

Comments re Q 8 (“Anything you would like to add?”)

One hundred and one (101) respondents commented on Q 8; eleven (11) of those said a version of “No, nothing more to add.” I have removed those eleven comments from the list, and reproduced the other ninety comments in their entirety below.

1. hoping for a real change to town council..far too much division which nobody wants or needs...not beneficial to progress and reputation of the "friendly town."
2. Moved away for a while and came back because I love Almonte
3. This is a pretty ambiguous survey, with ambiguous questions and no statement of purpose.
4. Kind on obvious, MM is great, Almonte is amazing. Council is serving the community and will continue to do so, especially if they can work well together.
5. Please just spend the money and hire a consulting firm to do this work properly.
6. I love seeing updates and news on social media
7. MM (The Town) needs to cast off the old-stock rural mentality and focus on a vision and mission that makes it the best it can be in Canada in ----- (select anything). There is too much subtle patronage in governance, too many little dictators, and all too much talk. Meanwhile hardworking, community-minded residents are building the socio-cultural infrastructure without so much as a simple acknowledgement. Focus on community builders not on political leadership.
8. I am returning to Almonte after years living in other places. I am encouraged by the efforts of many residents to foster a more cooperative, friendly approach to our community and municipal affairs
9. Need some police presence. Tons of speeding in town. The Town needs to clear the top of their sewer grates of the heavy debree and street cleaning trucks need to run each season with the exception of winter.
10. More free and or affordablé activities. Would love to see promoting active living for ALL ages and multi generational. That means classes in the evenings as Nd weekend... Not during day time.
11. Great survey at an auspicious time.
12. it has been my experience that a community is only as strong as the commitment of the people who live in it. When I see myself as part of a community, it affects how I work with others. I tend to notice my neighbours and their needs. I reach out to a friend, even when I would rather watch TV. I participate in a committee because it is for not just me but my neighbour, my community.
13. I moved away years ago but have stayed in contact with many 'lifers' ☐☐
14. I am looking forward to enjoying all the good things Almonte has to offer.
15. help council with positive feed back and listen to all points of view
16. I am hopeful that surveys such as these will contribute to the growth of MM, in a positive manner.
17. This place has really evolved. At first I missed the more cosmopolitan aspects of the big city, but working in Ottawa helped. However, I loved coming home to rural Ramsay. Now that I am retired I love the evolution of the artistic community and the more accepting atmosphere. We moved from Quebec and in the early years I must admit there was some discomfort but has that ever changed.
18. I would like to read the complete results when more have participated.
19. Hoping for a new council with new ideas
20. The best place to live, won't live anywhere else!
21. Mississippi Mills is a great place to live.

22. Regular street sweeping (min 3 times/year), more trees for public places i.e. parking lots, parks etc.
23. I'm actually from West Carleton and moved here as it was the only place I could find a property with a small house where I could keep my horses. I had plans to move back to West Carleton on my retirement but after having lived here for six years, I'm not sure I want to leave!
24. I would love to move back to MM.
25. We moved from Ottawa to near Middleville 28 yrs ago. We loved our house and the area and people but I craved seeing people walk by as I am a City person and we were on an almost all truck road. I got my wish when we moved near Tims!
26. No.
27. Love the Millstone as it keeps us informed - providing local news and details of events. You are an unbiased common tie in our small community. Please keep up the great work
28. One important element for living harmoniously together is that all in the community agree on a vision for MM - one that balances economics, services, and lifestyle. We all want the lowest taxes possible, the best services available and opportunities for a lifestyle suitable for us and yet does not infringe on our neighbours and fellow community members. With a diversity of people, opinions and priorities, this will never be easy, but we should try. A key to success in our efforts is strong, open, honest, respectful dialogue and communication.
29. Respect the environment but be practical about it.
30. I would like to see an end to the politics of confrontation which seems to have reared its ugly head in Mississippi Mills over the past few years. Citizens and politicians need to work constructively and in a cooperative spirit to ensure the continued growth and development of our precious community.
31. If we focus on strengthening the good things that exist and on building the things that are needed for a 21st century town(ship) then MM will continue to be a loved home to its residents.
32. This survey should be interesting.
33. Love the more relaxed way of life ,nature and friendly people
34. Get along people! Need more councillors on the Pakenham ward, and give a little on the COP!
35. If this survey is only shared on the Millstone, the answers will likely be harmonious. Just sayin'.
36. We can all do better at being good neighbours.
37. Thank you very much Susan for doing this survey. Ever since coming to MM you have become a most engaged, constructive and participatory MM citizen - a very needed and welcomed 'asset'. Thank you.
38. There's a lot of wonderful people living here. We need to keep open minds to new ideas and work together instead of against each other.
39. I was born and raised in Almonte, and still find myself drawn back "home".
40. M Mills is a wonderful friendly and caring community
41. Scenic, quaint, lovely!
42. Love this place
43. Just recently moved here
44. New to the community and am loving it. We have been made to feel very welcome!
45. Unfortunately for us as every year passes it MM has actually become a worse place to live. We have been subjected to one construction project after another at times with the noise being unbearable. We are expected to live with atvs racing by our house and god forbid we complain as we have constantly been treated like second class citizens due to the fact we have so recently moved to the community. We move from a rural English

