

## Community Consultation Meeting with Mayor White and Members of Council regarding the future direction of the Horning's Mills Community Hall - Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

This is a virtual meeting. Please download the Zoom app to your smart phone and ensure that your phone/computer is muted. Click on the link on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to join the meeting.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85754698819?pwd=UUhnSFROOWxOQUxKL0FVQmhra0dCZz09

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Meeting ID: 857 5469 8819

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#### AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Welcome by Mayor White
- 3. Introduction of Council Members
- 4. Presentation of Proposals as identified by Council
  - 1. 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
- 5. Public Input
- 6. Submissions from the Public
- 7. Next Steps
- 8. Adjournment

From:

Sent:

Christopher Wright Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:03 PM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

Hornings Mills CC

Please!

This is a great place and needs to continue to be a place for all!

Chris Wright

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Karen Long

Sent:

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:23 PM

To:

Denise Holmes

Subject:

The Horning Mills Community Hall

To: Melancthon Township Council

In these unprecedented times it is imperative to look for support in our own community. With the long periods of isolation, now is the time we can look forward to gathering again in the Horning's Mills Community Hall. That sense of belonging and helping out community members, makes living here such an honour.

I have lived in Horning's Mills for the past eleven years and have enjoyed participating in many activities at the Community Hall. From yoga, to Nia, to voting polls, to Christmas crafting, and fundraisers that support struggling families within the hamlet, I am so impressed that the Township values the importance of an active Community Hall. Historically, the Community Hall was gifted by the Women's Institute for a mere dollar, and the upkeep has never been a financial burden for the Township. There have been many volunteers involved in creating this vibrant community in Horning's Mills and now is the time to re- energize the Community Hall.

Because of the rules and regulations surrounding Covid 19, the Community Hall has been closed since March. As the government is opening up many 'activity based' centres, I truly hope that the Melancthon Township will open the Hall, as soon as it is able. With so many active neighbours, the Community Hall could easily become the hub of the hamlet. The Township needs to focus their energy on creating a positive experience for all who live in Melancthon. So many programs and services could be offered through the Community Hall. Now is the time to become active, to embrace the 'gem' we have in the Community Hall.

I implore the Council to embrace the vision of the Horning's Mills Community Hall as an active hub of the Township. Please open the hall as soon as the provincial government allows. Please recognize that the Community Hall is a necessary gathering place to support and celebrate our neighbours in Melancthon township.

I look forward to attending the virtual meeting of Council on October 19, 2020. Sincerely,

Karen Lone

From:

Darren White

Sent:

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 6:50 PM

To: Cc: Roberta Taman

Cc: Subject: Denise Holmes Re: Fund the Hall

Good evening Mrs Taman and thank you for your email.

I will make sure it's added to others that are received regarding the continued operation of the hall.

I do want to clear up a misunderstanding however and that is that the hall is currently closed only due to Covid-19 protocols. Under current rules surrounding Covid it would be unwise to have the hall still being rented out and used for other events. Once the current Covid situation allows, the hall will resume functioning as a community hub.

Additionally, the hall board hasn't been sent away, but the term of the board expired in April and as it hasn't been determined when or under what circumstances it will reopen, a new term of the board was not put in place.

Speaking for myself, I certainly appreciate all the work that all past members of the board have put in to continue the positive impact the hall has historically had.

Council decided to have a public meeting on Oct 19 to gather input and suggestions on potential ways that the hall can operate in the future to ensure its sustainability for many years to come. Any member of the public can participate in that meeting and the details of how can be obtained on the townships website.

Regards.

>

Sent from my iPhone

Darren White

Warden
County of Dufferin
Mayor
Township of Melancthon

519 278 8234 cell 519 925 5525 office dwhite@melancthontownship.ca

> On Oct 7, 2020, at 4:45 PM, Roberta Taman

> I am a resident of Melancthon and my husband has owned our home here in Hornings Mills for nearly 40 years. Over the years we have enjoyed many events in the Hornings Mills Community Hall as have our children and grandchildren.

> The work of the volunteers to ensure the Hall is a special place has always been appreciated and welcomed. We are very disappointed to see that the Hall is no longer functioning and that the volunteers have been sent home and are no

longer recognized for their support to the Hall. They have been an amazing support and of tremendous value to the Hornings Mills community. The events they have managed are greatly missed.

> I ask that you recognize the work of these unique volunteers and invite them to return to the Hall to once again provide the needed support to our community. I ask that the Township provide the funds necessary to maintain this unique building and to ensure it will be functioning for many years to come.

