

## Denise Holmes

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**From:** Jim & Sue Miles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2020 12:23 AM  
**To:** Denise Holmes  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Hornings Mills Community Center

Hi Denise,

I just saw the notice of the scheduled meeting this Monday the 19th of October at which time the Hornings Mills Community Center's future appears to be on the agenda.

I do not know the considerations that are behind this discussion but at a time like this, community assistance by governance should be an obvious consideration.

Volunteerism does ease the load on local programs that often fall on the municipal tax base. Any time the efforts of volunteers can be supported, it has to be seen as an opportunity.

I am likely not the only former resident of Hornings Mills who has not been aware of the issues around this unique building.

I am sure there are many of us who would also support local efforts to preserve this part of our Canadian heritage.

My intention to bring a stone sculpture to the Miles' Garden next year is an example of such efforts.

I would suggest that council find ways to support and empower local efforts towards the making of a local statement and tribute to this. unique Canadian community.

Yours truly,  
Jim Miles

## Denise Holmes

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**From:** Beckie Connell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 9:10 PM  
**To:** Denise Holmes  
**Subject:** Hornings Mills Community Hall

To whom it may concern,

I grew up in shelburne. I moved to Fergus and had a family, it didn't take us long to realize we wanted to be closer to our shelburne family. My husband, 3 young children and I were in search of a new community. We honestly knew right away where we wanted to go, lay roots and buy our forever home. It was Hornings Mills, anndnd if I'm being perfectly honest the hall played a big part in why we wanted to settle down there.

We have a number of friends what live in Melancthon/the Mills , we have attended a number of celebrations and Easter egg hunts at the community hall. It was a huge selling feature to my husband (Mike)and I. We have a 6 year old, 3 year old and a 6 month old. These little extra things that the community does.....in that hall....are what make this place so special.

It truly is a big reason we decided Hornings Mills would be our new home.

If there was no Hall, I feel that you would be robbing this wonderful village of a large asset. It's part of what creates the community bond. It's a place for people to gather and get to know one another. And it is heart breaking to think we moved here for all the little small village extras that went on in here and in that hall, and to see it it could all be coming to an end so soon after we moved here. (We moved here November 2019)

Please keep this hall...I just moved here, and I can see what a valuable staple this is to the community....and I haven't even attended one event in the hall as a RESIDENT Of the Mills yet.

Looking forward to my little family's first official gathering/event at the hall now that we live here!!  
dholmes@melancthontownship.ca

Sincerely,

Beckie Connell RECE  
[REDACTED]

## Horning's Mills Community Center

Hello,

We would like to comment on the status of the Community Hall! We have lived in Horning's Mills all of our lives and would be very disappointed in the township if this hall were to close.

We have attended dances, halloween parties, presentations, card games, dinner just to name a few things. I had my wedding reception in the hall.

We would like to see the hall utilized more, once the pandemic is under control.

We are not sure who is on the hall board now but do not feel that the last committee put a lot of effort into fund raising. We really cannot recall anything that they did to promote the hall. At one time a fall feast was planned but then that was cancelled as well.

It is also hard to know what funds are needed for the upkeep of the hall after seeing different reports.

Some suggestions for promoting or fund raising:

Would be a community get together to discuss options. There are many new people in the community now and it could be used as a meet and greet. Get to know your new neighbours.

Dinners are always an option, but takes alot of volunteers to organize and prepare. They are usually well attended as well. Presell tickets would be a must.

I do not know how well the auction went the last time but that could also be an optional fund raiser.

Promote its use to local businesses for Christmas and New Years.

Cleaning can be an issue, so charge a security deposit and if the place is cleaned properly, it can be refunded.

There used to be a vendors market every year that drew a pretty good crowd.

Get a list of peoples emails in the village and surrounding area and email for donations.

I feel that the councils should definitely contribute funds, as the do now own the building. It really cannot go back to the institute as I think there is only maybe 3 members. If they can fund the two arenas then they can fund the hall.

In closing, I would also be happy to volunteer or sign up on the new committee depending on what the township decides!

Thank you for taking the time for this and I will be virtually watching the meeting as well.

Kristine Pedicone

Horning's Mills

## Denise Holmes

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**From:** Leslie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2020 7:50 AM  
**To:** Denise Holmes  
**Subject:** Re: Horning's Mills hall

> Hello, I would like to send my support to keep the Horning's Mills hall. The hall is a place for our community to come together. We've attended various activities at the hall and think that it should be utilized more not less. It would be nice to see it actively rented out - hosting birthday parties, meetings and sports groups so that additional revenue could be used to fund more community events. It would be sad to let the hall go. Let this not be the case.

>

> Thank-you,  
> Leslie Kehler  
[REDACTED]

## Denise Holmes

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**From:** Colette Whiting [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 8:43 AM  
**To:** Denise Holmes  
**Subject:** Horning's Mills Hall

To Melancthon Council,

I would like to add my voice to the chorus of Melancthon residents that are calling on you, our elected council, to support the Horning's Mills Hall.

I was particularly struck by the letter from Larry Taman suggesting Council, with the input of residents, re-imagine what the Hall could provide as a vibrant community hub for all residents. Having a "vision" is the place to start.

Community is more than just names on a tax roll. I believe Melancthon has a strong community that could be enhanced and strengthened by utilizing this wonderful resource that was so generously donated to the Township by the WI and supported by the hard work of volunteers all these years.

Sports are wonderful activities for many in Melancthon, but support of other social and recreational opportunities are important for many Township residents of all ages and abilities, as well.

The small tax levy that would be required to continue to maintain the Hall for all residents is money well spent.

