).

The Municipality, in partnership with the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

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(MVCA) and other relevant organizations, shall undertake to identify and map water resources within the Municipality. In addition to identifying these water resources, efforts should be made to establish setbacks or development restrictions on the types of land uses permitted in order to adequately protect water resources. Efforts should also be made to maintain an up-to-date inventory of major ground water users.

Once water resources are mapped and appropriate policies and regulations established, the Municipality shall incorporate the information into this Plan and the Zoning By-law through an amendment to the respective documents.

4.1.1.3 Watershed Planning

Watershed planning is an integrated, ecosystem approach to land-use planning based on the boundaries of a watershed. Watershed plans identify the environmental features and functions of the watershed, such as river and stream systems, groundwater resources and woodland and wetland habitats. They typically document existing conditions within the watershed, identify significant natural features and linkages within the watershed, assess potential impacts of existing and future land use activities, recommend measures to mitigate impacts, establish water budgets and identify opportunities to restore and enhance natural features.

To date, the Town Municipality has participated in a Regional Groundwater Aquifer Study and the Almonte Well Head Protection Study, each of which contained specific recommendations which are incorporated into this Plan.

1. The MVCA is currently developing a Mississippi River Watershed Plan. The plan will undertake an integrated approach to water resources, natural hazards and natural heritage, land use and climate change impacts that will identify key features and management strategies.
2. The Municipality shall work in partnership with the MVCA, neighbouring municipalities, government agencies and interested bodies to undertake watershed or subwatershed studies for the area.
3. Once the recommendations of a Watershed or Subwatershed plan have been approved by Council, the Municipality shall incorporate the policy, regulations and mapping into this Plan and the Zoning By-law through an amendment to the respective documents.

4.1.1.4 Site Specific Development Criteria

Site specific development criteria focus on regulating certain types of land uses which are potentially harmful to *water resources*, establishing setbacks from the *highwater mark* of *water resources*, requiring water impact analysis for development in close proximity to *water resources* and establishing sound drainage and stormwater management practices.

Site specific development criteria related to ground water resources are as follows:

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1. Individual development proposals which require 50,000 litres or more of water per day will require a water taking permit from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. Notwithstanding the foregoing policy, the watering of livestock shall not require a water taking permit.
2. The taking of 50,000 litres or more of water per day shall be classed as a “land use” in this Plan and the Zoning By-law and may be placed in a separate category within the Zoning By-law. The Municipality shall require all development proposals which require a water taking permit from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to prepare a water impact assessment. The Municipality shall establish terms of reference for water impact assessments. The taking of water shall not exceed the ability of the aquifer to recharge itself.
3. Land uses which may cause contamination of water resources are identified in Section 3.1.7.2. Given the potential to contaminate water resources, the establishment of uses identified in Section 3.1.8.2 will be conditional upon a satisfactory completion of a water impact assessment. In cases where the risk of contamination of water resources cannot be mitigated or is too great, development will not be approved.
4. Development proposals involving the creation of new lots or redevelopment on existing lots using private water supply and sewage disposal systems may be required to demonstrate as a condition of consent that:
 - i. sufficient quantity of groundwater exists on site to support the new development and any existing development dependent upon the same aquifer;
 - ii. a well can be constructed on the property that will provide potable drinking water in accordance with MOECP guidelines;
 - iii. the operation of an on-site sewage disposal system will not adversely impact the on-site well or wells on neighbouring properties.
5. Where impact on the water resource cannot be mitigated or it is anticipated that the water quality/quantity objectives of this Plan cannot be upheld, development will not be approved.
6. Where existing development is determined to be causing or has the potential to cause a negative impact on water resources, Council shall encourage appropriate mitigated measures to be undertaken to improve the situation and to meet the water quality/quantity objectives of this Plan.
7. For lands located with the Almonte Well Head Protection Areas identified on Schedule D1 and/or D2 reference shall be made to the policies and regulations detailed in Section 3.1.7 of this Plan.
8. The establishment of new municipal wells or communal wells will require that

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well head protection areas be defined and that appropriate policies be established to ensure the protection of the well head protection area.

4.1.1.4.1 General Policies

Site specific development criteria related to surface water resources are as follows:

1. Where no water resource mapping has been included in the Zoning By-law, all buildings and structures except for electric power transmission lines and other public utilities, marinas and marine facilities, shall be set back a minimum of 30 m from the highwater mark of an identified water resource. The 30 metre setback from the highwater mark of water resources will also apply to sewage disposal systems. Where water resource mapping has been included in the Zoning By-law, all buildings and structures shall be located outside of the flood plain or 30 metres from the highwater mark of an identified water resource, whichever is greater.
2. Decreases to the 30 metre setback from the highwater mark of water resources for development on existing lots of record shall only take place through an amendment to the Zoning By-law and will require an environmental impact assessment. Decreases to the 30 metre setback will only be considered when there is no other practical alternative for development of the land. Existing vegetation between buildings or structures and the high-water mark should remain undisturbed. In some instances, the Municipality may require vegetative planting as part of the Site Plan Control requirements, in accordance with the Planning Act, for new development. The creation of new lots shall be required to accommodate the 30 metre setback from the highwater mark of a water resource.
3. Notwithstanding Section 2, expansions or enlargements of existing legal non-conforming uses located within the setback from the highwater mark of water resources may be reviewed through the Committee of Adjustment. An application to the Committee of Adjustment shall require an environmental impact assessment as supporting information. Further encroachment into the 30 metre setback, including lateral additions to existing structures, shall be discouraged and will only be considered when there is no other practical alternative for development of the land. Existing vegetation between buildings or structures and the water resource should remain undisturbed. The Committee of Adjustment may require waterfront vegetative planting as part of the Site Plan Control requirements, in accordance with the Development Agreement or similar agreement, for new development in an effort to obtain a net environmental gain. The cumulative impact the development will have on the area's water resource shall be assessed when reviewing such development proposals.
4. This Plan shall require the retention and if necessary, the establishment of a natural vegetative buffer on lands within 15 metres of a surface water resource, including rivers, streams, wetlands and lakes. Development subject to an

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approval process (official plan amendments, zoning by-law amendments, subdivisions, consents, minor variances, Site Plan Control in accordance with the Planning Act) shall be required to identify and maintain the natural vegetative buffer abutting the surface water resource. The use of native species in the vegetative buffer will be promoted. The Municipality may require vegetative planting as part of the requirements for new development. Notwithstanding the 15 metre natural vegetative buffer, a surface water resource access area of a maximum width of 9 metres may be permitted provided the natural shoreline is disturbed as little as possible. The balance of the waterfront outside of the access area shall be maintained in a natural state.

5. Development within 60 metres of the highwater mark of a water resource may be required to prepare an erosion and sediment control plan that demonstrates how erosion of the site will be minimized during construction.
6. Surface water resources will be maintained in their natural condition. Any alteration of a surface water resource will require the preparation of an environmental impact assessment, approved by the Municipality and MVCA and any other appropriate government body (Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, etc.).
7. Existing development will be encouraged to protect and enhance water resources.
8. The establishment of subdivisions or resort type development adjacent to water resources shall be required to undertake an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the quality of the surface water. Council may consult with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in regard to reviewing such studies. Factors typically assessed in this type of study include existing water quality of the water resource, surface water runoff, impact and loadings of phosphorus from septic systems, type of soils, stormwater management and nature of vegetation.

4.1.1.4.2 Stormwater Management Policies

Effective control of stormwater shall be designed to control flooding, ponding, erosion and sedimentation and enhance water quality and fish habitat of the surface water resources located within the Town Municipality. The following policies shall be designed to achieve effective control of stormwater:

1. Best management practices and techniques to maintain stormwater quality and quantity shall be applied to all development.
2. The Municipality shall undertake the development of a Master Drainage Plan for the Almonte Ward, in co-operation with MVCA in order to establish a stormwater management program and to control the amount of stormwater entering the

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sanitary sewer system.

3. Once a Drainage Master Plan is approved by Council, development proposals shall be required to include a drainage plan which manages stormwater in accordance with the Master Drainage Plan.
4. Where appropriate, all new development shall be required to prepare a Storm Water Management Report which incorporates the "Major-Minor" stormwater system concept, and:
 - i. The Major system shall be designed to manage the anticipated increase in stormwater runoff created by the development, over pre- development conditions. The Major system should accommodate the 1:100-year storm event and where necessary, shall require retention or temporary storage facilities to control discharge rates to predevelopment levels.
 - ii. The Minor system shall accommodate stormwater runoff from more frequent storms (5-year events) up to the design capacity of an existing receiving system and shall require retention or storage facilities to control discharge rates to predevelopment levels.
 - iii. In cases where stormwater control is an identified constraint to an area, development proposals may be required to provide additional detention storage.
5. Where required, storm water management reports will identify the methods of surface water disposal and any impacts on adjacent or affected properties.
6. The approach to stormwater management shall be preventative, rather than relying solely on end-of-pipe quality control, to protect water resources. Where possible, Low Impact Development (LID) techniques should be considered in order to mitigate the impacts of increased runoff and stormwater pollution by managing runoff as close to its source as possible. The Low Impact Development Stormwater Management Planning and Design Guide (Credit Valley Conservation, 2010) provides detailed examples and LID design recommendation.
7. The principles which the Municipality intends to utilize in its review of stormwater management plans are as follows:
 - i. that natural hydrological characteristics are maintained and where possible, enhanced as the means of protecting the base flow of watercourses;
 - ii. that the natural infiltration of water on lands which are developed are maximized;
 - iii. that proposed development will not result in increased downstream

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- flooding or erosion or cause adverse effects on receiving waters;
 - iv. that alterations to natural drainage systems are minimized through retention of natural vegetation and by leaving stream channels in their natural form;
 - v. that sanitary and storm water sewers are separated;
 - vi. that fish and wildlife habitats are protected, enhanced or restored where they may be affected by the discharge or outlet of stormwater;
 - vii. that a sustainable environmental approach is utilized in protecting surface water resources; and,
 - viii. that water quality is monitored on an ongoing basis in order to evaluate the effectiveness of stormwater management practices.
8. Prior to approving any development proposal, the Municipality shall be satisfied that stormwater and drainage is being directed to a legal and adequate outlet.
9. Development proposals involving the creation of new lots, subdivisions, Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, and zoning amendments shall be required to prepare a stormwater management plan in accordance with the following:
- i. that post development water flows originating from the site will not exceed predevelopment flows; and,
 - ii. details on erosion and sediment control, best management practices, downstream impact assessment, base flow of the watercourse, water quality and quantity, impact on fish habitat and aquatic life, maintenance of natural water resource features, groundwater characteristics and potential impacts on the existing natural environment shall be presented where appropriate. The establishment of a dwelling on an existing lot of record may require the preparation of a basic lot grading and drainage plan as part of the building permit process.
10. The design of new stormwater management facilities shall minimize the risk of contaminating drinking water by encouraging grading and drainage designs that reduce ponding and direct the discharge of any stormwater run-off outside of vulnerable areas.
11. Developing Communities shall be subject to the Watershed policies found in Section 4.1.1.3 as they relate to stormwater management.

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4.1.1.4.3 Development within Wellhead Protection Areas

Development applications within the area defined as Wellhead Protection, Intake Protection, Highly Vulnerable Aquifers, or as Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas by the SPP shall be supported by the appropriate Source Water Impact information, such as a “Source Protection Activity Checklist” or a Risk Management Plan as required by the Risk Management Official (RMO). The Municipality will require the submission of this information as a condition of completing an application for approval for land development. The Municipality shall not approve an application for development approval without the support of the RMO.

4.1.2 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The impacts of climate change in the Municipality of Mississippi Mills and globally, include: change in warm weather growing seasons; unpredictable water levels in rivers and lakes and groundwater during droughts or floods; greater stress on public infrastructure from extreme weather events; heat stress and flooding impacts on vulnerable people; increased demand on emergency services and impacts on tourism and recreation. Integrating climate change considerations into planning by protecting natural systems such as wetlands and their support systems (groundwater source areas) will reduce the effects of drought and extreme weather events, improve resilience and protect carbon sequestration potential.

This Plan recognizes that one component of long-term economic prosperity involves providing opportunities for increased energy generation, supply and conservation, including alternative energy systems and renewable energy systems. The federal Climate Change Plan challenges municipalities to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase and protect GHG sinks through action on transportation, land use planning and education. This Plan shall strive to reduce GHG emissions from municipal operations as well as from overall community sources.

In cooperation with organizations, such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Municipality shall prepare an Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emission strategy which establishes emission inventories, action plans that set targets and measures to meet those targets, implementation strategies, public education and ongoing monitoring.

In addition, there are numerous policies within this Plan which make significant contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution and improving energy efficiency. These include:

- growth and settlement policies which direct the majority of development to full serviced urban areas;
- urban design which promotes compact and mixed-use development, energy efficiency, reduces automobile travel and increases walking and cycling;
- rural design which promotes energy efficiency and the protection of natural features;
- tree retention and protection of significant forest cover; and,
- protection of natural heritage resources, such as wetlands.

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The policies developed for energy, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions are as follows:

1. Development which contributes to air pollution shall require approval by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and demonstrate that emissions levels are within established limits.
2. New development shall be required to demonstrate actions to be undertaken to bring about enhanced energy efficiency.
3. Existing development shall be encouraged to improve energy efficiency.
4. The Council shall work with groups such as the “Environmental Advisory Committee” to research new opportunities to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.
5. Agricultural operations shall not be required to comply with the above noted policies.
6. Increased energy supply shall be promoted by providing opportunities for energy generation facilities to accommodate current and projected needs, and the use of renewable energy systems and alternate energy systems, where feasible.
7. Alternate energy systems and renewable energy systems shall be permitted in Almonte, Pakenham Village, villages and rural settlement areas, in rural areas and agricultural areas in accordance with provincial and federal requirements. In rural areas and agricultural areas, these systems should be designed and constructed to minimize impacts on agricultural areas.

4.2 DESIGN

A recurrent theme in this document and the discussions leading up to this Plan is the desire to maintain the small town and rural character as the defining element of Mississippi Mills. In order to maintain and enhance the tangible elements of the area’s small town and rural character, special attention must to be paid to design.

Design involves matters related to the visual character, aesthetics, compatibility of land use and the qualitative aspects of development. Design guidelines will supplement the policies that apply to each of the land use designations, as well as to those matters that fall under the zoning and sign by-laws, Site Plan Control in accordance with the Planning Act, and the lot creation process.

The Design Section of this Plan shall be used primarily for guideline purposes, except where Council has the clear authority under the *Planning Act* to influence tangible elements of design. The implementation of design shall focus on cooperation amongst developers, landowners, residents and the Municipal Council and staff in the preparation and review of development proposals and public works.

All development shall be required to demonstrate compliance with the design goals,

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objectives and policies of this Plan. Council may establish a design committee to assist with the preparation of design guideline documents, both urban and rural, that would assist developers and decision makers in implementing the design policies of this Plan.

There is a fundamental difference between design in an urban setting and design in a rural setting. Accordingly, this Plan shall set out both urban and rural design guidelines.

Development within the Municipality shall be directed by the following design goals, objectives and policies.

4.2.1 Goal & Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Require new development and redevelopment to respect the scale and form of the area's small town and rural character.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goal:

1. Adopt urban design policy which reflects the elements of small-town character and the principles of smart growth.
2. Define tangible elements of small town character to include lot size, size of buildings, building height, lot coverage, landscaping, setbacks from streets and lot lines, accessory structures, park land, open space, visual impact, street width, sidewalks, lighting, signage, and services.
3. Require residential intensification, infilling and redevelopment within existing neighbourhoods to be compatible with surrounding uses in terms of density and design.
4. Adopt rural design policy which reflects the elements of rural character and the principles of smart growth.
5. Define tangible elements of rural character to include lot size, location of buildings, setbacks from roads and lot lines, accessory structures, park land, open space and visual impact.
6. Require new non-farm residential dwellings in the rural area to be set back from the road and where possible, screened from view by taking advantage of natural tree cover and terrain.
7. Promote development which incorporates environmentally sustainable design.
8. Establish the Zoning By-law, sign by-law and Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, as planning tools to ensure that the design goal and objectives are addressed.

4.2.2 Urban Design

Good urban design helps create lively places with distinctive characteristics, using quality architecture. It creates meaningful connections between people and places and provides the means to shape the built environment into enjoyable places to live and work. The components of the built environment where design plays a key role are:

- Built form including buildings, structures, bridges, signs, fences and anything else that has been constructed, added or created on a piece of land;
- Green and open spaces including parks, plazas, courtyards, front yards, parking areas and other natural or open spaces;
- Streets and infrastructure, including sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle routes, utilities, streetlights and any other above or below-ground infrastructure servicing the community.

Together, these physical components of the built environment create lasting impressions, where streetscapes and neighbourhoods contribute to a community identity that is more than the sum of its parts.

The following design policies express the tangible physical characteristics of site design and built form that are important to the creation of liveable communities. These criteria will be used to review development proposals. It is recognized that development proposals vary in terms of size and detail and may be able to address design matters in different ways. In some instances, one design feature may be deemed more important than others and therefore may have more attention paid to it.

Plans of subdivision will establish street patterns and lot orientation and connections to established neighbourhoods and natural features in a sustainable manner. The Zoning By-law will establish heights, distances from property lines and street setbacks which begin to form the interface with the public realm. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, can deal with the layout of the site and its relationship to its surroundings through specific application of the design criteria. As well, Council and the Committee of Adjustment will use these guidelines when making their decisions on specific development proposals. With any given development proposal, detailed design characteristics may be requested through the public consultation process that demonstrate how the development reflects the specific character of a given area.