> With best regards,

>

> Roberta Taman

From:

Catherine Stilo

Sent:

Thursday, October 8, 2020 1:02 PM

To:

Denise Holmes

Subject:

Support for The Horning's Mills Community Hall

Dear Denise,

Following up on my previous email from March 23, I'd like to, once again, express my support for The Horning's Mills Community Hall.

In these uncertain times, I feel even more strongly than ever, that coming together as a community is critical and that community bonds need to be strengthened and nurtured.

The Horning's Mills Hall is, and has been, for me the hub of the strong, vibrant community we have here in the area.

When we first moved to Melancthon 5 years ago, The Hall and the events were instrumental in our integration into the community. We were so excited to attend the numerous community breakfasts, dinners and celebrations held regularly at The Hall. The events allowed us to transition seamlessly and easily into the community. With introductions at various events, we quickly knew our neighbours and numerous other members of the community. Prior to moving, we had been concerned, and almost certain, that our choice to live in a rural setting would mean that we would feel very isolated. Instead, because of The Hall, the Board and the volunteers, we found quite the opposite. We felt so blessed and grateful to have found the spirit of community that was alive in Horning's MIlls.

From there, the community roots took hold and I began to contribute to that community. Instead of teaching yoga from my home or on-line, I chose to host weekly classes at The Hall to make yoga accessible to everyone in the community. What started as 1 class per week with a handful of people has grown, by request, to 2x per week with a strong core group coming together as a community to practice. Many people express that they are thrilled to have yoga so close to home and that they can walk to class and don't have to travel to Orangeville or Collingwood. In addition to attracting local residents, these classes have been a draw for residents of surrounding areas with some people driving in from Honeywood. Shelburne and Mulmur to attend.

The bonds extend beyond yoga classes. I have been invited to many celebrations - weddings, Holiday gatherings of the members of the yoga community. Many of these celebrations have also been hosted at The Hall.

I know, personally, that I have had many inquiries about when The Hall will reopen and when Yoga Classes will resume. While online has been keeping some of us together during this time, there is no substitute for being together in person, even with distancing measures in place. Many people cannot practice at home as they do not have access to stable internet or a quiet place to remain undisturbed and without distraction for weekly practice. They are eager to return to practice and being together in community.

I do hope that a solution for support can be imagined to, at the very least, cover the ongoing operating, maintenance, repair and management costs so we can ensure our much-loved Horning's Mills Community Hall will continue to be available as a gathering place for many years to come.

As soon as regulations permit and The Hall is allowed to re-open, I'd love to resume Tue and Thu 7-8:30pm Yoga Classes.

Please forward this email to Council as input into the Oct 19th meeting.

Sincerely, Catherine Stilo

#### Catherine Satya Stilo

From:

Darren White

Sent:

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:50 PM

To:

Denise Holmes

Subject:

Fwd: Support for The Hall

Sent from my iPhone

Darren White

Warden County of Dufferin Mayor Township of Melancthon

519 278 8234 cell 519 925 5525 office dwhite@melancthontownship.ca

#### Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Halstead

Date: October 13, 2020 at 9:59:29 PM EDT

To: Wayne Hannon <a href="mailto:whannon@melancthontownship.ca">whannon@melancthontownship.ca</a>, David Thwaites <a href="mailto:dthwaites@melancthontownship.ca">dthwaites@melancthontownship.ca</a>, Margaret Mercer <a href="mailto:white@melancthontownship.ca">melancthontownship.ca</a>, David Besley <a href="mailto:dwhite@melancthontownship.ca">dwhite@melancthontownship.ca</a>, Darren White <a href="mailto:dwhite@melancthontownship.ca">dwhite@melancthontownship.ca</a>, Darren White <a href="mailto:dwhite@melancthontownship.ca">dwhite@melancthontownship.ca</a>, Darren White <a href="mailto:dwhite@melancthontownship.ca">dwhite@melancthontownship.ca</a>, Darren White <a href="mailto:dwhite@melancthontownship.ca">dwhite@melancthontownship.ca</a>

Subject: Re: Support for The Hall

Dear Mayor Darren, Deputy Mayor David, and Councillors Wayne, Margaret and David,

It has been brought to my attention that the beloved Horning's Mills Community Hall may be a risk of not reopening as a gathering place in our thriving township even after Covid restrictions are lifted. I am writing to express what the Hall has meant to us and what a huge loss if it were not made feasible for it to remain available for the people of our township to gather.

I bought a property on the River Road over 15 years ago and although very excited about my new rural paradise and sharing it with friends and loved ones, I was a bit unsure about how to begin meeting locals and becoming part of the community. Not long after moving in, I began attending events held at the Hall such as breakfasts, dinners (showcasing wonderful culinary and musical talent), arts and crafts exhibits, Pine River Institute fundraising sales, etc. I was quickly brought into the fold by friendly and welcoming community members. Through the years, family and guests would come and join me in the country specifically to attend these planned events, charmed by how all were brought together for some good clean fun in a gathering place with such an interesting history. Most recently my partner and I have even had several conversations about possibly having our wedding reception at the Hall.