- village where we supported and listened to each other. We are disappointed that this is not the case here.
46. We need to promote our town more and we need more affordable stores for clothing and housewares.
 47. I do love MM. It's one of the nicest places I've ever lived. As ex-military, I've lived in a lot of places.
 48. [Redacted] will be the end of this town.
 49. I don't agree with some of the past council decisions, "sewage treatment" official plan "deny rural severance" however, the discourse has become toxic and Trumpian and needs to stop!
 50. I'd hope this town could develop into a place that was less tolerant of bullying and more accepting of people that choose to live here regardless if they are from here.
 51. a lot of new commers to town would like to run this town . Not sure if this is good or bad
 52. Once this election is over, hopefully everyone will get back on the positive wagon and continue to be the very friendly happy town we chose to move to!
 53. I just hope we can move beyond the tension and acrimony of the last few years to make MM a cooperative, friendly place again. We have lost some of our magnanimity and I hope we can get it back.
 54. I am concerned about housing and transportation in our area. Although I recognize the need for housing I really hope there is considerable planning going into the new developments. We moved from Ottawa to get away from big groupings of new homes with little soul. We moved away from the big box developments going up and as I walk around Almonte I am seeing more of the same here. With all the new housing people need cars. Are there plans for public transportation?
 55. What is the purpose of your survey? Why 350 respondents?
 56. Fantastic place to raise a family. Great schools, friendly people.. We had a perfectly good hydro power plant. No idea why the new one was approved.
 57. Almonte has held my heart from birth, this is where my heart will always be! My parents came here from Tatlock before I was born, they raised 7 children in this wonderful place. Now 68 years later I am still here as are my children. Keep Almonte friendly always.
 58. This is a great town to live in - I hope after the election we able to once again talk with each other in a civil and cooperative manner, to solve our future issues.
 59. Recreation is hugely lacking in MM, esp in Almonte. I hope the new council looks at helping our community become an active community
 60. We have to listen and respect each other in order to make the town the best it can be.
 61. I am sad that this council has divided the town. May the New council heal our town.
 62. I would love to see residents of Miss Mills become more cognizant that their actions and comments spread far beyond our town. Once upon a time, it was socially acceptable to share thoughts, suggestions and opinions without fear of being ostracized. Yes, social media has changed how we treat one another - but there is no reason for the attack-style discourse. We are all human. It's okay to disagree without the derogatory statements and put downs. As someone who works from home, but has clients in neighbouring communities, I am often embarrassed to be called out about posts and articles about Almonte. Travel blogs and articles tout Mississippi Mills as a great place to visit, but the "great place to live" has slowly been rescinded. I've been point blank asked why I want my children to grow up in a "stuck up" community filled with "judgemental" people. It's a valid question. There is an entry in the Urban Dictionary about Almonte. Yes, it dates back to 2009 - but that is the timeframe things started to shift in Almonte. The sad part is the "high school" comment really resonates of late. Have a read:
<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Almonte> At the end of the day, I think it's amazing there is so much interest in this election and the candidates who've put

themselves front and centre. We need strong leadership to get us through the next couple of years. In my books, this goes beyond good governance - this also includes the willingness and capacity to put personal agendas aside and to focus on mending fences. It's the least we can do for the future generations who want to call Mississippi Mills 'home'.