4.2.2.1 General Policies

1. Development proposals will need to demonstrate how they conform to the Council approved Urban Design Guidelines.
2. Development proposals will need to demonstrate how the following aspects of the built environment are addressed through design:
 - i. natural features including trees, vegetation, rivers and waterways,

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- ravine lands, rock outcrops and variations in topography
 - ii. historical development patterns and cultural landscapes;
 - iii. the physical character of the surrounding built environment; and,
 - iv. connected network or grid of roads, pathways and corridors that are modified to fit the environment and the surrounding patterns of development.
3. Development proposals will need to consider the impact they may have on the character and quality of the surrounding built and natural environment and will:
- i. - ensure that sites are large enough to accommodate the scale and intensity of the proposed development and amenity areas;
 - ii. mitigate impacts from noise, odours, traffic, outdoor storage and dust originating from the subject property;
 - iii. demonstrate that the density, form, bulk, height, setbacks, spacing and materials of development are compatible with the surrounding area;
 - iv. recognize the public street as the basic public element of design;
 - v. demonstrate how the development supports the pedestrian focus of the Plan;
 - vi. minimize the shadowing of adjacent properties, particularly outdoor amenity areas;
 - vii. design and locate lighting to control spillage on adjacent properties; and,
 - viii. identify and protect significant natural environmental features.
4. To create visually appealing buildings and enhance the special quality of our streets and public spaces, development proposals will:
- i. design new buildings that help define streets, community gateways, intersections, parks and publicly accessible open spaces;
 - ii. design buildings so as to maintain or enhance the established architectural integrity, heritage value and decorative elements that are present in the community;
 - iii. design buildings to be pedestrian-friendly and directly accessible from the street;
 - iv. demonstrate that the orientation to the street of new buildings and the

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- height of the buildings are consistent with the community (exceptions will be considered in areas where existing situations allow for more compact form of development to occur in accordance with the general design policies of the Plan);
- v. design new buildings to maximize the direct exposure to natural light and minimize the reduction of natural light exposure to surrounding uses;
 - vi. establish mechanical apparatus and other site servicing requirements with the overall architectural and site design, so as not to occupy prominent visible locations;
 - vii. discourage building types with garages and service elements that dominate the streetscape in new and infill development;
 - viii. consider façade and skyline details that enhance or complement existing situations; and,
 - ix. consider the incorporation of public art into the design of public spaces and buildings.
5. To connect and enhance natural features and landscapes and make them accessible to everyone, development proposals will:
- i. define the edge of rivers, ravines and other natural features with public roads or pedestrian walkways and preserve public access points and views of the features;
 - ii. design, install and maintain all landscaped areas so that significant trees on the site are protected during construction and are maintained;
 - iii. provide street trees and other planting areas in association with decorative lighting and fencing on both public and private lands (such features should work together to define the street and pedestrian areas and to soften the impacts of parking and development);
 - iv. provide public amenity spaces, such as plazas, parks, community gardens and green spaces;
 - v. design stormwater management facilities to be integrated with landscape features;
 - vi. design open spaces with sufficient frontage on the street and other public areas so as to provide for visibility and access from public spaces;
 - vii. prevent the location of large parking lots between the street and the front façade of buildings that face the street within downtown commercial areas (the location, amount and position of parking areas and their

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- potential to erode the qualities of the public streetscape shall be assessed in order to lessen their visual impact);
- viii. divide large parking areas into smaller components with landscaping;
 - ix. provide a clearly defined network of sidewalks, pathways and cycle routes that are linked to established public areas;
 - x. provide traffic control devices to protect and provide priority to cyclists and pedestrians at locations where sidewalks and pathways may conflict with traffic; and,
 - xi. link buildings, parking areas and public spaces with onsite networks of pathways and sidewalks that are linked to public sidewalks and/or pathways.
6. To design sustainable buildings, open spaces and streets that are efficient, durable and adaptive over time, proponents of development proposals and public works will:
- i. encourage sustainable designs that reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs;
 - ii. promote the re-use, not demolition of existing buildings that are structurally sound;
 - iii. encourage street layouts, building orientation, and landscaping to maximize potential gains from solar energy and exposure to light;
 - iv. ensure public outdoor spaces are shielded from extreme effects of winter winds and summer sun through site design measures, such as the placement of suitable plant species;
 - v. recommend the use of local building materials and/or durable, environmentally sustainable building materials; and,
 - vi. recommend outdoor lighting fixtures that will promote public safety and be of a design that reduces energy consumption and direct light away from the abutting properties and the night sky.
7. Development proposals involving residential intensification as a means of increasing available housing stock, affordability and efficient use of land should be compatible with the surrounding neighbourhood. Residential intensification development proposals will:
- i. be compatible with the existing neighbourhood character in terms of features, such as scale, massing, height, siting, setbacks, building orientation, coverage, parking, privacy and amenity areas;

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- ii. minimize the impacts on existing vegetation; and,
- iii. minimize significant sun-shadowing for extended periods on adjacent properties, particularly outdoor amenity areas.

4.2.3 Rural Design

Rural character is defined by the elements that differentiate rural landscapes from urban areas. Components of rural landscape include open spaces, forests, rivers and waterways, farms, small settlement areas, natural resource areas, wilderness and natural habitat and landforms. Rural character is not homogeneous and is represented by different features throughout the Municipality.

The variety of rural landscapes must be understood and addressed in efforts to conserve rural character. Moreover, rural landscapes are constantly changing and evolving. Preservation of rural landscapes is one element of rural design. The challenge is to manage change so that what is good is protected, while allowing new and appropriate forms of development to emerge.

Over the past 30 years, the rural areas of Mississippi Mills have been subjected to significant alterations as a result of increased rural non-farm residential development. The objective of this Plan is to chart a new course for development in the rural area and pay more attention to the location of new rural land uses. Focus will be on locating development with minimal impact on natural resource and visual integration into the rural landscape.

The tangible elements of rural character where design can play a key role include: rural roads, roadside trees, hedgerows, rail and rock fences, barns, old log and post and beam agricultural buildings, pastoral vistas, building design, building setbacks, signage, size and location of lots, integration into natural habitat and landscape, protection of natural resources. Together, these components of the rural landscape help define the rural character of Mississippi Mills.

The tangible elements of rural design and built form are important in maintaining rural character and attractive rural landscapes. These criteria will be used to review development proposals. It is recognized that development proposals vary in terms of size and detail and may be able to address design matters in different ways. In some instances, one design feature may be deemed more important than others and therefore may have more attention paid to it.

The single most significant form of development will be the creation of rural non-farm residential lots. This form of development has historically had the greatest visual and physical impacts on the traditional rural landscape of Mississippi Mills. Other forms of development in the rural area should also be assessed against these design criteria.

The following policies shall not apply to agricultural land uses, including residential dwellings accessory to an agricultural operation.

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4.2.3.1 General Policies

1. Development proposals will need to demonstrate how they conform to the Council approved Rural Design Guidelines.
2. The construction and maintenance of existing roads shall take into consideration the roadscapes that exist or are common to an area. Efforts will be made to maintain existing trees and traditional rail fences along existing roads. Wherever possible, the existing character of the road will be enhanced through specific tree plantings and fence design. Professional advice on the pruning and cutting of trees and fence design along road allowances shall be encouraged.
3. The creation of new non-farm residential lots shall generally be directed towards areas having natural tree cover, scenic views and rolling terrain rather than flat, open land. Further, the existing vegetation and terrain should be disturbed as little as possible and the houses should be encouraged to be screened from view, especially from Arterial, Collector and Scenic Roads.
4. The creation of new lots and rural development proposals will need to demonstrate how the following aspects of the rural landscape are addressed through design:
 - i. natural features including fence lines, trees, vegetation, rivers and waterways, ravine lands, rock outcrops and variations in topography;
 - ii. historical development patterns and cultural landscapes, including fence lines and hedgerows;
 - iii. the physical character of the surrounding built environment; and,
 - iv. visual impact from roadways.
5. Development proposals will need to consider the impact they may have on the natural environment and will:
 - i. ensure that the setbacks from natural features, rural resources and agricultural lands expressed elsewhere in this Plan are adhered to;
 - ii. ensure that the site is large enough to accommodate the scale and intensity of the proposed development; and,
 - iii. design and locate lighting to control spillage on adjacent properties and protect the night sky.
6. To create visually appealing buildings and enhance the rural character, development proposals will:
 - i. demonstrate that new buildings and their setback from the road are

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- consistent with traditional rural development;
 - ii. the Zoning By-law shall establish increased setbacks for new non- farm residential development and other forms of rural development;
 - iii. encourage new residential buildings to be designed to maximize the direct exposure to natural light;
 - iv. encourage building types which are traditional to the rural area;
 - v. establish rural residential design guidelines to assist in identifying the characteristics of traditional rural residential design;
 - vi. protect or enhance natural areas between the roadway and the structures; and,
 - vii. encourage rural non-farm residential development to establish traditional fence designs, such as rail fences and rock fences.
7. To design sustainable buildings that are efficient, durable and adaptive over time, all proponents of plans, development proposals and public works will:
- i. encourage sustainable designs that reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs;
 - ii. promote the re-use, not demolition, of existing buildings that are structurally sound;
 - iii. encourage street layouts, building orientation, and landscaping to maximize potential gains from solar energy and exposure to light;
 - iv. recommend the use of local building materials and/or durable, environmentally sustainable building materials; and,
 - v. use outdoor lighting fixtures that will promote public safety and be of a design that reduces energy consumption and directs light away from the abutting properties and the night sky.

4.2.5 Rural Settlement Areas and Village Design

The traditional villages of Clayton, Appleton and Blakeney and the modern-day rural settlement areas located throughout the rural areas of Mississippi Mills, possess unique design character features. Future rural settlement areas shall be designed respecting the unique characteristics of traditional villages and the natural environment and not that of the existing rural residential subdivisions.

Development proposals for the expansion of villages or the creation of new rural settlement areas shall be subject to an official plan amendment and assessed based

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on the following design guidelines. In addition to the following policies, proponents will need to demonstrate how they conform to Council approved Design Guidelines.

This Plan envisions the expansion of existing villages and the creation of new rural settlement areas as more than residential subdivisions. In designing such development, the following principles should be considered:

1. Define public spaces and parks with a purpose. Instead of being the left-over bits of land they should be consciously and deliberately planned from the very beginning as critically important, value-adding elements of the community.
2. Focus on the core rather than on the boundary. The importance of core areas serving as centres of gravity to draw people together, such as parkland, bodies of water and neighbourhood businesses, helps define a community. Without them, convenient opportunities for residents to interact casually are severely reduced.
3. Use order rather than repetition. The neat order of village streetscapes creates a sense of cohesion without the repetition of identical design.
4. Use human proportions. Whether it is the sidewalk to porch distances that allows casual conversation or walkways or public open spaces, it is important to design at a scale comfortable for people to be in.
5. Encourage walking and cycling rather than automobiles.
6. Encourage a range of housing sizes and types rather than only one type.
7. A variety and mingling of house and lot dimensions allow people to remain in their community as their housing needs change.
8. Use housing shapes and styles that reflect traditional villages and small towns.
9. Encourage a mix of uses rather than purely residential land uses.
10. Fit within the environment rather than on top of it.

Generally, the expansion of existing villages or new rural settlement areas should:

- i. result in a community of 80 to 120 dwellings with a sewage and water servicing strategy which can support densities of 2 to 5 residential units per acre;
- ii. be pedestrian friendly and include walkways connecting the public lands;
- iii. establish a central core fronted by a number of buildings devoted to commercial, institutional or mixed uses;
- iv. include a variety of building setbacks (most having a 10 to 20-foot front yard setback for homes from the street);

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- v. include non-uniform lot widths, areas, and shapes; and, (vi) promote rear garages and parking where practical.

During the consideration of any expansions to a settlement area boundary within the Municipality of Mississippi Mills will ensure that highly vulnerable aquifers and significant ground water recharge areas are protected from incompatible development.

4.2.6 Night Skies

The high quality of darkness of the night skies in Mississippi Mills is a defining element of the rural character of the area. The Fred Lossing Observatory, located at the Mill of Kintail, is a significant regional facility and very much dependent upon high quality of darkness of the night sky for its function.

“Good Neighbour” lighting is described as the practice of installing and maintaining outdoor lighting fixtures that direct sufficient light downward and minimizes light trespass and blinding glare.

Good Neighbour lighting enhances the safety of citizens and increases the security of property. Outdoor lighting is used to illuminate roadways, parking lots, yards, sidewalks and pathways, public meeting areas, work sites and home and building exteriors. Good Neighbour lighting increases the visibility of hazards, improves the safety of citizens and provides a sense of security in the community.

The Municipality benefits from responsible, well-designed lighting in the following ways:

- it minimizes energy use;
- it reduces operating and maintenance costs;
- it increases the safety of citizens;
- it maintains and enhances the quality of darkness of the night skies; and,
- it can enhance property values.

Poor lighting can give rise to:

- glare which can severely hamper the vision of drivers, pedestrians and cyclists and which can reduce security by producing dark shadows;
- light trespass which may direct light onto neighbouring properties and into windows thereby reducing privacy;
- sky glow which directs lighting upwards and undermines the integrity of night sky resources. Sky glow symbolizes wasted energy and washes out our view of the night sky;
- energy waste which increases operating and environmental costs associated with energy production.

The policies developed for the protection of night skies are as follows:

- The Municipality shall maintain its lighting by-law.
- - Development shall be required to demonstrate responsible, well

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- designed lighting in accordance with the Municipality's lighting by-law.
- The Municipality's lighting by-law shall provide for special protection of the night sky around the Fred Lossing Observatory

4.3 HERITAGE RESOURCES

The heritage resources of Mississippi Mills are a defining feature of the community. They contribute to the character, civic pride, tourism potential, economic development cultural and historical appreciation of the rural and urban areas of the Municipality. Perhaps more than any other element of design, our heritage resources defines what is unique and distinct about Mississippi Mills.

This Plan recognizes the importance of heritage resources and promotes the conservation of those resources in a manner which respects their value to the community. This Plan encourages the restoration and conservation of heritage resources.

4.3.1 Goals and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Recognize the area's heritage as being of central importance to the community's sense of identity.

Protect and enhance cultural *heritage resources* for their cultural, historic, architectural and/or economic value to the community.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goals:

1. Encourage new growth and development that reflects and acknowledges the heritage character and values of the community.
2. Conserve, protect and enhance existing buildings, structures, streetscapes, roads, and vistas which contribute to the identity and history of the area.
3. Consider the establishment of Heritage Conservation Districts in concentrated areas of *heritage resources*.
4. Require that new development, redevelopment and infill development be compatible with and sensitive to the heritage character and values of the area.
5. Adopt heritage conservation design guidelines to complement the existing urban rural design guidelines.

4.3.2 Heritage Committee

1. The Municipality shall maintain a citizens' heritage advisory committee known as

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the Heritage Committee, established under the Ontario Heritage Act, to advise and assist on heritage resource matters.

2. Under the direction of the Heritage Committee, a program to identify, research and document the heritage resources of Mississippi Mills will be established. Efforts should be made to locate and categorize all buildings, structures, roads and areas of cultural heritage value or interest located within Mississippi Mills.
3. The Heritage Committee shall maintain an inventory and evaluation of identified heritage resources within the community, including heritage roads in accordance with Section 4.3.7 of this Plan. The Heritage Committee is encouraged to publish this inventory in order to inform the public of the range of heritage resources and their importance.
4. Council and the Heritage Committee will participate actively in local, provincial and national award programs for the recognition of individuals and organizations in the community engaged in heritage conservation and ensure municipal programs encourage their continuing efforts in conserving and promoting heritage resources.
5. Council and the Heritage Committee will cooperate with other levels of government in the conservation and protection of heritage resources.
6. Council and the Heritage Committee will establish a program for commemorating heritage resources with heritage plaques, awards and other forms of recognition.
7. Council and Heritage Committee will enhance opportunities for public awareness of cultural heritage resources by initiating and supporting promotional and educational Municipal programs or by promoting the programs of other agencies, governments or groups.

4.3.3 Development Review and Heritage Resources

1. Council shall consult with the Heritage Committee on development proposals and all other matters involving heritage resources or on lands adjacent to heritage resources.
2. The Municipality shall require that a heritage impact statement be prepared by a qualified person to the satisfaction of the Municipality and the Municipality Heritage Committee, for any development proposal, including a secondary plan, which has the potential to impact a designated heritage resource. The scope of the heritage impact statement determined in consultation with the Municipality and must include information and assessment relevant to the circumstances, including alternative development approaches or mitigation measures to address any impact to the heritage resource and its attributes. A heritage impact statement shall be required where construction, alteration, or addition to a property located within a heritage conservation district or heritage area is

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proposed.

3. When reviewing applications for zoning amendments, Site Plan Control in accordance with the Planning Act, approval, demolition control, minor variance, or the provision of utilities affecting lands/properties adjacent to or across from designated heritage resources, the Municipality will ensure that the proposal is compatible by:
 - i. Respecting the massing, profile and character adjacent to or across the street from the heritage buildings;
 - ii. Approximating the width of nearby heritage buildings when constructing new buildings facing the street;
 - iii. Approximating the established setback pattern on the street;
 - iv. Being physically oriented to the street in a similar fashion to existing heritage buildings;
 - v. Minimizing shadowing on adjacent heritage properties, particularly on landscaped open spaces and outdoor amenities;
 - vi. Having minimal impact on the heritage qualities of the street as a public place in heritage landscapes;
 - vii. Minimizing the loss of landscaped open space;
 - viii. Ensuring that parking facilities (surface lots, residential garages, stand-alone parking, and parking components as part of larger developments) are compatibly integrated into heritage areas;
 - ix. Requiring local utility companies to place metering equipment, transformer boxes, power lines, conduit equipment boxes, and other utility equipment and devices in locations that do not detract from the visual character or architectural integrity of the heritage resource;
 - x. And, any other criteria deemed relevant from the Mississippi Mills Urban and Rural Design Guidelines and any heritage conservation design guidelines.
4. Where development affects the heritage resources, the Municipality may enter into registered agreements with the owners of designated heritage properties when it deems that financial securities are necessary to ensure the retention and conservation of heritage properties as part of a development.
5. Where development or re-development is proposed adjacent to or across from a heritage resource on the Heritage Property Register (but not designated under the Ontario Heritage Act), the applicant shall demonstrate the proposal's

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compatibility with that heritage resource and its streetscape.

6. The retention and re-use of heritage resources, including agricultural structures, shall be encouraged.
7. When undertaking public works, the Municipality will provide for the conservation of heritage resources in accordance with these policies. Efforts will be made to enhance the environment surrounding heritage resources through such means as tree planting, landscaping, street improvements, underground wiring and the provision of street furniture, lighting, signage and other streetscape components.
8. Where feasible and desirable, incentives may be provided to developers in exchange for preservation of significant heritage resources. This can be accomplished through the increased height and density provisions of this Plan or under Section 37 of the Planning Act, tax incentives, assistance through a trust fund, heritage conservation easements and/or other means considered appropriate for heritage resource conservation.
9. The Municipality shall expand the current urban and rural design guidelines to include specific heritage design guidelines for the redevelopment of heritage features as well as for the development adjacent to or across from heritage resources.
10. For development review impacting archaeological resources and areas of archaeological potential, the policies of Section 4.3.5 of this Plan shall apply.
11. For development review impacting cemeteries, the policies of Section 4.3.6 of this Plan shall apply.

4.3.4 Heritage Resource Conservation

1. Council may use the Zoning By-law and Maintenance and Occupancy By-law to facilitate the maintenance and conservation of heritage resources, and to ensure that the application of these by-laws is not detrimental to heritage conservation.
2. Council will administer the Building Code and other regulations to permit maximum conservation and re-use of heritage resources while ensuring the health and safety of the public.
3. Council will work with local museums to promote the conservation of heritage resources which are within the museums' collections.

4.3.4.1 Individual Sites Designation

1. Council, in co-operation with the Heritage Committee and in consultation with

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property owners, may designate, by by-law under the Ontario Heritage Act, individual buildings, structures, sites and landscapes as heritage properties.

2. Criteria for determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest are set out in Ontario Regulation 9/06 at the end of Section 4.3.4.1(1)."
3. After considering the proposal to designate a heritage resource, Council may pass a by-law designating the property and cause a copy of the by-law, together with the reasons for the designation, to be registered against the title of the property.