In the last year, our friend and neighbour Catherine Stilo has been providing yoga classes at the Hall which became a wonderful way for many of us in the community and neighbouring communities to come together and share in a common connecting experience and enjoy healthy activity. The upstairs space with the newly renovated washrooms was a perfect open space for the classes. I was extremely disappointed, as I know many people were, with the necessary closures due to Covid. I held up hope and took it as a sign of things returning to normal that those classes and many other events would resume.

I must admit that I have not been overly involved in the politics or tax distributions I have been contributing to for the last 15 years in Melancthon outside of paying them, but was very surprised to hear that no or very little financial support is provided by the township for the Hall. I do hope that funds for (at minimum) the running costs of the Hall can be reallocated with volunteers only contributing instead of carrying the full load for saving this landmark in our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to refer to my letter as input at the Oct 19th Public Meeting.

With best regards

**Beth Halstead** 

October 16 2020

Att: Denise Holmes

Re: Hornings Mills Community Hall

**Good Morning Denise** 

I have been meaning to write to you about the Hall and apologize for it taking this long.

When I think of the Hornings Mills Hall I have so many happy memories there. 30 years ago my husband and I got married at the United Church in Hornings Mills and then everyone walked down to the hall to celebrate the occasion. Then 4 years ago my eldest son had his wedding and reception at the hall. So again more many happy memories.

I have been on the board twice over 31 years, when my time allowed me to. Each time I found it fulfilling to help organize dances, programs, Christmas craft fairs ect. Being a volunteer gave me a chance to help my community, meet new people but most important teach my kids how important it is to help if you can, for no monetary reward. I felt that it instilled in my boys that you always help your neighbors and your community if you can. This is a very important lesson in life.

I hope we still keep the hall running with a volunteer board, that is what makes it unique in our township. There are not many small halls still operating. Most of the events are driven by the community volunteers. The food is sometimes donated, the bands are either volunteered or at a cut rate. The chief volunteered his time for resent events. We sold out every show and had a blast putting on these events. All this would change if it was run by the township.

My suggestions would be.

- 1) Think about combining both the park board and hall board to one board. With more volunteers it will help with burnout for the board members
- 2) For the events put on a cleaning fee so we can hire someone to clean up after each event.
- 3) The township has in 2017-2019 given \$5000 a year for operating expenses ....this needs to be evaluated to see if it needs to be increased to make sure it is enough.
- 4) Have the opportunity to present upgrade budgets to the town council for help in funding them on a yearly basis.
- 5) Have the opportunity to build a capital reserve for the hall
- 6) I don't think there should be any kind of job opportunity to have a full time manager for the hall. We should be able to continue with a volunteer council.

This is just my two cents worth. I would be happy to help again if this means we can keep running the hall once we are allowed to open it.

Sincerely,

**Ruth Plowright** 

From:

Larry Taman

Sent:

Friday, October 16, 2020 10:28 AM

To:

Darren White; David Besley; Wayne Hannon; Margaret Mercer; David Thwaites

Cc: Subject: Wendy Atkinson; Denise Holmes Hornings Mills Community Hall

Attachments:

Deeds\_Hornings Mills Hall.pdf

Dear Mayor White and Councillors,

I have owned my house on the River Road since 1983. I've attended many events there over the years, I've followed the recent deliberations concerning the Hall, I attended last evening's Council meeting, I've talked to friends and neighbours and I will attend the October 19 meeting.

I have quite a lot of experience in strategic planning, as the Deputy Attorney General in the Government of Ontario and as a senior justice advisor abroad, mostly in countries emerging from conflict. I think I understand how hard it is to come up with solutions to community issues that please everyone. However, in the case of the Hall, I think there are attractive, low-cost, balanced solutions that are not too difficult to find.

I make these observations in the spirit of supporting all those who want a bright future for the Hall.