This vital part of the Township's history and future needs your support.

I look forward to tonight's public meeting.

Respectfully,

Colette Whiting

## Denise Holmes

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**From:** Sarah Harrison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 7:34 AM  
**To:** Info - horningsmills  
**Subject:** The Future of the Horning's Mills Hall

TONIGHT! A reminder that you're invited-

The public meeting held by Melancthon Council seeking input on the future of the Hall is tonight from 7-9pm via zoom or phone.

We're really hoping for some positive outcomes and for lots of you fine folks to (virtually) attend and share your support for our wonderful Hall and dedicated volunteers!  
Council will be presenting the following potential scenarios and is looking for your input:

1. Maintain the status quo (Board of Management with same Board composition)
2. New Board Structure and Size (i.e. - Advisory Board)
3. Joint Park and Hall Board, also an Advisory Board
4. Return the Hall to the Women's Institute/Community Not-for-Profit Organization
5. Committee of Council with Volunteer Operational Based Structure and the Hall would be operated by the Township

Here is the agenda package:

<https://melancthontownship.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Hornings-Mills-Hall-Agenda-Package.pdf>

Here is the link for the zoom and telephone access:

<https://melancthontownship.ca/municipal-services/coming-events/>

All are encouraged to write to Council with your thoughts as well at [dholmes@melancthontownship.ca](mailto:dholmes@melancthontownship.ca)

Looking forward to hearing everyone's thoughts, and enjoying our beautiful Hall with our amazing neighbours as soon as we safely can!

## Denise Holmes

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**From:** Margaret Mercer  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 18, 2020 8:45 PM  
**To:** Denise Holmes  
**Subject:** Fwd: Community Hall Support

Don't think you got this one either.

MMercer

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kevin Turner [REDACTED]  
**Date:** October 18, 2020 at 1:59:06 PM EDT  
**To:** Darren White <dwhite@melancthontownship.ca>, David Besley <dbesley@melancthontownship.ca>, Wayne Hannon <whannon@melancthontownship.ca>, Margaret Mercer <mmercerc@melancthontownship.ca>, David Thwaites <dthwaites@melancthontownship.ca>  
**Subject:** Community Hall Support

Hello Council Members:

It seems like this debate over the Horning's Mills hall, its funding, its support and its value to the community has gone on long enough. Many of us that live here or have lived here for many years remember the numerous events and activities that the hall provided the community with enthusiasm and selflessness.

As owners of the general store in Horning's Mills, we see and talk to a lot of the community and one of the topics that keeps recurring lately is "when is the hall opening?", "why can't we use the hall?", "whatever happened to the hall?" Well, the hall is still there but seems to be just a shell of its former self. The residents of this village, this township and surrounding townships demand a viable venue for community gatherings. We know this because the support that we have received here at our store has been unwavering and it's obvious the people of this community would do the same for the hall as they have in the past.

The problem seems to lie with a group of people that have the power to make decisions can't get it together with a group of people that desperately want a commitment and compromise for the use of our community hall.

Ownership means a certain amount of responsibility and commitment for the growth and viability of this community. This community will not accept indecision any longer and we certainly won't accept a closure of the hall.

It seems there is, or was, provincial funding for paving and landscaping for the hall property and it has been either neglected, pushed aside or refused through indecision or incompetence. If this is true, it does not surprise me that the hall is at a stalemate.

Council needs to step up and make it happen - no more excuses.

Thank you for your time.

Kevin Turner



## Denise Holmes

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**From:** Sheila Hardy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 18, 2020 7:01 PM  
**To:** Denise Holmes  
**Subject:** Horning's Mills Hall

Dear Mayor White and Council members,

The Horning's Mills Hall is a vital and integral part of the community. As you know, it been the centre for community life for decades. Not only is it a great asset for the township, it is the only asset except for the municipal building. It is important for the Council to fund Shelburne Public Library and recreation centres in nearby municipalities for Melancthon residents. It should also be important for the Council to fund the hall. The Hall Board members who are all volunteers (except for a Township Council member) should not be burdened with the responsibility of raising money to pay for heat, hydro, etc. as they were for the previous two years. Let's support our own hall too! I would like my taxes to support the hall.

Because I had relatives living in Horning's Mills, I have been attending events and often volunteering at the hall for the last thirty years-- even though I did not move here until 2011. I appreciate the value of the hall and how it brings us all together. Besides hosting a wide variety of community events and being a rental facility, the hall also gave local students opportunities for obtaining their volunteer hours and did not charge local families for funeral teas.

It is also an emergency shelter.

Even though we are not able to gather in large groups at this time, we can be creative in using the hall. In the past, a chef would rent the kitchen and also musicians would rent the hall to practice and record. There are probably opportunities now for rentals of this kind.

I look forward to joining neighbours and visitors in activities at the hall in the future.

Best regards,  
Sheila Hardy

## Denise Holmes

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**From:** Jeff Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2020 10:15 AM  
**To:** Denise Holmes  
**Subject:** Hornings Mills hall

I would like to see more community events at the hall. I would support an annual art exhibition to help raise funds.

Jeff Smith  
[REDACTED]

## Denise Holmes

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**From:** Holly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2020 9:37 AM  
**To:** Denise Holmes  
**Subject:** Hornings Mills Hall

Good morning!

I would like to express my input on the lovely Hornings Mills Hall. It is a very special place for many....I know many fantastic community events take place here, and we need the strong community more now than ever. I have been attending yoga here, and is a very special place for me personally. I hope you take community mental health into strong account, as community is the backbone that is truly holding people up in these times.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Holly Presswood