4.3.4.2 Heritage Conservation Districts

1. Council, upon recommendation from the Heritage Committee, may designate groups of buildings and areas as heritage conservation districts by by-law under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
2. When considering the establishment of a heritage conservation district, the area shall be assessed based on its ability to satisfy at least one of the following criteria:
 - i. it represents a group of architecturally significant buildings due to their craftsmanship, originality, style, age or representation of a particular period;
 - ii. it is associated with past events of distinguished individuals;
 - iii. it is locally recognized as an area of special interest;
 - iv. it can be associated with a former way of life which is of significance to the community; or,
 - v. it is an aesthetically pleasing environment that contributes positively to the atmosphere of the Municipality by means of offering diversity and interest within its contemporary setting.
3. Once a certain area has been chosen as a potential heritage conservation district, Council shall pass a by-law under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Such by-law shall clearly identify the area to be studied, contain a brief description of the properties to be included, state the aspects of the area to be investigated and state the manner in which the area is to be studied.
4. Council, with the assistance of the Heritage Committee shall undertake the necessary studies and preparation of a Heritage Conservation District Plan for the area selected. The necessary studies may include an examination of the land use, pedestrian and vehicular patterns, the condition and cultural heritage significance of individual buildings and sites, ownership patterns, the visual environment, socio-economic characteristics of the area, and the potential for

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development and redevelopment of the area.

5. Council and the Heritage Committee will conduct an extensive public education and consultation program during the preparation of the Heritage Conservation District Plan.
6. A Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plan will function as a secondary plan for the identified area and may be incorporated into this Plan through an amendment. The HCD Plan shall identify the defining aspects of the District which attribute to its special characteristics or sense of place. It shall identify the actions and policies necessary to conserve the heritage feature of the District. There may be a need to amend the Zoning By-law or other documents in order to establish regulations to implement the HCD Plan.
7. Once a Heritage Conservation District Plan is complete and accepted by Council, it shall be approved in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act.

4.3.4.3 Alterations to or relocation of designated properties

1. Where a structure designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act is to be altered, added to, or relocated, the approval of Municipality is required. Those wishing to alter a designated property shall consult with the Heritage Committee. If the alteration, addition, or relocation has the potential to adversely affect the designated resource, the Municipality will require that, in addition to a detailed plan through the Building Permit process, a heritage impact statement be conducted by a qualified person.
2. When an alteration or addition to a building located in a Heritage Conservation district is proposed, or new construction in a Heritage Conservation District is proposed, the applicant will consult the heritage conservation district study of that district for design guidance.
3. Where relocation of a structure designated under the Ontario Heritage Act is proposed, the Municipality will require that the heritage impact statement demonstrate that relocation is the only way to conserve the resource. The Municipality may consider the option provided that:
 - i. The building is retained on site, but moved to another part of the property for integration into the new development, or, if that is not possible;
 - ii. The building is relocated to a site appropriate to its cultural heritage value outside the proposed development or property.

4.3.4.4 Partial Demolition or Demolition of a Heritage Resource

Partial demolition or demolition of a heritage resource shall be made in accordance with the following policies:

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1. No owner of property so designated shall demolish or remove a building or structure on the property or permit the demolition or removal of a building or structure on the property unless the owner applies to the Municipal Council and receives consent in writing to the demolition or removal.
2. Those wishing to demolish a building or structure on the designated property shall be required to submit a detailed plan and shall set out such information as Council may require.
3. Council, after consultation with the Heritage Committee, may consent to the request to demolish a designated building or structure, consent to the request upon certain terms and conditions, or refuse the request and shall cause notice of its decision to be given to the owner.
4. If a heritage property is approved for demolition, the Municipality will require that the property be thoroughly documented for archival purposes at the expense of the applicant prior to demolition or alteration in accordance with accepted heritage recording guidelines, for deposit in the Municipality of Mississippi Mills archives.
5. The above-noted archival documentation must be prepared by a qualified person and include at least the following as appropriate, or additional matters as specified by the Municipality:
 - i. Architectural measured drawings;
 - ii. A land use history; and,
 - iii. Photographs, maps and other available material about the heritage resource in its surrounding context.

4.3.5 Archaeological Heritage Resources

Council shall maintain available archaeological site data locations from the provincial archaeological database of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) under the provisions of a municipal-provincial data sharing agreement, for the purpose of heritage conservation planning and development review. The Municipality will regularly update municipal archaeological resource mapping under the provisions of a municipal-provincial data sharing agreement as new archaeological sites are identified from land development and on the Provincial archaeological sites database. Areas of archaeological potential are determined through the use of provincial screening criteria and/or other similar local mapping criteria, such as proximity to water (current or ancient shorelines), rolling topography, unusual landforms, and any locally known significant heritage areas such as portage routes or other places of past human settlement.

1. Council shall require archaeological assessments conducted by archaeologists licensed under the Ontario Heritage Act as a condition of any development

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proposal affecting an area containing known archaeological resources or considered to have archaeological potential. Archaeological assessment reports conducted by licensed archaeologists are to be in compliance with technical guidelines and licensing requirements developed under the Ontario Heritage Act.

2. When archaeological resources are discovered, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) shall be contacted.
3. Development and site alteration may be permitted on lands containing archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential if significant archaeological resources have been conserved by removal and documentation, or preservation on site. Where significant archaeological resources must be preserved on site, only development and site alteration which maintains the heritage integrity of the site will be permitted. Local First Nations communities shall be consulted for input where any archeological assessment indicates areas of First Nations interest or potential for encountering First Nations artifacts.
4. The Council may pass an amendment to the zoning by-law prohibiting any use of land and the erecting, locating or using of any class or classes of buildings, or structures on land that is the site of a significant archaeological resource.
5. Council shall require that any alteration to known archaeological sites shall only be performed by licensed archaeologists as per Section 48 of the Ontario Heritage Act.
6. Council shall recognize there may be a need for archaeological preservation on site or rescue excavation of significant archaeological resources as a result of development proposals. Development proposals may consider archaeological preservation on site, to ensure that the integrity of the resources is maintained.
7. Council shall encourage the use of archaeological zoning by-laws under Section 34 of the Planning Act, to prohibit any land use activities or the erection of buildings or structures on land which is a site of a significant archaeological resource and to maintain its integrity.
8. Council shall ensure adequate archaeological assessment and consultation with appropriate governmental agencies, including the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) and the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS), when an identified marked or unmarked cemetery is affected by land use development. The provisions under the Heritage Act and the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act shall apply. Local First Nations communities shall be consulted for input where any burial site or remains is considered to be of potential First Nations origin. The Municipality may require that the development proponent retain archaeologists licensed under the Ontario Heritage Act to assess or monitor the site and recommend conservation

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strategies to the satisfaction of the Municipality, the MTCS and local First Nations communities.

4.3.6 Cemeteries

1. In the event that human remains or cemeteries are identified or encountered during assessment, site alteration or development, all work must immediately cease and the site must be secured. The appropriate provincial and municipal authorities must be notified. Required provisions under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, Ontario Heritage Act, along with other applicable protocol or policy must be followed. Where there are First Nation burials, they will be addressed by consultation with local First Nations communities. Licensed archaeologist may be required to assess and/or monitor the property and recommend conservation strategies.
2. The heritage integrity of cemeteries will be given careful consideration at all times. The Municipality will ensure that:
 - i. Heritage impact statements, prepared by a qualified person, are required for development proposals on lands adjacent to or across from cemeteries;
 - ii. Impacts and encroachments associated with development will be assessed and mitigated; and,
 - iii. The relocation of human remains will be avoided.

4.3.7 Scenic or Heritage Roads

Various roads within the Municipality have been identified as scenic or heritage roads. These roads have scenic or historic value or provide access to areas of scenic or historic value.

1. The Municipality, with the assistance of the Heritage Committee, shall undertake a program for the identification and classification of scenic or heritage roads. Specific design standards shall be established for scenic and heritage roads which reflect and enhance their values.
2. In reviewing development proposals adjacent to scenic or heritage roads, consideration will be given to whether the proposal is compatible with the values and function of the road.

4.4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The economic base of Mississippi Mills is very diverse. With the agricultural industry as an economic main stay, a strong and vibrant small business sector, an expanding tourism and arts sectors and a growing high-tech sector, the Mississippi Mills economy has many positive natural and historic attributes that create a foundation for

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healthy growth. Tourism is taking its place as a pillar of economic development for Mississippi Mills as the unique landscape and local history of the region draw a diverse mix of visitors to the community for day trips, recreation, art exhibits, special events and several well-established festivals. Given the Municipality's relatively low commercial/industrial versus residential assessment ratio (5:95 ratio in 2004). There is a need to increase the amount of commercial/industrial development in order to achieve many of the goals of this Plan.

This Plan recognizes the social and environmental benefits of living and working within the same community. However, it is recognized that the majority of the resident labour force of Mississippi Mills works outside of the community. The majority of these "commuters" work in nearby Ottawa. With the growth in the retail sector in the west end of Ottawa in areas, such as the Kanata Centrum Mall, Mississippi Mills faces significant challenges in retaining and expanding its retail economic base.

Promoting the strengths of the local economy and the challenges which exist, this Plan establishes a clear policy direction which will provide a positive climate for economic investment and job creation.

In addition to the following economic development policies, individual land use policies relating to commercial and industrial development are intended to provide entrepreneurs with a clear set of policies on which to make investment decisions.

There are four main themes to Mississippi Mills' economic development strategy:

- i. that Mississippi Mills is a special place to live and work and future commercial and industrial investment can add to and benefit from what is offered;
- ii. that the retention and expansion of existing businesses and economic sector, including the arts and tourism components within the community represent the best way in which to expand the Municipality's economy;
- iii. that home-based businesses represent an important business start-up opportunity and help keep entrepreneurs within the community; and
- iv. a successful economic development strategy requires strong and committed partnerships, both within the community and regionally.

It is acknowledged that a successful economic development strategy requires more than a supportive policy framework. It requires the action and co-operation of many private, not-for-profit and public sector interests. This Plan provides a solid foundation for such actions by conserving the natural historic resource for their environmental, economic and social values and by supporting or providing land use activities which can create new investment and employment opportunities.

4.4.1 Goal and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Develop our economic potential and create employment opportunities which strengthen the social fabric of the community.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goal:

1. Promote economic development which will generate a balanced tax base and offer a comprehensive range of goods and services within the community.
2. Promote the expansion and retention of existing business and economic sectors and promote opportunities for new businesses in order to diversify the area's economy, expand the commercial/industrial tax base and create new employment opportunities.
3. Direct the majority of new business to established commercial and industrial locations, including the downtown areas of Almonte and Pakenham, the Mississippi Mills Business Park and established highway commercial areas.
4. Permit a broad range of home-based businesses in residential and rural areas, provided they are compatible with surrounding uses.
5. Focus on the unique potential of the community's arts and tourism sectors to generate business and profile for Mississippi Mills.
6. Recognize farm and food entrepreneurs as part of the economic value of Mississippi Mills.

4.4.2 Business Development Policies

1. The downtown commercial areas of Almonte and Pakenham village shall be promoted as traditional community focal points of activity and commerce. New or expanding development in these areas shall be sympathetic to the traditional design characteristics of the compact downtown cores. Specific policies on downtown development are located in the Commercial Policy section of this Plan.
2. The area within Almonte around Ottawa Street and the Mississippi Mills Business Park will be promoted as a new commercial/industrial centre. New commercial and industrial development within this area should be an aesthetic as well as economic asset to the community. Such development should contribute to maintaining the character and identity of the community. To this extent, the design policies of this Plan shall establish guidelines that are intended to ensure high quality aesthetic standards for all commercial/industrial development and provide quality control assurances to protect investments. These guidelines may deal with matters, such as building design and siting, streetscape, parking locations, signage and linkages to residential and open space areas, etc.
3. Home-based businesses shall be recognized as an important component of the economic base of Mississippi Mills. Policies within the various land use sections

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of this Plan shall provide direction that promotes the establishment of home-based businesses, presents clear approval processes and limits the impact on surrounding land uses.

4. The implementation section of this Plan shall present a timely approval process for development which conforms to the policies of this Plan.
5. The Municipality shall attempt to expand its commercial/industrial tax base and thereby improve the 2004 commercial/industrial versus residential assessment ratio of 5:95. The Municipality will strive to improve this ratio to 15:85 during the life of this Plan.
6. This Plan recognizes the significance of local farmers and the positive impact both large scale and small-scale agricultural operations have on the local economy. The Municipality shall work with local commodity groups, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the County of Lanark Agricultural Committee and other groups supportive of the agricultural industry in order to maintain a positive climate for farmers to invest into the local agricultural industry.

4.4.3 Land Use Policies

1. This Plan shall permit a broad mix of land uses and shall identify an adequate supply of land available for a wide range of economic activities. The resource management policies of this Plan shall strive to manage the renewable and non-renewable resources of the area in a sustainable manner.
2. The environmental policies of the Plan shall ensure the conservation of the environmental attributes and natural heritage features of the community.

4.4.4 Amenities and Infrastructure

1. The infrastructure policies of the Plan shall strive to sustain the level of public services and infrastructure required to support the growth and development of the community.
2. This Plan shall promote the maintenance of the building stock and the heritage resources and values which contribute to the area's image. New buildings and structures will contribute to this image in accordance with the relevant policies of this Plan
3. This Plan recognizes the importance of an advanced, accessible telecommunications infrastructure. Council shall work with surrounding municipalities and the telecommunication industry to provide a consistent level of telecommunication services to all areas of the Municipality.

4.4.5 Partnerships

In order to maximize efforts and available resources, the Municipality shall establish

coordinated partnerships with other private and public sector bodies interested in the marketing and promotion of Mississippi Mills as a community to visit, live in and invest in.

4.4.6 Removal of Employment Areas

The Municipality may permit conversion of lands within employment areas to non-employment uses through a comprehensive review, only where it has been demonstrated that the land is not required for employment purposes over the long term and that there is a need for the conversion.

4.5 ARTS AND CULTURE

The Mississippi Mills arts and culture sector is an important part of the Municipality's local economy and contributes to the area's overall quality of life. Our arts and culture community makes significant contributions to the general appeal of Mississippi Mills, as a place to live, work, visit and do business.

This Plan defines arts and culture in the broadest sense. Cultural activities are broadly defined to include activities ranging from museums, community festivals and fairs, musical and visual performances, literary arts, media arts, arts education, cultural heritage events, sporting events and the celebration of many diverse interests.

Public art is broadly defined to include art as landscape, site-specific art, art incorporated into buildings and structures, art as infrastructure, art as temporary art and art as performance. Mississippi Mills has a thriving arts and cultural community as evidenced by the number and variety of festivals, performances, businesses and artists.

The Mississippi Mills Arts and Culture Advisory Committee has traditionally shown leadership and it will be important to continue this relationship as we begin to evaluate and determine how Mississippi Mills can become an even more important centre for arts and culture.

4.5.1 Goals and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Promote and foster the arts and culture sector as a major contributor to the strength of economic development, tourism and quality of life in Mississippi Mills.

The specific objectives are:

1. Encourage and support the development of arts, culture and tourism.
2. Make the arts accessible to all residents and visitors.

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3. Recognize that the arts and culture sector consist of a broad and diverse collection of individuals, businesses and volunteer organizations.
4. Promote public art as an investment for the Municipality.
5. Initiate a policy for the funding of public art.
6. Raise the awareness of public art through related educational activities.
7. Enhance and give meaning to our built and natural environment.
8. Support the Mississippi Mills Arts and Culture Advisory Committee and other cultural community stakeholders in their efforts to coordinate and promote arts and culture in Mississippi Mills.
9. Encourage collaboration between artists, planners, engineers, landscape architects, architects, and others.

4.5.2 General Policy

1. The Municipality shall foster a supportive and encouraging environment in which the arts and culture sector can flourish and contribute to community life. An environment of strong partnerships with arts organizations, the retail and business sector, educational and community organizations.
2. The Municipality shall support the development and promotion of arts and culture within Mississippi Mills.
3. The Municipality shall recognize small-scale arts and culture businesses as permitted home-based businesses.
4. The Municipality shall promote and encourage the use of public buildings, including the Almonte Old Town Hall and Mississippi Mills community centres, as spaces for cultural activities.
5. The Municipality shall adopt a comprehensive public art policy that promotes and provides opportunities for the creation of public art by involving artisans and their art in the design of civic spaces and facilities.
6. The Municipality shall likewise encourage private development to invest and provide for public art.

4.6 TRANSPORTATION

The transportation system within Mississippi Mills is an essential component of planning for the rural and urban areas of the Municipality. It influences both land uses and the quality of life within the community. The transportation system includes an active transportation network for use by cars, trucks, bicycles; sidewalks, walkways

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and trails for pedestrians (including Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail); lakes and rivers for recreation; and supportive infrastructure, such as parking and bicycle racks.

From a transportation planning perspective, the main intent of this Plan is to provide an integrated, diverse transportation system for all residents and businesses that is safe, convenient, affordable, efficient and energy-conserving while minimizing environmental impacts. The primary role of the system is to provide for the movement of people and goods, safely and efficiently within the Municipality and to adjoining areas.

While cars and the roads they travel on will continue to be the main focus of the transportation system within the Municipality, this Plan will promote a more balanced system which encourages other, more environmentally sustainable forms of transportation, particularly in the urban areas. There is also a need to continue to work cooperatively with the Province, County and neighbouring municipalities to improve the road infrastructure within the Municipality.

The Growth and Settlement Strategy of this Plan attempts to reduce our reliance on the car as the primary mode of transportation by minimizing the amount of scattered rural residential development and directing the majority of new development to urban areas. It is hoped that the result will be a land use pattern that reduces the need to travel great distances by car from home to work or to shopping and thus encourage alternatives to car travel.

The transportation network for the Municipality of Mississippi Mills consists of a provincial highway, county, arterial, collector, local and private roads. The intent of the Community Official Plan is to provide for a safe and functional transportation network that accommodates all forms of movement, such as motorized, non-motorized and pedestrian traffic movement throughout the municipality. Improvements or expansion to the transportation network will be made from time to time.

The right of way width referred to in the following policies reflect commonly accepted provincial standards. It is however recognized that in Almonte Ward, right of way dimensions of many existing roads may be less than these standards and that the Municipality is not proposing to increase them to such standards. Conversely, new roads will be required to conform to the standards.

The Municipality shall partner with private, municipal and community partners, where possible and practical, on public transportation initiatives to encourage ride-sharing and commuting opportunities within Lanark County and into the City of Ottawa.

4.6.1 Goal and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Encourage an active transportation system which integrates pedestrian movement, vehicular travel and commercial transport and is designed to minimize congestion.

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The following objectives are designed to implement the goal:

1. Maintain and enhance the road network as the primary transportation corridor.
2. Promote accessible pedestrian, bicycle and watercraft travel and add new systems in existing areas where the need has been established according to this Plan.
3. Maintain, enhance and link existing sidewalk, path, trail and waterway systems.
4. Maintain transportation corridors that are abandoned by railways for future transportation needs.
5. Establish public transit linkages between Mississippi Mills and Ottawa and facilities which encourage the reduced use of automobiles such as “park and ride” facilities.
6. Direct commercial and industrial traffic away from residential areas.
7. Promote an adequate supply of parking and require new development to provide necessary onsite parking.
8. Establish clear guidelines under which “cash-in-lieu” of parking may be used when considering the change of use or redevelopment of properties.
9. Establish a road classification system which includes road standards, widths and level of service which can be expected.
10. Include “scenic road” and “historic road” categories within the road classification system.
11. Promote the planting and retention of trees along roadways.
12. Establish uniform signage which identifies roads, the location of major community facilities, historical features, recreational opportunities and commercial activities.
13. Define a continuous arterial road through the Almonte Ward.
14. Investigate the need for a vehicle by-pass associated with the passage of traffic through the main urban areas of the Municipality.