- 1. Before the discussion turns to boards and other governance issues, I think it would be helpful if the Township and the community could articulate a community-wide vision for the Hall. It's hard to answer questions about resources for the Hall or how it should be governed without being clear on the purposes it's meant to serve.
- 2. For my part, I would hope that you and councillors could envision the Hall serving as a proactive hub for community activity in Melancthon. Given some planning and resources, there is no reason why the Hall couldn't be a vibrant centre for community life for our seniors, for families, for students, for athletes, for crafters, cooks and computer geeks, for the differently abled and for councillors seeking community input at public meetings for anybody and everybody who wants to reach out to meet or help a neighbour. I don't need to tell you that our Community Hall is the only hall in Melancthon. Building on the hard work of the volunteers who have kept the Hall going for so long, this vibrant hub could be a real feather in the cap of the Township and an inexpensive attractor for new residents and businesses.
- 3. Under the 1987 deeds (attached) under which the Women's Institute conveyed the Hall to the Township, the Township is of course the owner of the Hall and is legally obliged to use the Hall for public purposes in conjunction with the Hall or to return it to the Women's Institute.
- 4. As you said in last night's meeting, Mayor White, if the Township is to own the Hall, it will be essential for it to assume responsibility for its capital and ongoing maintenance requirements. It's not realistic in 2020 to expect the community to

- organize Easter egg hunts to put a new roof on the Hall that the Township owns or to cut the grass, shovel the snow or clean the facilities.
- 5. The feedback Councillor Besley has received is consistent with what I'm hearing: people want the Township to be involved in the Hall, and that includes involvement not just in the building itself but in the programmes and services to be offered out of the Hall. The Hall should not be just a heritage building, it should be an active community hub that is resourced appropriately in accordance with the Township's circumstances. This will require seed funding, ongoing programme funding from the Township and human resources. It will require community acceptance of a cost recovery strategy that helps to fund the Hall. It will depend on the continuing involvement of the volunteers who support activities in the Hall, just as they always have, but with a focus on the Hall's services rather than on its maintenance.
- 6. A new Board, mandated by Council to pursue this vision, or a variant articulated by Council after essential community consultation, could develop a rolling threeyear business plan to be approved by Council. It could address issues such as the services to be piloted and implemented, the need for human resources, the possibilities for cost recovery, budget from the Township and so on. It could ensure that regional and national best practices for rural community halls are taken into account.

With respect, I submit that there is an issue of fairness that needs to be mentioned here. I've not heard anyone quarrel at all with expenditures on lights for baseball (as per last evening's Council decision), or contributions for hockey in neighbouring arenas or for taking a serious look at the costs and benefits of a new arena complex in Honeywood. But while considering the Township's budgetary possibilities in these areas, it's only fair to consider spending some real money to meet the needs in other areas of community activity. I believe that a needs assessment will show that there are significant needs that can be met right here in Hornings Mills, if the Township is prepared to consider real money on community programmes.

It's because of the work of the volunteers that the Township has perhaps not had to fully consider the Hall until now. But now is the time. Soon enough, the Province will authorize the full or partial opening of the Community Hall. You could use the interim period to make a top class plan for its future.

Best wishes in your deliberations. See you on the 19th.

Larry Taman



PARCEL REGISTER (ABEREVIATED) FOR PROPERTY IDENTIFIER

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34126-0078 (LT) · CERTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAND TITLES ACT · SUBJECT TO RESERVATIONS IN CROWN GRANT ·

PAGE 1 OF 1 PREPARED FOR DG1bson01 CN 2020/03/02 AT 14:40:12

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

LT 59. PL 34A : RELANCTHON

PROPERTY REMARKS:

ESTATE/QUALIFIER: FEE SIMPLE LT CONVERSION QUALIFIED RECENTLY:

FIRST CONVERSION FROM BOCK

PIN CREATION DATE: 1997/10/20

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CAPACITY SHARE

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HELANCIHON

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Barristera & Solicitors Box 760 - 155 Main St. W. Shelburne, Omtario ION 180

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Registration Fee	16.00
Land Transfer Tax	P/ L
Total	4

10173 (12/04)

#### SCHEDULE TO A DEED FROM BERTHA M. MILES IN PAVOUR OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

Box (5) Description (Continued)

THENCE Westerly along the Southerly limit of Lot 59 a distance of 6' 6';

THENCE North 28 degrees 53 minutes West a distance of 120' 9", more or less to the Northerly limit of said Lot 59;

THENCE North 51 degrees East along the Northerly limit of said Lot 59 a distance of 51', more or less to the place of commencement.

MOST RECENTLY described in Instrument Number 19505.

Box (6) (b) Schedule

The Corporation of the Township of Melancthon covenants with the transferor that the lands hereby conveyed will be used for public purposes in conjunction with the Community Hall situate on Part of Lot 59 and Part of Lot 58 Plan 34A and in the event the lands hereby conveyed shall cease to be used for the said public purposes then the said lands shall be re-conveyed free from encumbrances to the transferor and her heirs.