63. It would be great to see some type of community program that would assist those who can not afford to keep the outside of their property look 'pretty'. Driving down Ottawa Steet I've always mentioned to my husband 'Imagine what that place would look like if it had a good power wash? A new coat of paint?' Coming together as a group and assisting would make a huge task for one person - a simple bonding experience task for a group.
64. We are so lucky to live in such a great community. I still believe we live in a friendly environment, but the divide becomes more and more obvious , however in my opinion artificially inflated by a small group of people.
65. It seems most of the council and the candidates behave in a business like, professional and courteous manner. That's what I want to see in the new council There is no room for theatrics and lack of civility when dealing with men and women working in good faith to do a difficult job.
66. Curious to see what you will do with these survey results! I feel somewhat vulnerable expressing my opinion, even anonymously. Also, thanks for making an "other" category for question 6.
67. The people who hate me, I suggest, are proof we evolved from other species. The people who like me, I suggest, are proof we evolved way beyond that. Proving we evolved beyond hate is just a good habit. It takes some practice.
68. This election has been kind of vicious hasn't it?
69. Time to change the municipal council!
70. Very disappointed in the vicious attacks made against council and staff. Feeling an outsider by the constant reference to being born in Almonte as a "qualification" for public office,. Maybe choosing to come here, having a broad understanding of the wider world is just as important, if not more so.
71. Having lived here my entire life and been involved with the community over the years, it breaks my heart to have seen how divided a community we have become over the past several years. My hope is that people will make informed and thoughtful choices when electing those to take important roles around the council table for the next 4 years.
72. This survey made me think. Thanks.
73. Thanks for running the survey!
74. Thank you for putting out this survey. I love how people try to contribute in any way they can / using the skills they have xo
75. Please be kind to each other. The children are watching and listening. Thanks.
76. Mississippi Mills is a wonderful diverse and picturesque place to live.
77. We have one of the best communities anywhere.
78. It is evident MM (Almonte) is in transition; it is growing. Controlled growth is imperative; keep that small town spirit, respect and involvement of everyone in the community. At the same time, accept growth - but direct it and control it. Don't let it take over the community. (Stittsville?).
79. Better internet!!!
80. everyone needs to VOTE and be heard this election
81. In difficult situations always seek consensus building. In your day to day interactions seek to just be kind and grateful.
82. When and where is the community barbeque ?

83. We are a diverse community and that is our strength. Rural or town, multi-generational or new, artistic, entrepreneurial, agricultural, commuting class or not, we can be an evolving example of how a community grows, adapts and continues to thrive. This is home.
84. We need community builders on council
85. How will the information be used and what is the purpose of this survey? Thank you, Victoria
86. I am really looking forward to see the outcome of the upcoming election and am hopeful that MM can once again be at peace.
87. Protect the character of this beautiful town and its surroundings.
88. I live here because i like the culture, the character, the charm the heritage. It makes the perfect place to work, live and raise my family.
89. There is a reason I am proud to call MM home. My family roots run deep on both sides. My husband and I chose to raise our young children here. We know there is strong potential for it to return to it's full glory. However, I strongly believe it will be a long haul. It won't be completed by this next council, BUT I believe they can start the process. A step in the right direction.
90. It takes 2 to tango. Anyone who thinks this rift is all the fault of Council, or all the fault of Pratac might think about that. How much Pratac information is disinformation to overthrow a government? How much bad Council reputation is actually down to the mayor? Who uses divisive tactics?

These last three comments were left on Q 9 (“If you wish to ask a question, communicate with me directly or if you want me to send you the results of the survey including all the comments when I close the survey, please put your email address in the box below. Thanks, Susan.”)

1. Susan, you're a dynamo! But don't make releasing the survey results a conditional exchange. I hope you will publicize them, first as a benchmark, then as a follow up in succeeding years! Thanks for doing this!
2. I can understand how the municipal council can feel like they have to have the solutions to the issues, I am wondering if they understand that through the reaction of the community, buried in the comments there might be an innovation that could solve issues to the benefit of all.
3. I think you are trying to do a nice positive thing in a very divided community and wish you all the best with your endeavour.