4.6.2 Provincial Highway

Highway No. 7 in the south end of the Municipality is presently the only provincial highway within Mississippi Mills. This highway is a Special Controlled Access Highway and is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation. It is intended to carry a high volume of traffic at high speeds.

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1. Any development which is proposed within the permit control area of the MTO will be carried out in accordance with the setback requirements, access and building permit controls of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO).
2. Any buildings, structures or signs proposed within 45 metres from highway property line and/or 395 metres from the centrepont of the intersection and/or 800 metres for major development will be subject to the approval of MTO prior to any local municipal permits being issued and construction or grading being undertaken.
3. Direct access onto a provincial highway will be restricted and subject to the requirements and permits of MTO.
4. Transportation studies may be required by MTO as a prerequisite to the approval of any new access or a change to an existing access, entrance or intersection on the provincial highway or to assess the impact of new development on the highway corridor.
5. Traffic impact studies (indicating the anticipated traffic volumes) and stormwater management plans (addressing the intended treatment of the calculated runoff) may be required by MTO prior to any construction being undertaken.
6. Noise impact studies may be required by Council for sensitive development proposals within 250 metres of the highway.
7. The MTO has minimum lot frontage requirements and access density standards that must be met in order to qualify for a severance of a property with frontage on a Provincial highway. Lots with frontage on a municipal right of way is not eligible for access to the Provincial highway. The MTO recommends early pre-consultation in order to determine whether a lot is eligible before making an application to the municipality.

4.6.3 County Roads

Mississippi Mills is presently serviced by County Roads 7B (Townline Road West), 9 (Tatlock Road), 11 (Wilson Street and River Road), 16 (Wolfgrove Road and Almonte Street), 16A (Perth Street, Bridge Street, Queen Street and Martin Street South), 17 (Martin Street North, Blakeney Road, Panmure Road), 20 (Kinburn Side Road, Waba Road), 22 (Shaw Road), 24 (Peneshula Road, Bellamy Road, 4th Con Pakenham, Campbell Side Road), 29 (County Road No 29 South, Christian Street, Country Road No 29 North), and 49. These roads function as arterial and collector roads and are under the jurisdiction of the County of Lanark. They are designed for the distribution of medium to high volumes of traffic at relatively high speeds.

1. Any development adjacent to a County road will be carried out in accordance with the setback requirements, access and building permit controls of the County of Lanark.

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2. Any buildings, structures or signs proposed adjacent to a County road will be subject to the approval of the County of Lanark prior to any local municipal permits being issued and construction or grading being undertaken.
3. Direct access onto a county road should be minimized and subject to the requirements and permits of the County of Lanark.
4. The County of Lanark may require the use of shared entrances for two or more properties as a means to provide for a safe entrance.
5. Transportation studies may be required by the County of Lanark as a prerequisite to the approval of any new access or a change to an existing access, entrance or intersection on a County road or to assess the impact of new development on the county road.
6. Noise Impact studies may be required by the County of Lanark as a prerequisite to approval of the creation of lots or change in use adjacent to County roads.
7. In rural areas, access to a County road is restricted as per the Lanark County Entrance policy.
8. Generally, the right of way width for a County road is 20 to 30 metres.
9. The creation of new lots fronting on and obtaining direct access from a County road where access from a local road is available shall be discouraged as per the Lanark County Entrance policy.

4.6.4 Local Municipal Roads

All public roads, which are not provincial highways or county roads, are local municipal roads and are under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills. These roads are intended to provide direct access to abutting properties. Generally, they are designed to accommodate medium to low volumes of traffic at moderate speeds. Some local roads may be identified as “scenic” or “historic” roads with specific design standards.

4.6.4.1 Access

1. Direct access onto a local municipal road shall be subject to the approval of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills.
2. Entrances onto a local municipal road will only be permitted in locations which can accommodate traffic in a safe manner and where sight lines are adequate. Generally, new entrances shall not be permitted on curves or hills where safety may be compromised.
3. The Municipality may require the use of shared entrances for two or more properties as a means of providing safe access.

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4. Where the character of the road will not be adversely affected, an individual may be permitted to improve a deficient entrance, at the owner's expense, in a manner acceptable to the Municipality.

4.6.4.2 *Right-of-Way*

1. Generally, the right of way width for a local road should be 16 to 20 metres.
2. Through a condition of subdivision, severance or site plan, the Municipality may require the dedication or conveyance of land for part of the local municipal road system. This may include the acquisition of additional land to meet municipal right-of-way widths, corner triangles at intersections, railway crossings and as required, auxiliary lands (including turning lanes) where site traffic warrants.
3. The Municipality may, through a condition of consent, accept the dedication or conveyance of land for part of the local municipal road system in an effort to allow for the enlargement of an existing lot of record created by consent since March 1979. All costs associated with this type of road widening shall be borne by the developer.

4.6.4.3 *New Local Municipal Roads*

1. New local municipal roads extended to existing lots or which are established under a plan of subdivision or consent may be assumed by the Municipality, provided the standards for road construction have been met.
2. The Municipality may assume a private road into the local municipal road system the same as it would a new road established under a plan of subdivision, provided the standards for road construction have been met.
3. Prior to deciding on the assumption of a road into the local municipal road system, the Municipality may require a cost-benefit analysis to determine if the operational costs of assuming and maintaining the road will be offset by property tax revenues.
4. All costs associated with developing new roads to be assumed into the local municipal road system shall be borne by the developer and/or adjacent property owners (i.e. survey, legal, design and construction costs).
5. All new roads shall provide for the necessary width required to accommodate paths and sidewalks.

4.6.4.4 *Seasonal Local Municipal Roads*

1. The Municipality may post seasonally maintained local municipal roads with signs to indicate that maintenance is limited. Where such roads are classified and posted with a sign, the Municipality will not be obliged to provide winter maintenance services. There is no obligation by the Municipality to convert a

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seasonally maintained road into a year-round maintained road.

2. The Zoning By-law will regulate new development on seasonally maintained roads.

4.6.4.5 Unopened Road Allowances

1. This Plan recognizes that the public may use unopened public road allowances for such uses as recreation and to access lands even though they are not maintained by the Municipality. The Municipality will not provide services to properties through unopened road allowances.
2. The Municipality shall retain ownership of all unopened road allowances unless it is clearly demonstrated that there is no use for the road allowance for roadways, pedestrians, cycling or recreation trail or walkways, utility corridors, public access to waterways, recreational vehicle trails or any other possible future public use, in accordance with the Municipality's Land Sale By-law.
3. All private works or improvements to unopened road allowances shall require prior approval from the Municipality, proof of insurance and in some cases a License of Occupation granted by the Municipality, prior to any works being undertaken.
4. The intentional or unintentional blocking up of an unopened road allowance by a private body is prohibited.
5. New uses of unopened road allowances as lanes to gain access to year-round residential development shall be discouraged and shall not be permitted without Council approval and a registered agreement with the Municipality against the benefitting property owner that shall include the procedures for maintenance of the unopened road allowance and indemnifying the Municipality of any liability or responsibility for any upkeep or the provision of services.

4.6.4.6 Public Capital Works

1. Tree lined streets and roads and rural rail fences and hedgerows have been identified as significant contributors to the rural and small-town character which people value. Accordingly, construction and maintenance of roads shall take into consideration the streetscape or roadscape which exists or are common to an area. Efforts will be made to maintain existing trees and traditional rail fences along existing streets and roads. Wherever possible, the existing character of the street or road will be enhanced through specific tree plantings and fence design. The Municipality may seek advice on the pruning and cutting of trees along road allowances.
2. The construction or maintenance of existing local roads and sidewalks will be based on a multi-year program of capital expenditures and needs assessment as established by the Municipality. The Municipality shall establish municipal

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road standards and maintenance guidelines to govern the construction and maintenance of local roads.

3. The Municipality shall co-ordinate its planned road works with groups and organizations who may wish to introduce, enhance or replace utilities located on/in the public road allowances.
4. The Municipality shall undertake a Transportation Study which identifies the type, function and design standards for various municipal roads within the Municipality. Such a study should assess the existing and projected use of any given road, potential impacts on surrounding land uses and opportunities for the pedestrian use of the road allowance.

4.6.5 Commercial/Industrial Traffic

1. The Municipality shall attempt to minimize the impact of truck traffic through residential neighbourhoods caused by the presence of commercial vehicles and their noise, vibration and emissions. Heavy truck traffic may be restricted to designated truck routes to minimize the negative impact that this traffic may have on residential areas.
2. Land uses that generate significant truck and commercial traffic shall be directed to appropriate locations.
3. The design and location of buildings adjacent to truck routes shall consider means to mitigate any adverse impacts the truck traffic may have.
4. Development proposals which have frequent delivery of goods shall be required to establish appropriate loading facilities. Loading facilities shall be encouraged to be located on-site. The location of specific loading facilities shall be established through Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act.
5. The Municipality shall establish regulations related to reduced load restrictions for all municipal roads. Generally, reduced load restrictions are in force between the middle of March and the end of May.

4.6.6 Traffic Flows

Efforts shall be made through accepted traffic management techniques to control the volume and use of roads within residential, shopping and employment areas with special attention given to intersections of pedestrian routes with roads. This will be done to ensure public safety, environmental goals, efficiency in travel and facilitate pedestrian travel in these areas.

4.6.7 Laneways

The use of public and private laneways may be permitted subject to an evaluation by the Municipality of the functional, operational, servicing and financial issues.

4.6.8 Private Roads

A private road is defined within Section 5.14. A driveway providing access to only one property or legally conveyable lot, or shared access between two abutting properties is not considered a private road under this Plan.

1. There is no legal obligation on the part of the Municipality to maintain or repair private roads or otherwise provide services to any development located on a private road, nor is there any responsibility acknowledged for the provision of school busing or other services provided by other government bodies or agencies.
2. New private roads or extensions to existing private roads shall only be developed as part of a cluster lot development in accordance with Section 3.3.7 of this Plan and will be required to meet a minimum of standard of construction and maintenance to ensure that access can be gained for emergency vehicles in accordance with the most current standard outlined in Section 3.2.5.6 of the Ontario Building Code and to a standard acceptable as detailed in Appendix B, as may be updated from time to time. A new private road may only be permitted if the road connects to a public road and where the subject property has frontage on the same public road.
3. The Municipality may, at its sole discretion, register notice on title or require that an owner enter into an agreement acknowledging that the Municipality will not be responsible for the repair or maintenance of private roads or the provision of services to any development located on a private road and further that the Municipality may not be able to provide emergency services to development located on a private road due to the condition of the road.
4. The design and construction of a private road will be undertaken by a professional engineer or other persons competent in road construction, as determined acceptable by the Municipality.
5. In circumstances where a private road is not being maintained to an acceptable standard, the Municipality may make improvements to bring the private road to an appropriate standard and assess any costs relating to the work to the relevant parties. This action shall not be interpreted as the Municipality assuming responsibility for the private road.
6. The Municipality shall develop guidelines for the construction of new private roads and at a minimum, new private roads shall meet the minimum design standards in Appendix B of this Plan.

4.6.9 Pedestrian Policies

Within urban areas, one of the objectives of this Plan is to establish pedestrian-friendly environments. Overall, this Plan shall encourage people to walk for health reasons and to reduce their dependence on the automobile. This Plan

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stresses the need for a clearly defined network of sidewalks, pathways and cycle routes that are linked to established public areas.

1. Where Council considers it appropriate, new development or redevelopment will be expected to provide pedestrian walkways and sidewalks constructed to an appropriate standard. The location, size and nature of the development will determine whether sidewalks are needed on both sides or one side of the street. In some cases, sidewalks may not be required.
2. When undertaking public works and where appropriate, the Municipality will include the provision of facilities which address the needs of pedestrians and safety components.
3. To encourage pedestrian travel, streetscapes should be safe, convenient and attractive for pedestrians. This may include providing sidewalks, locating commercial uses at street level, encouraging building design that provides shelter and providing appropriate lighting, street furniture and landscaping.
4. The Council shall establish a pedestrian walkway plan for urban and rural areas which outlines areas where walkways exist and where they should be created within an overall network. Such a plan shall encourage pedestrian interconnections between home, schools, recreational areas, and shopping areas. The Municipality shall maintain and enhance the existing sidewalk network in order to achieve this policy.

4.6.10 Cycling Policies

Cycling also reduces the dependence on the automobile. This Plan shall encourage people to ride bicycles.

1. Where Council considers it appropriate, new development or redevelopment will be expected to provide bike racks.
2. When undertaking public works and where appropriate, the Municipality will include the provision of bike lanes and bike racks to address the needs of cyclists.
3. The Council shall establish a cycling plan for urban and rural areas which identifies cycling routes. Such a plan shall encourage the interconnections between bike routes and open space areas. Such a plan shall be designed to improve the viability of cycling as an alternative to car use.
4. To encourage cycling, routes should be safe, convenient, and attractive for cyclists. This may include signage, bike parking, bike repair stations, designated lanes or paths.

4.6.11 Parking

An important component of the transportation system is the availability and management of parking resources. These include public and private parking areas, both on-site and off-site. In downtown Almonte and to a lesser extent Pakenham village, the availability and management of parking are critical matters.

1. Specific parking policies for the various land uses shall be contained in the appropriate land use sections of this Plan. The Zoning By-law shall detail specific parking requirements and regulations. The Municipality shall also establish and enforce a Parking By-law under the *Municipal Act* which regulates the use of public parking resources.
2. Consideration may be given to opportunities for sharing of parking in mixed use development.
3. The Municipality shall undertake parking studies for Almonte and Pakenham village. Such studies should assess the availability of existing parking resources, both public and private, long and short term and identify a strategy for the supply and management of existing and future parking resources. Parking studies should also be consistent with the desire to establish a pedestrian-friendly environment, and should consider the impacts on specific neighbourhoods, assess the visual impact of parking areas, the amount of land devoted to parking uses and the provision of bicycle parking. Such studies shall be updated from time to time as needed.
4. Cash-in-lieu of parking policies are found in the Downtown Commercial Parking section of this Plan.

4.6.12 Traffic Impact Assessment

Land use and transportation are closely related. When reviewing development proposals, the adequacy of the transportation system to accommodate the development will be assessed.

A Transportation Impact Assessment may be required for official plan amendments, plans of subdivision, zoning by-law amendments or major site plan development, where it is believed that the development proposal could have a significant impact on the existing transportation system.

A transportation impact assessment will be commissioned by a proponent of the development proposal and will:

- i. identify required road, parking, pedestrian and cycling improvements deemed necessary, including the timing or staging of such developments;
- ii. assess the impact on the overall transportation capacity of the existing

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road network, together with the anticipated growth levels of traffic volume;

- iii. assess any social, economic, and physical environmental impacts on the local neighbourhood and adjacent areas resulting from increased use of the required road;
- iv. take into account the effect of any known development potential of other lands that will utilize the area-wide road network; and,
- v. include an assessment and make recommendations on ways in which traffic impact, including noise, may be mitigated.

It shall be the responsibility of the developer to undertake all necessary works identified through a traffic impact assessment.

4.6.13 Alternative Traffic Routes

This Plan encourages the undertaking of a study to look at an alternative traffic route around the Almonte Ward and other built up areas. Such a study should assess the need for an alternative route around urban areas based on existing and future traffic loads, the possible social, economic and environmental impacts of establishing a by-pass and options for routing of a by-pass. If such a study determines the need for an alternative route, Council shall initiate an amendment to this Plan to identify the preferred corridor on the appropriate schedule. Such a study may be part of a Master Transportation Study.

4.6.14 Public Transit

The opportunities for public transit within Mississippi Mills are somewhat limited due to geography and population density. However, the Growth and Settlement Strategy of this Plan may, in the long run make it more feasible for public transit connections to the City of Ottawa.

1. This Plan shall encourage the investigation of opportunities for public transit links with the City of Ottawa.
2. The Municipality shall determine the need and possible locations for carpool facilities and Park & Ride facilities.
3. The Municipality shall work with other jurisdictions to coordinate commuter services.
4. The Municipality shall co-operate with Lanark County and other public and private authorities on public transportation initiatives which are in the interest of the Municipality and its residents.

4.6.15 Waterways

Having access to the many waterways within Mississippi Mills contributes to the area's quality of life.

1. This Plan shall encourage the establishment of appropriate public access points to the area's waterways.
2. The Municipality shall work with the appropriate agencies to identify and enhance existing public access to the waterways.
3. The Municipality shall not dispose of unopened road allowances which extend to waterways and which have the potential to provide public access to waterways.
4. The Municipality shall establish a waterfront access and walkway plan which identifies possible points of access to water resources and possible routes for waterfront walkways/trails. It is recognized that access points to the water are most common in rural areas while walkways are more urban features. Such a plan shall utilize existing unopened road allowances, streets and other public lands as much as possible when determining access points and walkway routes. The Municipality may use its parkland dedication provisions under the Planning Act to assemble identified private lands which are important waterfront access points and/or walkway routes. The Municipality may also use the increased height and density provisions of this Plan or other tools available in order to achieve this policy. Such walkways may be located within the "environmental hazard" lands provided the environmental integrity of the shoreline is maintained.

4.6.16 Signage

1. The Municipality's Sign By-law regulates signage.
2. The Municipality's Sign By-law shall regulate the location, size and nature of signs. Unique regulations may apply to signs located along scenic or heritage roads.
3. Consideration should be given to creating and maintaining signage which directs the public to the commercial areas and specific commercial businesses within the Municipality.
4. The Municipality's Sign By-law shall discourage billboard signs and pylon signs.
5. This Plan shall encourage the County of Lanark and MTO to respect the intent of the Municipality's Sign By-law when assessing sign permits within their respective jurisdictions.
6. A uniform directional sign program shall be developed in conjunction with the

County of Lanark and MTO.

4.7 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The wide range of community facilities located in Mississippi Mills helps define the community's role as a regional service centre. Not only do these facilities draw people into the Municipality because of their various functions, they also provide a large number and wide range of employment opportunities. Within Mississippi Mills, community facilities are generally concentrated in the Almonte Ward, the village of Pakenham and the villages of Clayton and Appleton.

The community facilities shall include uses associated with health, welfare and education purposes, such as hospitals, schools, public libraries, places of worship, youth centres, daycare facilities, association halls, art exhibits and cultural facilities and other similar places of assembly, funeral homes, arenas and similar public recreational facilities, government offices, police or fire stations, public utilities and related uses and activities. These uses shall be permitted within the Residential, Commercial and Industrial designations. Such uses should be located in Almonte, the village of Pakenham and the villages of Clayton, Appleton and Blakeney. Such uses should generally not be located on rural lands.

4.7.1 Community Facility Policies

1. The Municipality shall encourage community facilities to be designed and located so as to allow for the shared/multiple use of the facility.
2. New community facilities shall satisfy the following:
 - i. the proposal is of a scale and design which is compatible with surrounding uses and able to function as a focal point for the neighbourhood or community;
 - ii. the anticipated level of vehicular and pedestrian traffic does not have significant negative impacts;
 - iii. the site area is adequate to accommodate buildings, future expansions, off-street parking, amenity areas and landscaping;
 - iv. the proposed site is located within close proximity to necessary support facilities; and,
 - v. the proposed site is strategically located in order to minimize travel time for the existing and anticipated service area population.
3. Adequate buffer space, planting or fencing shall be established between community facility land uses and adjacent land uses when required.
4. Adequate off-street parking facilities shall be provided and generally located to

the rear and side of the principal building. Developers proposing parking in the front yard must demonstrate that no other feasible option exists for accommodating the needed parking.