## Affidavit of Residence and of Value of the Consideration

(Americal Step. E. 100

Page 3

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONVEYANCE OF AMERICAN AND PART Of Lot 59, Plan 344 in the Township of Helancthon in the County of Dufferin
BY COMMENT OF COMMENTS OF THE PROPERTY OF THE
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCHRON
DOS INSTINUES TO AND PRINCIPAL DE SAG MARION HUNTER
HAKE OATH AND BAY THAT:  I am place a dear main what the appear appeals that out of the billioning programs that describes the appearly of the depressingly from inclination by  (a) A person in trust for whom the land conveyance to whom the land is being conveyance to being conveyant;  (b) A trustee nested in the place-described conveyance to whom the land is being conveyant;  (c) A transferse rested in the above-described conveyance;  (d) The authorized agent or solicitor acting in this transaction for given reason of photograph.
described in paragraph(s) (a). (b.), (c) above; peds as absence in ATTE
Contracted in paragraph() (a), (b), (c) above; paragraphs in paragraphs   (ii) A transferrer described in paragraphs   (ii) A transferrer described in paragraphs   (iii) A transferrer or sparagraphs   (iii) A transferrer or sparagra
If we accepted where the techn of the parameters for the companies accepted where the techn of the definition of "single family residence" set out in closure 1(1)(a) of the Acc., The lead conveyed in the above-described convey.    Contains at less one and not more than two single family residences.   Closure 2(1) (d) imposes an additional test at the rate of one-half at and contains an array from the rate of contains at less than two single family residences.   Contains more than two single family residences. Contains more than two single family residences. Contains all test and and cost more than two single family residences.   I have read and considered the definitions of "non-resident corporation" and "non-resident person" set out respectively in closures 1(1)(f) and (g) of the condenses of the following pursones to whom an in troot for whom the head is the job conveyed in the above-described conveyence is a "non-resident corporation" and "non-resident corporation" and "non-resident person" as set out in the Acc., the headstored and to
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Registration number for lest conveyance of property being conveyed granding   19505
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## Transfer/Deed of Land

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#### SCHEDULE TO A DEED FROM BERTHA M. MILES IN PAVOUR OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

Box (5) Description (Continued)

THENCE Westerly along the Southerly limit of Lot 59 a distance of 6° 6°;

THENCE North 28 degrees 53 minutes West a distance of 120' 9", more or less to the Northerly limit of said Lot 59;

THENCE North 51 degrees East along the Northerly limit of said Lot 59 a distance of 51', more or less to the place of commencement.

MOST RECENTLY described in Instrument Number 19505.

Box (6) (b) Schedule

The Corporation of the Township of Melancthon covenants with the transferor that the lands hereby conveyed will be used for public purposes in conjunction with the Community Hall situate on Part of Lot 59 and Part of Lot 58 Plan 34A and in the event the lands hereby conveyed shall cease to be used for the said public purposes then the said lands shall be re-conveyed free from encumbrances to the transferor and her heirs.

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	Transfer/Deed of Land	A
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10/73 (12/04)

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#### SCHEDULE TO A DEED PROM NORAH MC GHEB and TENA PAWCETT IN PAVOUR OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

Box (5) Description (Continued)

said Lot 59 a distance of 120' 9" more or less to the Northerly limit of said Lot 59;

THENCE North 51 degrees East along the Northerly limit of said Lot 59 a distance of 51', more or less to the place of commencement.

MOST RECENTLY described in Instrument Number 17745.

#### Box (6) (b) Schedule

The Corporation of the Township of Melancthon covenants with the transferor that in the event the lands hereby conveyed cease to be used for the public purposes then the said lands shall be reconveyed free from encumbrances to the transferors or their successors in office. Provided however that in the event that The Women's Institute of Hornings Mills shall have dispersed at the time such public use ceases then the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon shall be free to sell or otherwise dispose of the said lands as an absolute owner.

The Transferors are all of the surviving trustees of the Women's Institute of Horning Mills and have authorization to execute and deliver this transfer of land by the members of the Women's Institute of Hornings Mills.

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Page 3

of Helanothon in the County of Duffer	Part Int 59, Plan 344 in the Township
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Page 29th day of April, 19 87	> 1
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Shepherd & Osyany Box 760 - 155 Main St. W. Shelburne, Ontario IOM 180 Registration Fee

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#### SCHEDULE TO A DEED FROM NORAH MC GHEE and TENA PAWCETT IN PAVOUR OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

#### Box (5) Description (Continued)

said Lot 59 a distance of 120' 9° more or less to the Northerly limit of said Lot 59:

THENCE North 51 degrees East along the Northerly limit of said Lot 59 a distance of 51', more or less to the place of commencement.

MOST RECENTLY described in Instrument Number 17745.