4.8 GOVERNMENT AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Government and essential services are an integral part of community development and quality of life within Mississippi Mills. Such services must be delivered efficiently and effectively and meet existing and future demands.

Government and essential services consist of both hard services (such as public sewer and water supply, waste management, utilities and telecommunications infrastructure) and soft services (such as fire and police protection, health, social and education services).

This Plan recognizes that the Municipality is not the sole provider of government and essential services and that the delivery of services requires cooperation with a number of groups and other levels of government and agencies.

4.8.1 Goals and Objectives

It is a goal of this Plan to:

Ensure a full range of affordable, municipal services to meet the existing and future social, environmental and economic needs of the community.

Encourage other levels of government, public and private utilities and non-government organizations to maintain and enhance the range of services available to the area.

The following objectives are designed to implement the goals:

1. Ensure adequate capacity within the Almonte Ward municipal sewer and water services to support anticipated growth and development.
2. Promote acceptable water and sewer technologies which can address the water and sewer needs of existing privately serviced communities and future settlement areas.
3. Establish a waste management plan which includes decreasing the amount of waste sent to landfill by increased recycling, reduction and reuse efforts.
4. Ensure that the disposal of waste from private septic systems is conducted in an environmentally sustainable manner.
5. Promote the local delivery of services, such as health care, family support, assisted housing and youth centres.
6. Cooperate with boards of education, social and health care services to ensure that the area receives a high level of service.

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7. Cooperate with private and public utilities to ensure services are available where needed.
8. Protect the sustainable use of existing regional and national utility corridors, such as pipeline and hydro corridors.

4.8.2 Public Uses and Utilities

Changes in the telecommunications industry along with increasing demands for timely information have contributed to the need for high-volume communications corridors and facilities in addition to the need for traditional utility corridors associated with hydro-electric power lines, oil and gas lines, sewer and water infrastructure and transmission lines for conveyance of other materials.

1. Public uses and public or private utilities, such as power, water services, roads, railways, telecommunications and gas, but not including waste disposal or sewage treatment sites, will generally be permitted in all land use designations provided that such public uses or utilities are necessary and appropriate in the location and can be made compatible with surrounding uses.
2. Wherever possible, new public uses and utilities will avoid prime agricultural lands, significant wetlands, fishery habitat and significant habitat of endangered or threatened species. New public uses and utilities will only be permitted in such areas if they have been approved through an environmental assessment process and no other reasonable alternative exists.
3. Structures which are accessory to and integral for the functioning of the utility (such as pumping stations, switching facilities and similar facilities), and any lots created to accommodate them, will utilize the minimum amount of land necessary and will be located in such a manner so as to provide access for maintenance without creating visibility problems from the road network. Above ground facilities shall generally be architecturally and visually harmonious with the surrounding area.
4. The development of electric power facilities, including transmission and generation will occur in an orderly manner to facilitate the efficient and reliable provision of adequate electric power. As such, it is the policy of this Plan that electric power facilities are permitted in all land use designations without an amendment to the Plan provided that the planning of all such facilities is carried out having regard to the policies of this Plan. Furthermore, all electric power generating authorities should consult with the Municipality and other appropriate agencies on the location and design characteristics of any new electric power facilities.
5. This Plan supports and encourages local electric power generating authorities to expand their boundaries to address the electrical needs of residents and businesses of Mississippi Mills.

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6. Where there is a development proposal that results in the need for land for utility easements, regulation stations, substations, pumping stations, holding ponds, reservoirs or similar facilities and for access to such facilities, such land shall be provided to the appropriate agency by the developer.
7. Existing and future utility corridors shall be protected from encroaching incompatible development through the establishment of setbacks within the Zoning By-law.
8. TransCanada Pipelines Limited operates two (2) high pressure natural gas pipelines within its right-of-way crossing the Municipality and is identified in Appendix A1 and A2 to this Plan.
9. TransCanada is regulated by the National Energy Board which, in addition to TransCanada, has a number of requirements regulating development in proximity to the pipelines. This includes approval requirements for activities within 30 metres of the pipeline centreline such as conducting a ground disturbance, constructing or installing a facility across or along the right-of-way, driving a vehicle, mobile equipment or machinery across the right-of-way and the use of explosives.
10. New development can result in increasing the population density in the area that may result in TransCanada being required to replace its pipeline to comply with the Canadian Standards Association Code Z662. Therefore, the Municipality shall require early consultation with TransCanada or its designated representative for any development proposals within 200 metres of its facilities.
11. No permanent building or structure may be located within 7 metres of the pipeline right-of-way. Accessory structures shall have a minimum setback of at least 3 metres from the limit of the right-of-way.

4.8.2.1 Radio Communication Systems

Industry Canada is the federal body which has approval authority and jurisdiction over the installation and operation of radio communication systems. The approval of site-specific radio and telecommunication facilities is governed by the Client Procedures Circular (CPC 2-0-03 Issue 3, entitled "Environmental Process, Radiofrequency Fields and Land-Use Consultation").

The role of Industry Canada is to implement the provisions of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and ensure that applicants for radio authorization involving significant antenna structures disclose their plans to the Municipality and that the process operates in a timely fashion. Industry Canada does not require the participation of the Municipality in this process. The Municipality does not have the authority to prohibit the establishment of such facilities, if approved by the federal government.

1. Applicants for radio communication facilities, such as antenna structures and

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related facilities, are required to consult with the Municipality regarding the design and location for future antenna sites. Applicants are required to:

- i. notify the Municipality regarding the intent to establish a new radio communication facility;
 - ii. provide the Municipality with; the requirement for the establishment of such a facility; reasons for the proposed location; and, a review of alternative locations considered and reasons for their rejection, including associated costs, pattern coverage and safety.
2. In the event that the Municipality opposes a radio communication facility, the Municipality may provide Industry Canada with a report outlining their reasons for objection within 60 days of receiving official notice of the intent to establish such a structure.
3. Applicants and antenna structure owners are intended to work cooperatively to allow for the sharing of antenna structures so as to minimize their numbers and impact.

4.8.3 Sewage Disposal and Water Supply

This Plan identifies a servicing hierarchy which recognizes full municipal water and sewage disposal services as the preferred form of servicing for settlement areas. This level of servicing is presently available only within the Almonte Ward. All other areas of the Municipality are on private sewage disposal and water supply. Public sewage disposal and water supply services may represent a feasible option for servicing existing and expanded settlement areas. Partial services shall be prohibited except where necessary to address failed services or because of physical or economic constraints.

4.8.3.1 Public Sewer and Water Policies

Municipal water and sewage disposal infrastructure provides the opportunity to achieve compact development and protect public health and safety, minimize negative impacts on the environment and support the types of urban growth and development envisioned in this Plan.

In order to achieve the growth and settlement strategy of this Plan, constant monitoring of the capacity of the water and sewer infrastructure within the Almonte Ward to accommodate future planned growth shall be required.

This Plan encourages the investigation of piped water and sewer services into the village of Pakenham and other settlement areas as a means of supporting existing development, improving public health, providing for the efficient use of land, and allowing for future growth. The potential for significant future growth and development within these urban areas will not be possible until piped water and sewer services are introduced.

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1. The Municipality shall prepare a long-term municipal water and sewage system master plan. This master plan shall identify how anticipated settlement and employment growth will be serviced in a cost-effective manner. The master plan should identify and establish priorities and targets for service delivery, enhancements and upgrades.
2. The Municipality shall establish an on-going monitoring program for the calculation, reporting and allocation of uncommitted reserve capacity within the municipal water and sewage system to ensure the efficient use of existing servicing infrastructure. Should the usage at any time reach 80% of the capacity of the system the Municipality shall initiate a study to investigate means of securing future capacity.
3. The management of the municipal sewer system shall include measures to reduce extraneous flows into the sanitary sewer system from such sources as stormwater and thereby increase system capability.
4. The management of the municipal water system shall include measures to educate the public on the need to conserve water and to reduce requirements for additional water supply.
5. Section 3.1.7 of the Plan contains policies to implement the SPP. These policies will be used to determine appropriate land uses and related development approvals on the lands identified within the Plan and by the SPP.
6. Where it is determined that municipal water and sewer capacity is not able to support future planned growth in an economically feasible manner, the Municipality shall undertake the studies, approvals and actions necessary to provide capacity to support future development.
7. The Municipality shall require development and redevelopment projects to demonstrate that stormwater originating from the site is not entering the sanitary sewer system.
8. Development within the Almonte Ward will take place on the user pay/area rated municipal water and sewage services.
9. Development within the Almonte Ward will only be approved if sufficient capacity within the municipal water and sewer system exists. Subdivision development may be permitted to proceed in a phased manner up to system capacity allowances. Limitations in the capacity or operating performance of the water/sewage works shall be recognized as a constraint to the timing of new development.
10. The Municipality shall develop a program that provides for the orderly and managed phasing of development. In developing any phasing program, Council shall have regard for the following:

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- i. the amount of the capacity available that would be used by the proposed or anticipated development or redevelopment and the percentage that this represents of the total capacity available;
 - ii. - the need for the proposed or anticipated development or redevelopment;
 - iii. the cost of providing sewer service and other services to the proposed or anticipated development or redevelopment; and,
 - iv. the timing of public works which would increase the available capacity.
11. The Municipality shall plan for the long term upgrading and expansion of the sewage treatment infrastructure to ensure adequate capacity of new development and redevelopment in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
12. The extension or enlargement of municipal water and sewer infrastructure to support planned development will be the sole responsibility of the developer, if the works are not identified in the Development Charges By-law. The Municipality shall pass by-laws and enter into front ending agreements or other similar agreements, including financial arrangements, with developers or property owners for the installation of municipal services which are completed ahead of the Municipality's long term financial plan. Generally, the installation of municipal services will be identified in the Development Charges By-law.
13. Council may pass an Allocation By-law, under the authority of the Municipal Act, which details the requirements of the allocation of infrastructure capacity for new developments including:
 - a) A system for tracking water supply and sewage capacity available to support approved developments;
 - b) Develop criteria used to determine the circumstances:
 - i. Allocation of water supply and sewage capacity is assigned to an approved development;
 - ii. Circumstances when allocation of water supply and sewage capacity is withdrawn; and
 - iii. Circumstances for when a development has the capacity withdrawn, may be reallocated water supply and sewage capacity.
 - c) Any additional requirements stipulated in the Municipal Act.
14. In the event that the extension or enlargement of municipal water and sewer infrastructure is the sole responsibility of the developer, and another development can benefit from the infrastructure works, the Municipality or

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Council will not involve themselves in any negotiations between parties; however will do their best efforts to ensure that ‘Latecomer’ developers adequately compensate the developer who undertook the infrastructure works in accordance with this Plan, the Development Charges Local Servicing Policy and Long Term Financial Plan. Best efforts can include the following:

- a) Requiring that the Latecomer developer(s) provide to the Municipality a letter, signed by all parties, indicating that any applicable cost sharing between the parties is agreed upon and that, if applicable, the appropriate payments have been made to the proper parties; or
- b) Requiring that documentation from a third-party trustee is provided to the Municipality indicating that any applicable cost sharing between the parties is agreed upon

The Municipality may develop a ‘Latecomer Policy’ to provide clear guidance on the role of Council and Staff in this process. Regardless of the status of any cost sharing agreements, Council may use its own discretion in the granting of any planning approvals to the Latecomer(s); however, generally Council will not proceed with granting any planning approvals to the Latecomer(s) until such time that all parties have agreed upon a cost sharing arrangement.

- 15. New development shall be directed to areas that allow for extensions to existing municipal water and sewer infrastructure in an economical and practical manner provided that such expansion is consistent with the other objectives of this Plan. New development will generally be approved and permitted only in stages of orderly progression from the termination of existing services.
- 16. The extension of municipal water and sewer infrastructure beyond the limits of the Almonte Ward to support new development will be prohibited, except where required to service urban areas as identified in a Master Servicing Plan and except as permitted in policy 4.8.3.1.15 below.
- 17. Notwithstanding policy 4.8.3.1.14 above, the extension of municipal water and sewer services may be extended to service an existing designated “Rural Settlement Area” known as Riverfront Estates, or existing development which is experiencing an identified public health or safety problem that requires the extension of services to remedy the problem, provided the following criteria are satisfied:
 - i. the existing designated Rural Settlement Area or existing development is within the immediate vicinity of the Almonte Ward;
 - ii. the extension of services will not result in additions or intensifications of existing uses, with the exception of limited infilling;
 - iii. the extension of services meets the overall growth and settlement

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- strategy of the Plan;
 - iv. the owners of the lands to be serviced agree to pay for the costs associated with the extension of services;
 - v. there is capacity to accommodate the extension of services to the - identified lands; and,
 - vi. the extension of services is determined to be the most feasible option to address the identified problem.
18. The introduction of piped water and sewer services to the villages or existing or new rural settlement areas shall require the preparation of a secondary plan and an official plan amendment with specific policies for the growth and development of the area.
19. This Plan encourages the investigation of new water and sewer technologies which can address the water and sewer needs of the villages.

4.8.3.2 Individual On-Site Sewage Disposal and Water Supply Policies

1. Lands located outside of the Almonte Ward will generally be serviced by individual on-site (private) sewage disposal and water supply systems. Planning applications for new development on private services may be required to be supported by terrain analysis or capacity studies in accordance with the MOECP “D” Series Environmental Land Use Planning Guideline in order to demonstrate that development may take place on private services.
2. Where the total effluent discharged by a sewage system is 10,000 litres/day (2,200 gallons/day) or less, the approval of the system will be governed by the Building Code Act. Where services are being shared between two or more users, the combined effluent discharge will be used to determine compliance with this policy.
3. Where the total effluent discharged by a sewage system is greater than 10,000 litres/day (2,200 gallons/day), the approval authority will be the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. An associated hydrogeological study shall be required to demonstrate soil suitability, sufficient area for effluent treatment and site suitability for the disposal system and compliance with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change’s Reasonable Use Guideline.
4. A water supply assessment report may be required for proposals using groundwater sources (i.e. well) in accordance with the MOECP “D” Series Environmental Land Use Planning Guideline to demonstrate that there is an adequate supply (quantity and quality) and that there will be no interference from sewage disposal or unsustainable draw down of the water table.

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Consideration shall be given to the cumulative impact of development on the available water supply. A water conservation plan for new users may be required in this regard.

5. Holding tanks will only be permitted as an upgrade to an existing holding tank installation, to remedy an unsafe system or where no other servicing option is feasible. The expansion or enlargement or change of use of existing development on a holding tank will be discouraged and regulated through the Zoning By-law.
6. For lands serviced with an on-site water supply, well construction standards shall be required to meet Ontario Regulation 903 where a scoped private servicing study has been prepared, any site-specific recommendations from this study.
7. The Municipality shall conduct a periodic review of its need to assume a role in the maintenance (i.e. disposal of septage) of private sewage disposal systems to ensure public health objectives are being met.
8. In order to ensure public health objectives are being met the Municipality in conjunction with the public health authority, shall conduct a periodic review of the need to assume a role in the establishment and monitoring of private water supply systems.
9. It is expected that the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MOECP) will release guidelines which regard to sufficient treatment capacity for hauled sewage from private communal sewage services and individual on-site sewage services. Once these guidelines are released, it shall be the intent of the Municipality to consider amendments to the Official Plan to be consistent with the Sewage and Water policies of the Provincial Policy Statement.

4.8.3.3 Communal Services

It is anticipated that most new development outside of the Almonte Ward will take place on private services. For areas of concentrated development, such as rural settlement areas, communal servicing must be considered an important servicing option. There are advantages for introducing communal services in these areas, particularly in increasing the number of options for development patterns and ensuring the long-term protection of groundwater resources and public health matters.

1. The Municipality may consider communal servicing provided that detailed information concerning any risks to the public or financial obligations to the Town is presented and any such risks are determined to be within acceptable levels.
2. The Municipality will not recommend such servicing options or enter into any agreements until it is satisfied that the system will be of the highest reasonable

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standard to ensure reliable operation for the foreseeable future and until a performance bond or other financial arrangements have been made between the developer and the Municipality.

3. Where communal services are provided, the Municipality will assume responsibility or ownership of the system after construction of the facility and the issuance of a Certificate of Approval from the MOECP. Council may choose to operate the system or may consider entering into an agreement for the operation and maintenance of the system on a private basis, subject to approval of the MOECP.
4. The costs associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of communal services will be the responsibility of the developer and the owner of lands which are connected to the services.
5. The types of studies necessary to support communal servicing options will be determined on a case by case basis. Generally, a hydrogeological study will be required which demonstrates that an adequate quantity and quality of potable water can be provided.
6. Communal servicing systems shall be required to obtain approval from the MOECP through pertinent legislation and may be subject to the Class Environmental Assessment process.
7. The introduction of communal servicing systems into existing villages and rural settlement areas or for a new rural settlement area shall be subject to an Official Plan Amendment.
8. Where development is proposed on communal sewage disposal is less than 10,000 L/day and where water takings are less than 50,000 L/day approvals shall be required in accordance with the D-series guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP).
9. Communal servicing (hydrogeological) studies should be scoped to address the relevant aspects of the D-series guidelines of the MOECP to ensure a sufficient supply of potable water and a sufficient lot area for septic system attenuation purposes.

4.8.4 Fire, Police, Education, Health Care, Library, Recreation Services

Fire, Police, Education, Health Care, Library, Recreation and Social Services are essential services delivered to the residents and businesses within Mississippi Mills. This Plan ensures that there is adequate capacity within such services to support the existing community and accommodate projected growth during the life of this Plan.

1. The Municipality will monitor the impact of development on the residual capacity of public service facilities by consulting with and circulating development proposals to the agencies which deliver these services.

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2. For those services delivered by the Municipality, an annual report will be required which identifies the enhancements necessary to accommodate future growth.
3. This Plan shall encourage the Municipality to work cooperatively with other groups and agencies to ensure that the delivery of services meets the diverse needs and interests of the residents of the municipality. Special efforts should be made to work with the area school boards and the hospitals to ensure the Municipality is receiving the necessary education and health services.
4. The Municipality shall use its authority under the Development Charges Act to assist in the financing of growth-related improvements to eligible services and infrastructure.

4.8.5 Waste Management

Waste management is an essential service delivered by the Town Municipality of Mississippi Mills. This program consists of solid waste collection, recycling and household hazardous waste. The Town Municipality has three closed and one partially closed waste disposal sites. Two are located in Ramsay Ward, one in Pakenham Ward, while the partially closed facility is located outside of the Town Municipality in the former Township of West Carleton (now the City of Ottawa). The West Carleton facility functions as a part time transfer station.

1. The three closed landfill sites within Mississippi Mills shall be placed in Waste Disposal land use designation on the land use schedules. No use shall be made of closed waste disposal sites for a period of 25 years from the year in which the site was official closed without the approval of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECP).
2. The Zoning By-law shall establish setbacks for development from the boundary of the closed waste disposal sites which are consistent with the influence areas established by the MOECP for the specific facilities.
3. New Waste Disposal sites shall be subject to an Amendment to this Plan.
4. The Municipality shall actively promote a waste diversion program which includes recycling, composting and hazardous waste disposal.
5. All land use proposals located within 500 metres of the perimeter of a fill area or wastewater treatment facility shall be supported by studies to determine the impact of the open or closed landfill site on the proposed development. Factors to be considered include but are not limited to; landfill generated gases, ground and surface water contamination by leachate, odour, litter, vehicular traffic, dust, noise, vectors and vermin and visual impact.

4.8.6 Waste Management Services

The Municipality shall actively promote a waste diversion program which includes recycling, composting, and hazardous waste disposal.

4.9 ACCESSIBILITY

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills supports the Ontarians with Disabilities Act which strives to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities by identifying removing and/or preventing barriers which restrict their full participation within the community. The Town Municipality understands that disabled people are not a homogeneous group and that access requirements vary depending on impairment, however, designing streetscapes and buildings and delivering services according to the principle of design-for-all and universal access satisfies access requirements for various groups of disabled people.

1. The Municipality shall strive to provide access to all of its buildings, programs, services and information to people with disabilities that is comparable to the level of access provided to others.
2. The Municipality shall maintain an Accessibility Advisory Committee, established under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act to advise and assist on accessibility matters.
3. The Accessibility Advisory Committee shall be responsible for the preparation and annual updating of an “Accessibility Plan” which addresses the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities in the Municipality’s by-laws and in its policies, programs, practices and services.
4. The Accessibility Plan shall include:
 - i. A report on the measures the municipality has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities;
 - ii. Measures in place to ensure that the municipality assesses its buildings, by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services to determine their effects on accessibility for persons with disabilities;
 - iii. A list of the buildings, by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services that the municipality will review in the coming year in order to identify barriers to persons with disabilities; and,
 - iv. The measures that the municipality intends to take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities.
5. The Municipality shall adopt “access guidelines” which contain best practices for improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and the elderly.

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6. The Municipality shall upgrade its sidewalk and pathway network to ensure it is universally accessible and includes such things as gradual grade transitions, decompressed curbs and street corners, uncluttered streetscapes and convenient and appropriately located handicapped parking spaces.
7. Sites and at-grade portions of buildings shall be designed to ensure direct accessibility from the street.
8. The needs of persons with disabilities shall be considered in each development.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of this section is to explain how the policies of the Community Official Plan shall be put in place. The Implementation Section lists all the regulatory measures that the Municipality has at its disposal to manage growth and development.

This Section acts as a guide to those who wish to participate in the planning process or who propose developments within the Municipality. To this extent, efforts have been made to clearly explain the various planning tools available to the Municipality, when they may be used and the type of issues they can address.

This Section also contains the definition of the various words or phrases used throughout the Plan.

5.1 How to Amend the Community Official Plan

Circumstances may arise where an individual proposes a development which does not conform to the policies of the Community Official Plan. In order to permit such a development, the individual must submit an application to amend the Community Official Plan. The Municipality will give fair consideration to all Community Official Plan Amendments and notify the general public and government agencies and ministries of the nature of the proposed amendment, in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act.

1. The processing of Community Official Plan Amendments shall be in accordance with the relevant sections of the Planning Act.
2. The submission of a Community Official Plan Amendment to the Municipality shall be accompanied by a detailed site plan of the proposed development and a report which addresses the following questions:
 - i. does the Amendment comply with the Vision for the Municipality of Mississippi Mills?
 - ii. does the Amendment further the Goals and Objectives of the Plan?
 - iii. if the Amendment does not further the Goals and Objectives, have circumstances changed to make the Goals and Objectives invalid in relation to the proposal development?
 - iv. is the Amendment in keeping with new legislation established by a senior level of government?
 - v. is there a demonstrated need for the proposed development?
 - vi. can the lands affected be adequately serviced to accommodate the proposed development? What improvements shall be required to properly service the land?

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- vii. what impacts will the proposed development have on surrounding land uses, traffic movements, servicing, built heritage and natural environment? And how will these impacts be eliminated or minimized?

5.1.1 Review Procedure

Council shall, not less than every five years after the Official Plan comes into effect, undertake a review of the Official Plan, hold a separate meeting open to the public and revise the Plan, as required, in accordance with the *Planning Act*. The revisions shall ensure that the Official Plan conforms to provincial plans, has regard to matters of provincial interest, and is consistent with the policy statements issued under Section 3 of the *Planning Act*.

5.2 Existing Uses Which Do Not Conform to the Official Plan

There may be existing land uses within the Municipality which this Plan does not permit in their present location. Existing land uses which do not conform to the Community Official Plan and are considered incompatible with the surrounding uses, should cease to exist over time.

5.3 Legislation Pursuant to the Planning Act and Municipal Act

The Planning and Municipal Acts make available to the Municipality a number of tools which can be used to implement this Plan. The Town shall take advantage of the provisions of the Planning and Municipal Acts in order to implement this Plan.

5.3.1 Zoning By-Law

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills Zoning By-law is the major tool available to the Town Municipality to implement the policies of the Community Official Plan. The Zoning By-law covers the entire municipality and sets out detailed regulations which attempt to implement the broader land use goals, objectives and policies of the Plan.

The Zoning By-law zones land and establishes regulations to control the use of land and the character, location and use of buildings and structures in accordance with this Plan. The Municipality may establish a number of zones to classify and control land uses to implement this Plan.

1. When this Official Plan is approved, Council will enact a new Zoning By-law which will be in conformity with, and implement the provisions of, this Official Plan. Council will update its zoning by-law no less than three years after the approval of an official plan five-year review. This is to meet the requirements of the *Planning Act*.
2. The Municipality should give fair consideration to all amendments to the Zoning By-law and notify the general public and government agencies and ministries of the nature of the proposed amendment, in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning Act*. The Municipality shall refuse amendments to the Zoning

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By-law which do not conform to this Plan.

3. Existing legal non-conforming land uses may be placed in zones that do not correspond with the Land Use Designation of this Plan. The Zoning By-law may recognize existing uses, provided the following criteria are met:
 - i. the zone does not permit significant negative changes in the use of the property or impacts on adjacent uses;
 - ii. the recognition of the legal non-conforming use does not represent a danger to surrounding uses and/or persons; and,
 - iii. the legal non-conforming use does not interfere with the desirable development or enjoyment of the adjacent area.
4. Vacant land within the Municipality may be placed in the "Development" zone. The Development zone limits the use and development of vacant land until an appropriate development proposal is submitted. The Development zone may permit the continued use of existing buildings and structures. All new uses shall require an amendment to the Zoning By-law.

5.3.2 Increased Height & Density Provisions

Council may consider increases in the height and/or density for a specific development permitted under the Zoning By-law where it is demonstrated that the development is advancing the goals and objectives of this Plan beyond the minimum requirements. In such cases the specific development proposal should advance the intent and purpose of the Community Official Plan and address the following provisions:

1. Increased height and density should only be granted to developments where such increased height and density does not have a negative impact on surrounding lands uses, can be appropriately serviced and where more than one of the following criteria are fulfilled beyond the minimum requirements of the Plan:
 - i. the development provides for assisted housing, seniors housing or special needs housing in accordance with the identified needs of the community, which can be located off-site in a location deemed appropriate by the Municipality;
 - ii. the development incorporates the preservation and restoration of buildings of historic or architectural value, which are designated under the Heritage Act or meets the criteria for designation, which will serve to meet the heritage resources goals and actions of this Plan;
 - iii. the development includes the provision for public art or significant community amenities and recreational facilities which serve the identified

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- needs of the Municipality;
 - iv. the development protects significant environmental and natural heritage areas beyond what is required in this Plan or by other levels of government;
 - v. the development proposes innovative building design or sustainable building design which surpass the community design goals of this Plan and beyond minimum requirements of the Ontario Building Code;
 - vi. the development proposal incorporates efficient use or conservation of energy beyond the minimum requirements of the Ontario Building Code; and,
 - vii. the development implements the affordable housing policies of this Plan.
2. It is the policy of the Municipality that the owner of lands granted increased height and density shall enter into an agreement with the Municipality which stipulates the criteria which need to be met. Such agreements will be registered on title of the property, at the owner's expense.

5.3.3 Holding Zones

Through the Zoning By-law, the Municipality may pre-zone property for development where the "principle of development" has been established through this Plan. In such cases, the Municipality may place a Holding Symbol on the zone which prevents any development from taking place until the Municipality is satisfied that certain conditions have been met. In such instances, the Municipality can indicate its support for the principle of the development but also identify the need for additional actions prior to development proceeding.

The use of a Holding Symbol is seen as an effective tool in the streamlining of the approval process. Following a public notice, Council simply has to pass a by-law to remove the Holding Symbol once it is satisfied that the conditions have been met. There is no appeal period with such by-laws, thereby allowing development to proceed quickly once the conditions have been met.

The following policies shall apply to the use of the Holding Symbol.

1. The Municipality may utilize the Holding Symbol "H" for all zones in the Zoning By-law as a means of ensuring that certain conditions have been met prior to development proceeding.
2. When lands are placed under the Holding Symbol, the use of the lands and buildings shall be limited to those that existed prior to the Holding Symbol being placed on the property. In some circumstances, the Municipality may allow additions or alterations to existing uses.

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3. Council shall pass a by-law removing the Holding Symbol from the property, in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning Act*, once it is satisfied that provisions are met and/or agreements entered into which ensure the orderly development of the lands.
4. The Municipality may use holding provisions of the *Planning Act* where there is a need for the owner/developer to:
 - i. enter into a Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, or Subdivider's Agreement with the Municipality;
 - ii. make arrangements for the installation of sanitary or storm sewer, water and/or road services;
 - iii. make arrangements for environmental or physical improvements to the site;
 - iv. provide architectural or design drawings;
 - v. receive final approval for a plan of subdivision or condominium, and ensure that all the phasing conditions have been met;
 - vi. make financial arrangements with the Municipality, including possible cash-in-lieu of parking;
 - vii. make arrangements to deal with site development constraints including decommissioning of contaminated sites; or,
 - viii. ensure the development/redevelopment is in accordance with the design criteria of this Plan.

The Municipality may remove the holding symbol in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning Act* when the above circumstances are satisfied.

5.3.4 Temporary Use By-Laws

In certain circumstances, it may be desirable to pass a Temporary Use By-law to implement the policies of this Plan or to implement measures for economic development (e.g. temporary location of certain uses in vacant commercial, industrial or institutional buildings or lands) despite the fact that the identified land use may not be permitted on the specific property selected. It may also be beneficial to zone lands for temporary commercial, industrial or institutional uses in locations which do not conform with this Plan.

A Temporary Use By-law may also be used to permit garden suites.

Council may, by by-law passed under Section 39 of the Planning Act, authorizing the temporary use of lands, buildings or structures for any purpose set out therein. The

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maximum time period for temporary use is three years, except for a garden suite temporary use, which has a maximum time period of 10 years. In both cases, consideration may be given to renewing temporary uses once the time period is up. Notice of a Temporary Use By-law shall be given in the same manner as that of a Zoning By-law under Section 34 of the Planning Act.

As a condition of the passing of a Temporary Use By-law for garden suites, Council may require the owner of the property to enter into an agreement, to be registered on title, which deals with matters identified in Section 3.6.13 of this Plan.

Any use introduced under a Temporary Use By-law does not acquire legal non-conforming use status once the by-law has expired. Once the by-law has expired, the use must cease.

It is not the intent of this Plan that a Temporary Use By-law should be used to permit a new use while an amendment to the Community Official Plan and/or Zoning By-law is being processed to permit the use on a permanent basis. However, once a temporary use is established and it becomes apparent that the use should be permitted on a permanent basis, the use may continue under a Temporary Use By-law while any required amendments are being considered for approval.

5.3.5 Interim Control By-Laws

Council has the authority to place a freeze on development lands, as permitted under the Zoning By-law, where they have serious concerns with allowing development to continue. For example, serious environmental problems may come to the attention of the Municipality which could result in the development of certain areas within the Municipality being *hazardous* to life or property. Certain uses may result in unforeseen compatibility concerns which cause undesirable impacts.

In such cases, the Municipality may pass an Interim Control By-law. The Interim Control By-law shall be in force for a specific period, which shall not exceed one year from the date of the passing. Council may amend the Interim Control By-law to extend the period of time during which it will be in effect, provided that the total period of time during which the by-law is in effect does not exceed two years from the date of passing.

This freeze on development allows the Municipality to undertake a thorough review of its policies and take the necessary action to address the identified problem. Once an Interim Control By-law expires, the prior zoning shall automatically apply, unless new zoning provisions have been put in place.

The Municipality should only use Interim Control in limited circumstances, where the development of lands presents serious problems and requires study.

1. Interim Control may be used in circumstances where immediate policy review of specific issues is required.

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2. An interim control by-law shall contain authorization for a study to be undertaken of identified problem(s) and may include the terms of reference for the study.
3. After placing lands under Interim Control, the Municipality shall undertake the identified study and bring forward the necessary corrective action, such as policies or practices.

5.3.6 Site Plan Control

Under the authority of Section 41 of the Planning Act, the Municipality may, by by-law, designate certain areas or land uses as Site Plan Control areas. The Municipality has the authority to require plans and studies which adequately address the proposed development. The following policies shall apply to the use of Site Plan Control.

1. For the purpose of this Plan, the entire Municipality shall be designated as a site plan control area. Site Plan Control applications will be circulated in accordance with the Planning Act.
2. Generally, Site Plan Control will apply to residential development, in accordance with the Planning Act. Site Plan Control will also apply to non-residential development including commercial, industrial and institutional development; development within 120 metres of a watercourse or are within proximity of a significant environmental feature; areas within Source Water Protection and high aquifer vulnerability; private recreational or tourist commercial development; and non-residential development on existing lots of record which are less than the minimum size required in this Plan or the Zoning By-law, in accordance with the Planning Act.
3. The Municipality may require plans or drawings and conditions for the approval of the plans or drawings in accordance with the Planning Act.
4. The Municipality may require the signing of a Site Plan Agreement as a condition of the development of the lands and the submission of performance deposits, securities, and other documents such as insurance certificates, which shall be required prior to the issuance of a building permit. Upon the execution of Site Plan Agreement, the agreement may be registered on title of the lands and be binding on all future landowners.
5. The Municipality may require road widening in accordance with the Planning Act.

5.3.7 Minor Variances to the Zoning By-Law

In certain instances, a proposal to construct a new structure or expand an existing structure may not be able to meet one or more of the provisions of the Zoning By-law (e.g., an addition to a house cannot meet the side yard requirements). In such cases,

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the individual may request the Committee of Adjustment to grant a "minor variance" from one or more of the requirements of the Zoning By-law in order to permit the development to proceed.

1. The Committee of Adjustment may consider granting a minor variance to a proposed development which cannot reasonably meet one or more of the provisions of the Zoning By-law provided the development meets sound planning principles.
2. Prior to considering a minor variance application, the Committee of Adjustment may require the applicant to demonstrate that the development is:
 - i. in keeping with the intent of the Zoning By-law;
 - ii. in keeping with the intent of the Community Official Plan;
 - iii. appropriate and desirable use of land; and,
 - iv. minor in nature.
3. If a minor variance application is approved, the Committee of Adjustment may impose conditions which shall ensure that the development has minimal impacts on surrounding uses and satisfies reasonable planning criteria, including entering into agreements which may be registered on title of the subject property.
4. The Chief Building Official for the Municipality shall be satisfied that all the conditions of the minor variance are met prior to the issuance of a building permit.

5.3.8 Legal Non-Conforming Uses

Certain uses, which legally existed prior to the passage of the Zoning By-law but are not permitted in the new Zoning By-law are referred to as "legal non-conforming". To obtain legal non-conforming status, the following conditions must be satisfied:

- the use was legally established prior to the passing of the Zoning By-law; and,
- the use has continued without interruption from the date of the establishment of the use; or
- during a period of discontinuance there have been reasonable attempts to continue the use.

Legal non-conforming uses are allowed to continue to exist provided no enlargements, extensions or changes of use are made. Enlargements, extensions or changes in use require approval by the Committee of Adjustment. The following policies apply to legal non-conforming uses and the Committee of Adjustment.

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1. Legal non-conforming uses should cease to exist over time. Additions, expansions or changes in use which do not meet the requirements of the Zoning By-law should be discouraged.
2. The Plan recognizes that circumstances may exist where changes to legal non-conforming uses may be desirable given their economic, cultural, social, environmental or historical importance to the Community. In such cases, the Committee of Adjustment may grant permission for an addition, expansion or change in use.
3. A change in use of a legal non-conforming use to a use which is still not in compliance with the Zoning By-law, but which is more compatible than the existing use, may be permitted by the Committee of Adjustment.
4. The Committee of Adjustment shall use the following criteria to assess such proposals:
 - i. the proposed addition, expansion or change of use shall not add to the non-conforming nature of the property;
 - ii. the features of the non-conforming use and proposed extension and/or enlargement are considered to be compatible with adjacent uses;
 - iii. the proposed addition, expansion or change of use shall be consistent with the environmental policies of this Plan;
 - iv. the proposed addition, expansion or change of use shall not represent an unreasonable increase to the size and intensity of the existing use;
 - v. the proposed addition, expansion or change of use shall have minimal impact on the surrounding built environments in terms of projected levels of noise, vibration, fumes, smoke, dust, odours, lighting, outdoor storage and traffic generation;
 - vi. the proposed addition, expansion or change of use shall include the protection of surrounding uses through the provision of landscaping, buffering or screening, appropriate setbacks for buildings and structures or other measures which improve compatibility with the surrounding area;
 - vii. that traffic and parking conditions not be adversely affected by the proposed addition, expansion or change of use (appropriately designed entrance and exit points to and from the site and improvements to sight conditions shall be required in order to promote maximum safety for pedestrian and vehicular traffic);
 - viii. that adequate provisions be made for off-street parking, loading and unloading facilities; and,

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- ix. that applicable municipal service, such as storm drainage, water supply, sanitary sewers and roads are available or can be made available through the conditions of approval.

Failure to meet one or more of the criteria stated above may provide grounds for refusal of the application by the Committee of Adjustment.

5. The Committee of Adjustment may place conditions on the approval for the addition, expansion or change in use of non-conforming uses. These conditions may include, but are not limited to, application of Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act, entering into agreements to be registered on title, cash-in-lieu of parking, the installation of services and bonding.

5.3.9 Parking, Cash-In-Lieu Requirements

The Zoning By-law contains provisions prescribing a minimum number of parking spaces for specific land uses. In some circumstances, particularly within compact downtown areas, a development proposal is unable to accommodate the

required number of parking spaces.

If a development is unable to provide enough parking spaces, the Municipality has the authority to offer an exemption from the parking requirements of the Zoning By-law and accept a cash payment in-lieu of each parking space not provided.

1. The Municipality shall adopt a Cash-In-Lieu By-law enabling it to accept cash payments in compensation for insufficient parking spaces involving certain development or redevelopment proposals.
2. The payment of cash-in-lieu of parking shall be considered as an effective mechanism for encouraging a compact, efficient and viable downtown core.
3. Monies raised through cash-in-lieu shall be placed in a special fund, separate from general revenues, dedicated to managing existing public parking resources and/or establishing new parking facilities.
4. In order to determine the actual costs of providing a parking space and the appropriate fee to be charged for each space levied, the Municipality shall undertake a parking study.
5. In order to encourage development/redevelopment within the downtown core, the Municipality may wish to have a cash-in-lieu fee which is less than the true cost of providing new parking spaces.