#### Box (6) (b) Schedule

The Corporation of the Township of Melancthon covenants with the transferor that in the event the lands hereby conveyed cease to be used for the public purposes then the said lands shall be reconveyed free from encumbrances to the transferors or their successors in office. Provided however that in the event that The Women's Institute of Hornings Mills shall have dispersed at the time such public use ceases then the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon shall be free to sell or otherwise dispose of the said lands as an absolute owner.

The Transferors are all of the surviving trustees of the Women's Institute of Horning Mills and have authorization to execute and deliver this transfer of land by the members of the Women's Institute of Hornings Mills.

Page 3

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONVEYANCE OF A THE COUNTY OF DUFFERIN	Township
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From:

Sarah Harrison

Sent:

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:02 PM

To:

Info - horningsmills

Subject:

The Horning's Mills Hall: Did you Know?

#### **Dear Melancthon Neighbours:**

You may not know that Melancthon Township Council is to meet on October 19 to consider the fate of our Hornings Mills Community Hall.

We are contacting you to ask you to get in touch with the Township to express your support for the Hall.

Did you know that he Township first acquired this valuable historic building in 1987 as a \$1 gift from the Women's Institute?

Did you know that since the beginning, the Township's financial contribution has been minimal, never exceeding a few thousand dollars per year. Dedicated volunteers have contributed their time and their community fundraising to meet virtually all of the costs of the Hall.

We've talked about this with many of you in the community since the beginning of the year. From our experience, we are certain that people want and need a vibrant community centre.

We think that the Township should

- reopen the Hall as soon as provincial regulations permit
- take over the entire costs of maintaining and operating the building
- pay for the development and delivery of new and varied programmes for the people of Melancthon for seniors, for young people, for gardener, hikers, quilters, quilters, computer geeks and yoga enthusiasts; for whoever want to use the Hall to meet people and keep our community alive
- work with volunteers to assist the Township to make the Hall better.

The Hornings Mills Community Hall is the only meeting Hall in the whole Township. Now, 33 years after the gift, it's time for the Township to step up. If you agree that the Township can do more to make the Hall a vibrant centre of community life, here's what you can do to help:

- send an email to Council care of Denise Holmes, Melancthon's Chief Administrative Office, stating your support for the Hall: <a href="mailto:dholmes@melancthontownship.ca">dholmes@melancthontownship.ca</a>
- if you know a Councillor, or would like to get to know one, write or call him or her directly, stating your support for the Hall their email addresses and phone numbers are at the bottom of this mail
- write a letter to Council its address is at the bottom of this email
- attend the virtual meeting of Council on October 19, 7-9 pm, by clicking on the Zoom link, at the bottom of this
  email

Please, do whatever you can do today.

Please attend the virtual Council meeting on October 19, 7-9. Zoom link below.

Thanks, on behalf of #FundtheHall - concerned members of the community and ex-Hall Board members

#### **Council Members Contact Details**

Darren White – Mayor – dwhite@melancthontownship.ca / Phone 519-278-8234
David Besley – Deputy Mayor – dbesley@melancthontownship.ca / Phone 519-373-1227
Wayne Hannon – Councillor – whannon@melancthontownship.ca / Phone 416-904-5763
Margaret Mercer – Councillor – mmercer@melancthontownship.ca
David Thwaites – Councillor – dthwaites@melancthontownship.ca

#### Zoom link

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85754698819?pwd=UUhnSFROOWxOQUxKL0FVQmhra0dCZz09

Meeting ID: 857 5469 8819

Passcode: 676039

March 30, 2020

Attention: Darren White Mayor: Melancthon Council

# OCT 07 2020

#### Hi Darren:

As a long time resident of Hornings Mills and a former volunteer on citizens committees I have been reading about the troubles with the Hornings Mills Hall Board and possibly the fate of the hall.

I am recently returned from a winter away and as I understand there is a problem with basic funding for the hall. If I am correct ??, it would require about \$5000.00/ yearly to maintain basic upkeep and expenses. To my way of thinking this is a small amount, under \$2/resident. I think the hall is in good repair...roof, foundation, floors, 2 kitchens,, elevator, natural gas and parking. Most of this is through the efforts of community volunteers.

I know there is sometimes conflict between volunteers and elected township officials but this should be able to be resolved for the benefit of the community as a whole. That said, I have a number of questions that I think should be discussed.