5.3.10 Plans of Subdivision

Prior to approving a Plan of Subdivision, the County of Lanark requires that a developer satisfy all conditions placed upon the development by the Municipality or by

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the various authorities involved in the plan, input and review process. This process usually involves the developer entering into a subdivider's agreement with the Municipality.

A subdivider's agreement provides the Municipality with a legal and binding mechanism to ensure that the design and servicing of the subdivision meets municipal standards, as well as allowing for a performance bond should any costs be incurred by the Municipality in the development of the subdivision.

Subdivider's agreements usually cover such issues as lot grading and drainage, the construction of roads and the installation utilities, provision of sanitary and storm sewers and the supply of water, the establishment of parkland, landscaping and matters related to the environment.

The Town will be satisfied that the terms of a subdivider's agreement can be met prior to development taking place. The following policies shall apply to plans of subdivision.

1. The Municipality shall not support Plans of Subdivision that do not conform to the policies of this Plan or the provisions of the Zoning By-law.
2. Prior to permitting the development of a Plan of Subdivision, the Municipality shall be satisfied that the development can be supplied with municipal services, such as fire protection, water supply, storm drainage, sewage disposal facilities and road maintenance. Such development should not adversely affect the finances of the Municipality.
3. The Municipality shall enter into Subdivider's Agreements as a condition of the approval of Plans of Subdivision. Such agreements shall ensure that the necessary internal or external services will be provided by the developer to the specifications established by the Municipality.
4. The Municipality shall work with the County of Lanark to establish a procedural guide for the review and approval process for plans of subdivision.

5.3.11 Consent to Sever Land

The County of Lanark Land Division Committee has the authority for creating lots by consent and granting right-of-ways and easements within the Municipality of Mississippi Mills. However, the Municipality has a large degree of control over the creation of lots or granting right-of-ways and easements and can request that conditions be placed on the approval of such lots, similar to the conditions it may ask for with a Plan of Subdivision.

There are specific policies included in this Plan concerning the type, location and amount of development that is permitted by consent within the various land use categories.

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5.3.11.1 General Lot Creation Policies

The following lot creation policies apply to all land uses whether development takes place by consent or plan of subdivision.

- i. The size of the lots must be in accordance with the requirements for the type of use and servicing method proposed. The size of lot may be dependent on servicing studies which will be in accordance with the requirements of the municipality and other agencies.
- ii. Nothing in this Plan shall prohibit severance applications which result in the creation of original township lots. For the purpose of this Plan an original township lot shall be considered a holding.
- iii. Information will be provided to substantiate that an adequate and suitable water supply and conditions for a proper sewage system exist, all of which can meet the requirements of the municipality and other agencies.
- iv. Lots will not be created on lands which are unsuitable for development because of environmental conditions.
- v. All lots will have suitable road access in accordance with the relevant policies of this Plan. Proposals which result in the creation of land-locked parcels of land shall be strongly discouraged.
- vi. In the creation of lots, regard must be given to appropriate separation distances from incompatible uses and natural resources, including agricultural lands.
- vii. The lot must be in an appropriate location for the use proposed and contain a suitable building site, where applicable. Where lots are proposed for residential, commercial or industrial purposes, a site plan may also be required.
- viii. In reviewing any application to create new lots, the convenience, safety and welfare of the future residents of these lots will be a major consideration.
- ix. In the Rural designation, the maximum number of lots created per land holding will be two plus the remnant lot, except where otherwise specifically provided for in this Plan. A holding is defined as a parcel of land held in a conveyable ownership as of July 1, 1973 or an original township lot. Consents identified in Subsection 5.3.11.2.7 will not be counted as a consent for the purposes of this section.
- x. All sections of the Plan dealing with the creation of lots shall apply where appropriate including but not limited to the general policy for development under Section 4 of the Plan, environmental policies under Section 3.1, wellhead protection policies under Section 3.1.7, agricultural and rural policies under Section 3.2 and 3.3 respectively and the following sections related to consent

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policies and plans of subdivision.

5.3.11.2 General Consent Policies

1. The Municipality shall support applications to create lots by consent when:
 - i. the scale of development proposed, or the total development potential of the property would not require a plan of subdivision;
 - ii. the application represents infilling in an existing built up area;
 - iii. the proposed lots are in keeping with the lot area, frontage and density pattern of the surrounding neighbourhood;
 - iv. – the creation of lots would not create or worsen traffic, access or servicing problems;
 - v. the application represents an orderly and efficient use of land, and its approval would not hinder the development of the retained lands;
 - vi. the application does not represent strip development; and,
 - vii. the application meets all other policies of this Plan.
2. The Municipality shall not support consent applications that do not conform to the policies of the Community Official Plan or the provisions of the Zoning By-law.
3. The Municipality may require that the developer provide supporting information related to matters, such as environmental protection, potable water supply, sewage disposal, road access, design and compatibility to justify the development proposal.
4. Prior to supporting the creation of lots by consent, the Municipality shall be satisfied that the development can be supplied with municipal services, such as fire protection, water supply, storm drainage, sewage disposal facilities and road maintenance. Such development should not adversely affect the finances of the Municipality.
5. The Municipality may enter into a subdivider's agreement as a condition of the approval of a consent application. Such agreements shall ensure that the necessary internal or external services are provided by the developer to the specifications established by the Municipality. Such an agreement may include provisions to satisfy conditions established by the Municipality or other commenting agencies.
6. In addition to the condition of an agreement, the Municipality may request other conditions to be imposed by the Land Division Committee which may include

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but not be limited to the following:

- i. a zoning amendment or minor variance;
 - ii. Site Plan Control, in accordance with the Planning Act;
 - iii. dedication of land or cash-in-lieu of parkland;
 - iv. conveyance of land or an easement for utilities, access control or drainage;
 - v. the construction or upgrading of roads or the installation of drainage facilities;
 - vi. the establishment of buffer strips and landscaping;
 - vii. floodproofing;
 - viii. the installation of water supply or sewage disposal systems;
 - ix. financial guarantees;
 - x. demolition of buildings or structures and/or measures to remediate the property due to hazardous or contaminated conditions;
 - xi. - implementation of mitigating measures to ensure compatibility amongst land uses; and,
 - xii. the requirement for conducting studies and/or the implementation of any study required to support the development proposal.
7. In addition to the creation of new lots, consents may be granted for the following purposes:
- i. correct lot boundaries;
 - ii. convey additional land to an adjacent lot, provided the conveyance does not lead to the creation of an undersized lot;
 - iii. clarify title to the land;
 - iv. permit an easement or right-of-way;
 - v. a lease or charge/mortgage;
 - vi. a severance which results in the creation of original township lots; and,
 - vii. permit a consent for municipal or other government purposes.

5.3.12 Plan of Condominium

Condominiums are a form of property ownership which provides title to a unit, such as an individual apartment in an apartment building or a single detached dwelling in a private subdivision, along with a shared interest in the rest of the property which is common to all owners.

Condominiums can involve a brand-new development or an existing development which is converted to condominium ownership. They can apply to any type of residential, commercial or industrial uses. Vacant land is not eligible.

A condominium plan is like any plan of subdivision in that it is a way of dividing property and must be approved by the County of Lanark. Applications for draft plans of condominium are not subject to the requirements of giving notice of application and holding a public meeting. However, the County is still required to give a notice of decision and the 20-day appeal period following the giving of the notice of decision applies.

The Condominium Act, 1998, amended 2001 provides for new kinds of condominium developments:

"Phased" condo. Although you may have seen condos marketed as "phased" in the past, today, they are really separate condominium corporations. Under the new Act units and common elements can now be added in stages, over a maximum 10-year period, as part of one Condominium Corporation.

"Common elements". These are condominiums that consist only of common elements, but no units. For example, homes could be on separate pieces of land, with facilities such as a golf course or recreational centre as the common elements condominium.

"Vacant land" condo. Under this type of condominium corporation, the units can consist of vacant land, upon which, following registration, and owners can decide later what to build. This may be suitable for a mobile home development, for example.

"Leasehold" condo. These are units built on land that is leased by the developer—purchasers will never own the land. They buy a leasehold interest in the unit and common elements for a fixed number of years. This interest can be sold.

5.3.13 Part-Lot Control

Part-lot control may be used for existing plans of subdivision where it is necessary to re-align lot boundaries to clarify or grant title, exact specific servicing requirements as a condition of consent, such as a road widening or to further control internal development on a lot.

5.3.14 Community Improvement

Community Improvement Project Area by-laws may be passed by the Municipal Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 28 of the Planning Act, for the

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purpose of community improvement as defined in Section 28 of the Planning Act including upgrading, redeveloping and rehabilitating the physical environment of older neighbourhoods, recreational areas, commercial centres, industrial areas, institutional and public buildings and areas, or other uses, buildings, works, improvements or facilities, or spaces as may be appropriate or necessary.

A part or the whole of the Municipality may be designated as a Community Improvement Project Area by by-law in accordance with Section 28(2) of the Planning Act, based on the following criteria:

Evidence exists of a need to improve municipal services such as roads, sidewalks, street lighting, parking, sewers, water supply, parks and recreation, community facilities, the waterfront area or streetscaping. Improvements may apply to some or all of the listed services.

The cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield properties will be facilitated. The phasing of improvements corresponds to the timing of improvements by senior governments and is within the financial capability of the Municipality.

A significant number of buildings in an area show signs of deterioration and need of repair.

Improvements to the visual appearance or aesthetics are required.

Improvements will have a significant impact on strengthening the environmental, economic and/or social base of the community.

Where a by-law has been passed under Section 28(2) of the Planning Act, the Municipal Council may provide for the preparation of a plan suitable for adoption as a community improvement plan for the community improvement project area in accordance with Section 28 of the Planning Act.

5.3.15 Source Water Protection Plan

Council shall appoint a Risk Management Official or maintain an enforcement transfer agreement with another body which has an appointed Risk Management Official (such as the Conservation Authority or Health Unit). A Risk Management Official is required to enforce the Source Protection Plan policies that invoke Part IV of the Clean Water Act. These policies either prohibit activities under Section 57 or require a Risk Management Plan (to reduce risks to drinking water sources) under Section 58.

5.3.16 Land Use Compatibility

In reviewing development applications, Council will be satisfied that the proposed land use will be compatible with surrounding uses or can be made to be compatible in a manner that either eliminates or minimizes to an acceptable level any adverse effects from the proposed use. Adverse effects may include, but are not limited to:

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- i. Shadowing;
- ii. Loss of privacy;
- iii. Loss of neighbourhood or streetscape character;
- iv. Development that is inconsistent with applicable MEOCC Guidelines; (v) Environmental damage or degradation;
- v. Impacts of private water and sewage services on groundwater resources;
- vi. A decline in public health or safety; or
- vii. Incompatibility in terms of scale, style and massing of associated buildings or structures.

5.3.17 Consultation and Application Requirements

5.3.17.1 Pre-Consultation

1. The Municipality may hold pre-consultations for all types of planning applications.
2. The Municipality will provide an applicant with a list of plans and studies following a pre-consultation meeting for the applicant to use as a guide for the submission of a planning application.

5.3.17.2 Development Applications: Required Information and Material

As per the *Planning Act*, Council or their designate may require applicants to provide additional information or material to accompany the planning applications, in addition to the plans and studies identified in the pre-consultation stage. The number and scope of studies and assessments required for the submission of a complete application shall be in keeping with the scope and complexity of the application.

5.3.17.3 Development Applications: Additional Studies and Assessments

Additional information in the form of the studies or assessments listed in this Section may be required prior to deeming a planning application complete to ensure that all relevant and required information and material pertaining to a planning application is available at the time of submission.

1. The additional information or material that may be required includes, but is not limited to, the studies and assessments listed below:
 - i. Aggregate Study / Impact Assessment;
 - ii. Agricultural Soils Assessment / Impact Analysis;

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- iii. Air Quality / Dust / Odour / Noise Study;
- iv. Archaeological Assessment;
- v. Compatibility Assessment;
- vi. Concept Plan;
- vii. Construction Management Plan;
- viii. Decommissioning Plan;
- ix. Dispute Resolution Protocol;
- x. Electromagnetic Interference Report
- xi. Emergency Management Plan;
- xii. Environmental Impact Study / Audits / Previous Land;
- xiii. Use Inventory / Site-Specific Risk Assessment;
- xiv. Financial Impact Assessment / Analysis
- xv. Indigenous Consultation Strategy;
- xvi. Flood Plain Management / Slope Stability Report
- xvii. Forest Management Plan;
- xviii. Geotechnical Study;
- xix. Groundwater Nitrate Impact Assessment;
- xx. Cultural Heritage Impact Statement;
- xxi. Hydrogeological Report;
- xxii. Hydraulic Analysis
- xxiii. Ice Throw Report;
- xxiv. Influence Area Study;
- xxv. Lake Capacity Assessment;
- xxvi. Landscaping Plan;
- xxvii. Market Justification / Impact Assessment;

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- xxviii. Micro-Climatic Impact Assessment;
 - xxix. Minimum Distance Separation Formulae;
 - xxx. Natural Heritage Evaluation / Impact Study;
 - xxxi. Nutrient Management Plan;
 - xxxii. Parking Study;
 - xxxiii. Planning Brief / Rationale;
 - xxxiv. Rural Design Study;
 - xxxv. Servicing Report;
 - xxxvi. Shadow Impact;
 - xxxvii. Site Rehabilitation Plan;
 - xxxviii. Stormwater Management / Master Drainage Plan;
 - xxxix. Structural Engineering Analysis;
 - xl. Transportation Impact Study / Traffic Brief;
 - xli. Tree Inventory / Tree Preservation / Tree Protection Plan;
 - xl.ii. Urban Design Brief;
 - xl.iii. Rural Design Brief; and
 - xl.iv. Visual Impact Study
2. Notwithstanding the required studies and assessments listed above, the Municipality may request additional information that is considered reasonable and necessary in order to make a decision on a planning application.
 3. The Municipality may require any of the studies or assessments to be peer reviewed on behalf of the Municipality at the applicant's expense.

5.3.18 Community Planning Permit System

The Community Planning Permit System (CPPS), also commonly known as a Development Permit System, is an additional implementation tool that may be used by the Municipality to ensure the goals, objectives, and policies of this Plan are realized. As an integrated and flexible approach to development approvals, the Community Planning Permit System consolidates zoning, site plan control, and minor variance processes into a single, streamlined system.

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1. The Municipality of Mississippi Mills is designated as a Community Planning Permit System area. The Municipality's objectives in utilizing this system are to implement the policies of the Official Plan, streamline planning approvals and clearly establish criteria for development in the by-law. The Municipality may choose to implement a Community Planning Permit System for all of the Municipality or certain geographic areas, as identified in a Community Planning Permit By-law.
2. The delegation of authority for the approval of the Community Planning Permit System is identified in the Community Planning Permit By-law or the Delegation of Authority By-law, as amended from time to time.
3. A Community Planning Permit By-law may allow certain specified variations to the standards specified in the Community Planning Permit By-law. Such variations to the by-law may only be permitted if they have satisfied the policies pertaining to the applicable policies of this Plan.
4. Technical reports/plans or studies may be required to assist in the review process of a Community Planning Permit application. Applications for a Community Planning Permit may be required to submit any of the plans, studies or reports listed in Section 5.3.17 of this Plan.
5. The Corporation may impose conditions and grant provisional approval prior to final approval of a Community Planning Permit application. Development shall be required to occur as illustrated on the approved and stamped drawings by the Municipality and a development agreement, registered on title, may be required prior to final approval for any Community Planning Permit application. Conditions may include, but are not limited to, the conveyance of widening of highways, off-street loading and parking areas, walkways and facilities designed in accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians Disability Act*, on-site or off-site lighting, site alterations of any kind, easements, and securities for completing all works identified in the conditions.
6. A Community Planning Permit may allow for defined variations to the standards and provisions outlined in the applicable By-law. Such variations will only be permitted if they are consistent with the policies of this Plan. Any proposal for a use which is not listed as a permitted use, or which does not qualify as a discretionary use in the applicable Community Planning Permit By-law will require an amendment to the By-law.
7. All applications for a Community Planning Permit are required to submit a full drawing and plan set which may include elevations and cross section drawings for any proposed building or structure. All applications for Community Planning Permits must include the following:
 - a. The name, address, email address and telephone number of the owner of the subject land and of the agent if the applicant is an agent authorized by the owner.
 - b. The current designation of the subject land.
 - c. The current zoning of the subject land.

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- d. The description of the subject land, such as the Lot and Concession number(s), Registered Plan and Lot number(s), Reference Plan and Part numbers and municipal civic address.
- e. The frontage, depth and area of the subject land.
- f. Whether access to the subject land is by a provincial highway, a municipal road that is maintained all year or seasonally, another public road or a right of way or by water.
- g. If access to the subject land is by water only, the parking and docking facilities are used or to be used and the approximate distance of these facilities from the subject land and the nearest public road.
- h. The existing uses of the subject land.
- i. Whether there are any buildings or structures on the subject land.
 - i. If the answer is yes, for each building or structure the type of building or structure, the setback from the front lot line, rear lot line and side lot lines, the height in metres of the building or structure and the dimensions or floor area of the building or structure.
- j. The proposed uses of the subject land.
- k. Whether any buildings or structures are proposed to be built on the subject land.
 - i. If the answer is yes, for each building or structure the type of building or structure, the setback from the front lot line, rear lot line, and side lot lines, the height in metres of the building or structure and the dimensions or floor area of the building or structure.
- l. The date the existing buildings or structures on the subject land were constructed.
- m. The length of time that the existing uses of the subject land have continued.
- n. Whether water is provided to the subject land by a publicly owned and operated piped water system, a privately owned and operated individual or communal well, a lake or other water body or other means.
- o. Whether sewage disposal is provided to the subject land by a publicly owned and operated sanitary sewage system, a privately owned and operated individual or communal septic system, a privy or other means.
- p. Whether storm drainage is provided by sewers, ditches, swales or other means.
- q. If known, whether the subject land is the subject of an application under the *Act* for approval of a plan of subdivision or a consent.
 - i. If the answer is yes, and if known, the file number of the application and the status of the application.

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- r. If known, whether the subject land has ever been the subject of an application under Section 45 of the *Act*.
 - s. A site plan showing the following:
 - i. The boundaries and dimensions of the subject land.
 - ii. The location, size and type of all existing and proposed buildings and structures on the subject land, indicating the distance of the buildings or structures from the front yard lot line, rear yard lot line and the side yard lot lines.
 - iii. The approximate location of all natural and artificial features on the subject land and on land that is adjacent to the subject land that, in the opinion of the applicant, may affect the application. Examples include buildings, railways, roads, watercourses, drainage ditches, river or stream banks, wetlands, wooded areas, wells and septic tanks.
 - iv. The current uses on land that is adjacent to the subject land.
 - v. The location, width and name of any roads within or abutting the subject land, indicating whether it is an unopened road allowance, a public travelled road, a private road or a right of way.
 - vi. If access to the subject land is by water only, the location of the parking and docking facilities to be used.
 - vii. The location and nature of any easement affecting the subject land.
 - t. An affidavit or sworn declaration by the applicant that the information required under this Plan and provided by the applicant is true.
8. A Community Planning Permit shall not be required for any residential development ten (10) units or less provided that such development or proposed development is deemed to be in conformity with the requirements, standards and provisions within the applicable Community Planning Permit By-law, and which is also in full conformity with all of the following standards:
- a. Development is setback a minimum of 30 metres from any natural watercourse.
 - b. No site alteration or vegetation removal is required or proposed within 30 metres of the Mississippi River.
9. A Community Planning Permit shall not be required for the following:
- a. Any development that has a prior Site Plan Control approval.
 - b. Any necessary repairs or maintenance to existing development.
 - c. The placement of a portable classroom on a school site of a district school board is exempt from the requirement for a Community Planning Permit if the school site was in existence on January 1, 2007.