- 1. Will Melancthon provide money for basic hall operating costs as they do for the park?
- 2. Why have several of the committee members resigned?
- 3. Can you acquire new community volunteers?
- 4. Is there some question of current volunteers wanting to be reimbursed for their work?
- 5. Would it be advisable to operate the hall, cemetery and park boards as one?
- 6. How much money does the park board have in the bank?
- 7. If there is no solution, can the Women's Institute purchase the hall back for \$1 and
- go it alone? This would be the least preferable because that would be the end for the hall

As I'm sure you know, there are now many young families with children in Hornings Mills. The hall is a focal point for many fun events, i.e. Christmas, Halloween, spring litter pick up, special dinners, etc. Perhaps I don't have all my facts quite correct, but I think some of the above questions should be answered.

It would be a shame if this historic building was not preserved for the residents of Hornings Mills and Melancthon. There have been many volunteers over the years who have given a lot of time and effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Ralph

To: Mayor white is council

Fm: forme ham

Date: ifug 1/20

Re: formungs Mills Hall

I know that it was council's vitent to have a public meeting to flesh out the issues related to the operation of the Hall. Were that meeting to be held, eventually, I suggest representation would comprise a strong and vocal group from the Horning's Mills community but next to ril representation from the rest of the Township: This lack of interest by the broader public would just confirm what has been exceent for years. The Hall serves a vory small corner of the Township and I see no justification for it being operated as a Township facility. The community has demonstrated over the years that it is perfectly capable of operating the Hall independent of the Township. Her ordingly ! lacom reared

1) The ownership of the Hall be returned to the WI and that it be operated by the community without representation by of the Township. It's their Show, lot themsunit.

2) The Township should commit financial support at a level of 3000 to 21000 peryear. This commitment should be for a specified term of soy 2 or 3 years. to allow the community to do some planning. This fundacial sommitment Thould only be conditional on demonstrated good governance. It simple on page agreenant indicating,

**act 1 o ?**0?0

what the Township expects in this regard - audited books and a brief annual apport 5 hould suffice. It's their show, Let them our it. Respectfully

From:

Esther Wargon

Sent:

Monday, April 27, 2020 1:54 PM

To:

Denise Holmes; Debbie Fawcett

Subject:

Horning's Mills Community Hall

Dear Ms. Holmes,

I know there was supposed to be a public meeting about the future of the hall on April 6th, which I assume was cancelled like everything else this season.

Belatedly I'd like to add my two cents worth and say that I feel strongly that the Horning's Mills Hall has historically played and still does a very important role in the community that neither Shelb nor Honeywood can replace. It's a wonderful hall in which most of the work is done by dedicated volunteers who care deeply about the community and provide services that no one can do to that degree. It would be a real shame if the Hall was closed and it would be a terrible blow to Horning's Mills.

I hope that council reconsider and change their mind and allow the Hall which is exemplary and important to the community all around Horning's Mills to stay active and not take it away from people who depend and count on it.

Sincerely,

Esther Wargon

Esther Wargon



From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:22 AM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: Horning's Mill Hall

FYI

Please note: Effective 10:00 a.m. on March 17, 2020, the Township of Melancthon Municipal Office will be closed to the Public until further notice. Some of our services are available online (tax payments, planning applications, fire permits) or Staff will be available by phone at 519-925-5525 to assist.



Wendy Atkinson, Treasurer/ Deputy-Clerk | Township of Melancthon | watkinson@melancthontownship.ca | PH: 519-925-5525 ext 102 | FX: 519-925-1110 | www.melancthontownship.ca |

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From: Susan Shaw

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:04 AM

To: Wendy Atkinson < watkinson@melancthontownshin ca>

Cc: Sarah Harrison

Subject: Horning's Mill Hall

Too whom it may concern:

I have been following the discussions on the future of the Horning's Mill Hall. My family members are not local residents, but have come to the Hall severals times to attend local craft shows and other events.

We know how important these community centres are to rural Ontarians, and deeply admire the commitment of the Hall Board and other volunteers to keeping this resource open for so long, in spite of the lack of support from the local municipality. Given the statements in a recent news article, it sounds as though the local publicity campaign has been very successful in garnering support form Council, and I have passed on my praise to the Board and local volunteers for their dedication to the community.

It's unfortunate that the April 6 meeting has been deferred, due to COVID-19 restrictions, but I hope that the Mayor stands by his words to approve the \$5,000 per year. In my humble opinion, the Council should be offering at least a second commitment of \$5,000 to cover the basic costs from last year .... as a token of their appreciation of group's dedication to keeping the building open and functional. Our rural communities will not survive or grow if these important gathering spaces are not maintained.

Please approve the \$5,000 and consider an additional grant of \$5,000 to cover the costs that this dedicated group donated to the hall's maintenance last year.