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10. The owner or applicant may be required to enter into a Community Planning Permit Agreement with the Corporation, to be registered against the lands affected, which shall include the responsibility of each party to execute and complete all works detailed in the approved Community Planning Permit; detailed drawings and specifications of the work to be completed, timing of development, any financial securities to ensure the completion of the work and fees required in the Municipality's Fees and Charges By-law, the payment of cash-in-lieu of parking or cash-in-lieu of parking.
11. Applicants are required to consult with municipal staff prior to submitting a Community Planning Permit application. Pre-consultation will provide important information including the identification of required studies and/or reports in support of an application, per Section 5.3.17.1 of this Plan. Failure to consult with municipal staff prior to applying may result in delays related to incomplete applications.

5.4 Building Code

The *Building Code Act* provides the authority for the Municipality to issue building permits through the appointment of a building official and the adoption of a building by-law. The *Act* also provides for the administration of property standards. A building permit cannot be issued unless the proposed structure complies with all applicable law including the Zoning By-law. The associated Ontario Building Code sets out the standards for design and construction of buildings. Building permits are generally required for:

- i. construction of buildings or structures exceeding 10 m², including mobile homes and manufactured dwellings;
- ii. the repair, reconstruction or retrofitting of a building or other construction which is a part of the structural support of a building;
- iii. an extension to an existing building;
- iv. excavating or construction of a foundation;
- v. installing heating (including gas fireplace), plumbing, air conditioning or a fire place (solid fuel appliance);
- vi. building or placing a temporary building;
- vii. the demolition of a building; and,
- viii. the change of use of a building.

5.5 Property Maintenance

1. In order to encourage the rehabilitation of existing buildings and property, the

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municipality will endeavour to ensure that the negative influence of substandard structures is minimized.

2. The Municipality has passed a By-law which prescribes standards for the maintenance and occupancy of property (Property Standards By-law). The Council shall review this By-law from time to time to ensure it is achieving the desired affects.
3. Any Property Standards By-law passed under the authority of the Building Code Act will have regard to, and will prescribe appropriate standards for, the physical condition of yards and passageways including the accumulation of debris and rubbish and the physical condition of all buildings and structures.
4. Any Property Standards By-law may also require substandard properties to be repaired and maintained to appropriate standards, prohibit the use of substandard property and require the demolition and clearing of such property, where the owner does not intend to repair and maintain it.
5. The Municipality will appoint a Property Standards Officer who will be responsible for administering and enforcing the By-law. The Municipality will also appoint a Property Standards Committee for the purpose of hearing appeals against an order of the Property Standards Officer.
6. The measures to be used in achieving a property maintenance program should include an education and public relations program to show people the benefits of property maintenance, together with information showing that improvements can be made without increasing assessment.
7. Complementary to the enforcement of minimum standards on private properties, the Municipality will undertake to keep in a fit and well- maintained condition all municipally-owned properties and structures and to provide or maintain in good repair municipal services, such as roads, sidewalks and other facilities.

5.6 Environmental Assessment Act

Prior to the construction of public works or undertakings, such as roads, sewage works, waste disposal facilities or water filtration plants, the Municipality is obliged to follow procedures under the Environmental Assessment Act. Some types of undertakings may fall into a “class environmental assessment” which is a more streamlined process in reviewing the environmental impacts of the proposed work. Generally, the intent of this Plan is to ensure that the following generalized procedures are followed prior to the construction of a project:

1. Consult with affected parties:
 - i. involve affected parties early in the process and continuously throughout;

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- ii. encourage the identification and resolution of issues before an EA is
- formally submitted; and,

promote mutually acceptable, environmentally sound solutions through consultation.
2. Consider reasonable alternatives: planning must consider alternatives to the undertaking which fulfill the purpose of the undertaking in functionally different ways and alternative methods of implementing a particular type of alternative. The do-nothing alternative must also be considered.
3. Consider all aspects of the environment: the planning process must consider the effects on the natural or biophysical environment as well as effects on the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the community.
4. Systematically evaluate net environmental effects: evaluate alternatives in light of their advantages and disadvantages and the effects remaining after mitigation or enhancement measures have been addressed.
5. Provide clear, complete documentation: the EA should strive to represent accurately the process that was followed in a clear and understandable way and to communicate the results of that process.

5.7 Local Improvements

Council or a petitioner may request improvement to specific works, and upon the approval and adoption of a by-law, the costs thereof may be recovered from those benefiting from the improvement in a lump sum or amortized payments. Such works may include:

- Opening, widening, extending, grading, altering the grade, diverting, improving, paving of streets or establishing a new street or bridge;
- Constructing, enlarging or extending a sewer or water main;
- Constructing and landscaping a sidewalk, boulevard or park;
- Extending gas, light, heat or power systems;
- Constructing protective works along the shoreline of a water body;
and,
- Constructing noise abatement works.

5.8 Ontario Heritage Act

The Municipality implements its heritage goals and objective of this Plan under the authority of the Ontario Heritage Act. This legislation allows the Municipality to protect properties of historic or architectural value from demolition or unsympathetic alteration.

The Act allows the Municipality to:

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1. Pass by-laws to designate individual properties as being of historic, architectural or archaeological significance to the community. The by-laws shall include a description of the property and a statement of the reasons for designation.
2. Pass by-laws to designate Heritage Conservation Districts in order to protect the heritage resources of an area. The by-laws shall be based on a study identifying the heritage resources of the area.
3. Within a Heritage Conservation District, development proposals must give consideration to protecting the heritage character of the area.

5.9 Public Consultation and a Fair and Timely Process

The Planning Act sets out the minimum public notice requirements for all types of planning applications.

To ensure that the public has ample opportunity to be involved with planning matters, Council may establish alternative notification procedures for notification and consultation. The procedures outline below provide for alternative notification procedures, in accordance with the Planning Act. Council may, in specific instances, establish consultative procedures which are supplementary to the procedures contained in this Plan.

5.9.1 Public Meetings

Council will hold statutory public meetings in accordance with the Planning Act including notification in accordance with the Planning Act. Council may hold statutory public meetings as part of a Council meeting, Committee meeting or alternative date and location as deemed appropriate.

5.9.2 Alternative Notification

1. Council may establish alternative public consultation measures to notify prescribed persons and public bodies of proposed development as corporate policies adopted by by-law outside of this Plan provided the by-law is approved by Council and addresses public notification and consultation.
2. Council may delegate its authority to administer these measures to an appointed Committee, officer, or employee identified by by-law.

5.9.3 Additional Notification and Consultation Procedures

Additional procedures for planning studies and major Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments are set out below. Council may choose to implement the procedures below or develop additional consultation strategies for certain planning studies.

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1. Official Plan Review/Zoning By-law Review

- a) Public information meeting at the beginning of the review to inform the public of the topics being addressed in the review; or
- b) If required, establish a sub-committee of Council, key stakeholders or subject matter experts to participate in the development of Official Plan policies or Zoning By-law provisions; or
- c) Public information meetings on each major amendment topic.

2. General Official Plan Amendments/Zoning By-law Amendments

- a) Notification by newspaper, if the Clerk deems that a newspaper is available for general circulation; or
- b) Notification by email or mail to organized groups, stakeholders and individuals who have requested notice be given; or
- c) Notification on the Municipality's website.

3. Plans of Subdivision

- a) Prior to draft approval of a subdivision by the County, Council may choose to provide non-statutory notification by mail to property owners with 120 metres of the subject property advising of a non-statutory meeting at which Council will be given an overview of the plan of subdivision application.
- b) For those subdivision applications with associated Planning Act applications such as a Zoning By-law Amendment, Council may hold a non-statutory meeting at the same time as the required statutory public meeting for the associated Planning Act application(s). Notification of the public meeting will be given in accordance with the notification requirements of the statutory public meeting.

5.10 Sign By-Law

The Municipality has the authority to regulate, through a by-law and permit system, the placement of signs, notices, placards or other advertising devices on private and public lands. Under such a by-law, the Municipality may require the removal of signs not in compliance with the by-law, levy fines for contravening the sign by-law and require licensing of those persons supplying mobile signs.

5.11 Cooperation with Adjacent Municipalities

The policies, activities and services of adjacent municipalities may have impacts on the long-term planning goals of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills. Therefore, the Municipality adopts the following policies aimed at improving land use and servicing

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decisions by adjacent municipalities.

1. The Municipality shall notify adjacent municipalities of any application, in accordance with the Planning Act.
2. In order to ensure appropriate services to residents living within Mississippi Mills, the Municipality may enter into agreements that it finds advisable, relating to the sharing of community services. Such agreements may deal with roads servicing, recreation, library services, fire protection, garbage disposal and recycling.

5.12 Finance

This Plan makes reference to a number of initiatives under the responsibility of the Town Municipality. However, the Municipality should provide and improve services in a fiscally responsible manner.

The Community Official Plan has a life expectancy of 20 years and therefore all of the projects and priorities referred to in the Plan cannot be initiated or implemented as soon as the Plan is adopted.

It is the intention of the Municipality therefore, to only carry out those expenditures and public works that are affordable.

1. The Municipality shall not grant approval to any development unless it is in a financial position to provide the services required by such development.
2. The Municipality shall promote the establishment of a diverse and stable economic base both in terms of job opportunities and tax revenue.
3. The Municipality shall require those initiating development proposals to pay for works which are intended to benefit the development. The Municipality shall only expend funds for projects which are deemed to be in the public interest.

5.13 DEVELOPMENT CHARGES ACT

The *Development Charges Act* provides that the Council of the Municipality may by by-law impose development charges against land to pay for increased capital costs required because of increased needs of services.

In compliance with the *Development Charges Act*, the Municipality shall undertake a Development Charges Study to determine the cost of providing services to new developments. The Municipality shall implement a Development Charges By-law which shall authorize the Municipality to impose a development charge against specific land uses to pay for increased capital costs required because of growth.

It is the Municipality's desire to ensure that the capital cost of meeting growth related demands for or burden on municipal services does not place an excessive financial burden on the Municipality of Mississippi Mills or its existing taxpayers while at the same time ensuring new taxpayers contribute no more than the net capital cost

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attributable to providing the current level of municipal services.

5.14 Delegation of Authority

1. Council may, by by-law, delegate the authority to pass by-laws under the authority of the Planning Act that are of a minor nature to:
 - a. Committee of council; or
 - b. An individual who is an officer, employee, or agent of the Municipality.
2. Further, by-laws in policy 1 above that are deemed to be minor in nature may include:
 - a. Zoning Amendments that are required as a condition of approval of a provisional consent application that received no objections from the public and agencies during the required circulation period.
 - b. Zoning Amendments that are required as a condition of approval of a provisional consent for lot creation for a residence surplus to a farming operation.
 - c. A by-law to remove a holding symbol under Section 36 of the Planning Act where the conditions to remove the holding symbol have been met and any required agreements have been executed.
 - d. Temporary uses that are specified in the Municipality's delegation of authority by-law.
 - e. Zoning Amendments to permit garden suites.
3. A by-law passed under the authority of the Municipal Act must follow the public notice requirements of the Planning Act, which may include following alternative measures for consulting the public found in Section 5.9.

5.15 Definitions

For clarification of certain terms used throughout this Plan and to provide guidance in interpreting the policies of this Plan, reference shall be made to the following definitions. Where definitions are not provided in this Plan, but are provided in the Provincial Policy Statement, those definitions are to be used.

Barrier:

Includes anything that prevents a person with disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communication barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technical barrier a policy or a practice.

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Best Management Practices (BMPs):

Techniques, facilities and structures designed to protect or improve the natural environment during land development activities and to mitigate the effects of various land uses. BMPs are implemented during the initiation and/or operation of a number of activities, such as agriculture, development servicing, aggregate extraction, woodlot management, retrofitting activities and water taking.

Examples of BMPs include, but are not limited to, land use restrictions, source controls of pollutants, stormwater management ponds, grassed swales, woodlot management, soil erosion control, crop rotation, tree windbreaks and natural fencerows.

Cumulative impact:

The combined environmental effects or potential environmental effects of one or more development activities, including natural resource utilization or extraction, in a defined area over a particular time period.

Emergency services:

Services, such as those provided by fire, police and ambulance stations and electrical substations, which would be impaired during an emergency as a result of flooding, the failure of floodproofing measures and/or protection works, and/or erosion.

Employment Area:

Means those areas designated as Industrial or Business Park in the Community Official Plan for clusters of business activities including, but not limited to, manufacturing, warehousing, offices, and associated retail and ancillary facilities.

Existing use:

Land, buildings and structures in use at the date of the adoption of this Plan by Municipal Council and not the total land area or land holding on which the use is located.

Garden Suite:

A one-unit residential unit containing bathroom and kitchen facilities that is ancillary to an existing residential structure and is designed to be portable or temporary which offers alternative housing arrangement for elderly parents, handicapped family members or other similar social housing needs.

Gross Density:

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The density of the residential development in an area, including all local roads and parks, stormwater management ponds and other natural features.

Highwater Mark:

The mark made by the action of water under natural conditions on the shore or bank of a body of water, which action has been so common and usual and so long continued that it has created a difference between the character of the vegetation or soil on one side of the mark and the character of the vegetation or soil on the other side of the mark.

Influence area:

The area, at or below grade, surrounding an aggregate resource area in which aggregate resource extraction might have an adverse effect on a sensitive land use. Adverse effects might include, but not be limited to, impacts on human health, loss of normal enjoyment of property, damage to property, or loss of values to property.

Minor:

In the context of the Committee of Adjustment and Section 5.3.7 of this Plan, minor is a relative term and must be interpreted in the particular circumstances involved, together with the three other tests noted in Section 5.3.7 #2. Minor is not a matter of arithmetic. Rather, minor relates to the impact of the variance – its impact on policy, neighbours, water quality, future development, planning practices, zoning regulations to name a few. Minor can only be determined in the context of the specific application before the Committee of Adjustment.

Missing Middle Housing:

Means a range of housing types with multiple units between single detached dwellings and low-rise apartment buildings that are compatible in scale with other low-rise built forms and offer more forms of housing ownership and low-density rental options to the community.

Net density:

The density of only the area within a development which is used for residential uses and does not include local roads and parks, stormwater management ponds, blocks for infrastructure facilities, open spaces and other natural features.

Net Environmental Gain:

Is a working principle which strives to achieve a relative increase in environmental features and natural system functions resulting from new development or new land uses or natural resource extraction rehabilitation over

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the long term. Net environmental gain will be assessed using such measures as biological diversity including species diversity, ecosystem diversity and genetic diversity within a species, system function and wildlife habitat. Net environmental gain will be determined by comparing the state of the local environment at a base year prior to development or rehabilitation to the long term expected results of measures taken to protect and enhance the environment given the technical feasibility of the measures proposed. The concept of net environmental gain does not mean that there will be no changes to the state of the environment or tolerance for unavoidable loss on a project by project basis.

Organic Soils:

On soils maps, organic soils are often classified as Muck, marsh and peat type soils. Organic and peat soils are formed by humification, the decomposition of vegetative and organic materials into humus. The high percentage of organic matter results in a high moisture retention capacity, making them poorly drained. Organic soils lack structure, erode easily and compress so much that they usually can't support structures.

Original township lot:

The east or west half of a lot which was laid out as part of the original survey of Ramsay or Pakenham Townships and which is typically a 40-hectare (100 acre) parcel of land (e.g. East ½ of Lot 12, Concession 3). There are situations where the lots were originally created having less than 40 hectares or greater than 40 hectares.

Private Road:

A road under private ownership which serves two or more legally conveyable lots as identified as a common element developed under the cluster lot development policies of this Plan.

Public services:

Programs and services provided or subsidized by a government or other public body. Examples include social assistance, recreation, police and fire protection, health and educational programs, and cultural services.

Qualified Person

An individual with qualifications and/or credentials related to a field of study and who is therefore appropriate for conducting a study and/or providing an expert opinion that has been required by the Municipality. The qualifications and credentials of the *qualified person* must be to the satisfaction of the Municipality, or where appropriate, are defined by relevant legislation, regulation and standards.

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Safe Access:

Vehicular and pedestrian access routes are considered safe if the depth of flooding, at the regulation (1:100 year) flood level, along the full length of the travelled surface does not exceed 0.3 metres and the flood velocity does not exceed 1.0 metres/second.

Secondary uses:

Uses secondary to the principal use of the property, including home-based businesses, home industries and uses that produce value-added agricultural products from the farm operation on the property.

Sensitive marine clays (Leda Clay):

These clays were deposited as sediment during the last glacial period in the Champlain Sea. Undisturbed, the clays can appear as solid and stable. But when disturbed by excessive vibration, shock or when they become saturated with water, the clays can turn to liquid, sometimes in minutes. The resulting failures or earthflows are particularly dangerous as they can involve many hectares of land. Of all the slope failures in Canada, Leda clay failures have the second highest rate of occurrence, next to rock falls. There are Leda clay deposits along sections of the Mississippi River.

Sustainable development:

Development to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need.

Watercourse:

A stream of water which flows along a defined channel, with beds and banks, for a sufficient time to give it substantial existence. This may include streams that dry up periodically.

Water Resource:

Includes a watercourse, wetland, lake, beaver ponds municipal drains or other similar water body features.

6 SECONDARY PLANS

A Secondary Plan is a planning document that establishes a vision and guiding principles for development and redevelopment within a defined Secondary Plan Area.

1. Development applications within a Secondary Plan Area shall demonstrate, through description and/or illustration, how the proposed development meets the policies and schedules of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills Secondary Plans, where applicable.
2. Any amendment to the text or schedules of a Secondary Plan constitutes an amendment to the Municipality of Mississippi Mills Community Official Plan.

6.1 Almonte Downtown Secondary Plan

1. The Almonte Downtown Secondary Plan, as detailed in Appendix C, is a Council adopted planning document and therefore forms policy. Any development and/or redevelopment within the lands of the Downtown Almonte Planning Area shall be subject to the policies and designations of the Almonte Downtown Secondary Plan.
2. Where the policies and designations of the Community Official Plan and Almonte Downtown Secondary Plan conflict, the policies and designations of the Secondary Plan shall prevail.

APPENDIX B

PRIVATE ROAD STANDARD

Road Width	-	4 m (13.1 ft)
Shoulder Width	-	1 m (3.3 ft) on both sides
Right-of-way Width	-	flexible but generally no less than 15 m (49 ft)
Brushing Out	-	6 m (19.7 ft) wide and 5 m (16.4 ft) high
Road Slope	-	maximum of 8%
Centre Line Radius	-	not less than 12 m (39.4 ft)

Where the Road is greater than 90 m (295 ft) long there needs to be a turnaround (cul-de-sac or T turn)

APPENDIX C

ALMONTE DOWNTOWN SECONDARY PLAN

*Separate attachment