Regards, Susan Shaw Aurora, ON

From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Monday, April 6, 2020 3:39 PM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: Horning's Mills Hall

Please note: Effective 10:00 a.m. on March 17, 2020, the Township of Melancthon Municipal Office will be closed to the Public until further notice. Some of our services are available online (tax payments, planning applications, fire permits) or Staff will be available by phone at 519-925-5525 to assist.



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From: Kerstin Vroom

Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:21 PM

To: Wendy Atkinson < watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>

Subject: Horning's Mills Hall

#### Dear Mayor and Council

Community Halls, such as the Horning's Mills Hall, bring a community together and are more vital now than ever. Many communities do not have a gathering place and Melancthon is very fortunate to have this hall. Many many volunteers, myself included, have spend tireless hours fundraising, cleaning, maintaining and hosting community events at the Horning's Mills Hall bringing the community together. The hall has hosted Weddings, Celebrations of Life, Yoga, Line Dancing, NDACT, OPP, Community Halloween Parties, Community and Private Christmas Dinners, Concerts, Community Dinners, Elections, Museum Talks, Game Nights, Euchre Nights, Community Craft Events, Community Easter Parties, Christmas Cookie Bake Offs, Jamborees, Anniversaries, Family Parties, Baby Showers, Early Years Programming, etc. etc.

Recreational services like libraries, arenas, pools and community halls do cost money to run but the cost to the community without their existence is immeasurable.

I trust that the Council of Melancthon understands the necessity of Community Halls for the well-being of its community, and will support the Horning's Mills Hall with the funding required to ensure its continued use and presence in the community.

Thank you for taking the time to solicit the public's input regarding the future of the Horning's Mills Hall.

Sincerely,

Kerstin Vroom Former Resident and Continuing Hall Supporter

Be kind whenever possible...it is always possible. Dalai Lama

From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Monday, April 6, 2020 11:21 AM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: Hornings Mills Community Hall

Please note: Effective 10:00 a.m. on March 17, 2020, the Township of Melancthon Municipal Office will be closed to the Public until further notice. Some of our services are available online (tax payments, planning applications, fire permits) or Staff will be available by phone at 519-925-5525 to assist.



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From: Larry Tamar

Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:20 AM

To: Wendy Atkinson < watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>

Ccs

**Subject:** Hornings Mills Community Hall

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Members of Council

Re: Horning's Mills Community Hall

In the midst of the pandemic, our Prime Minister, our Premier and social leaders are emphasising the importance of building and maintaining vibrant communities for the well being of all. The people of Melancthon have understood for a long time the importance of community. The Community Hall and its many committed volunteers have helped to maintain this valuable resource over generations.

I have had my house on the River Road for 35 years. During that time, I have been a Deputy Minister of the Attorney General in the Ontario Government, to the Harris Government and earlier to the Rae Government. I have for many years worked abroad for the United Nations and other international organizations in building the rule of law in conflict affected countries.

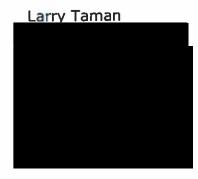
All of this has filled me with admiration for Melancthon's commitment to community, to the Community Hall as a focal point and to the importance of these commitments to the success of local government. Melancthon has understood from the founding of the Women's Institute, and since, that in good times and bad, communities matter and they need support.

I think it would be hard to explain to people if the Township allowed its only Community Hall to close. It would be doubly hard to explain given that the amount of money it would take to keep it open and to even expand its activities is very small. When the pandemic passes and the governments are looking to communities they will support in rebuilding, who will want to explain why our Community Hall was closed to save a few thousand dollars? How could that be consistent with strong local leadership and a solid role for local government.

Why not instead recognise that this is the time to expand our investment in the Community Hall and in the social life of our community? The Township could take on the costs of ownership and then work with volunteers to continue to expand the Community Hall's service offerings for everyone.

I think this is what the people want to see and what governments at all levels will value when the rebuilding time comes.

Yours sincerely,



essy a grander and a larger

From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:15 AM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: Hornings Mills Hall

Please note: Effective 10:00 a.m. on March 17, 2020, the Township of Melancthon Municipal Office will be closed to the Public until further notice. Some of our services are available online (tax payments, planning applications, fire permits) or Staff will be available by phone at 519-925-5525 to assist.



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From: Leigh Himel

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:49 AM

To: Wendy Atkinson < watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>

Subject: re: Hornings Mills Hall

To whom it may concern,

It strikes me, that at this stressful moment in time, we have an opportunity to recognize that community is one of our most valuable assets.

While I recognize that there are some that may want to spend 10K on a sound system, and there are many competing priorities when it comes to our township, I believe that the Hornings Mills Community Hall should be prioritized and as a voting citizen, the fact that it is not - concerns me greatly.

Not only is the hall an important landmark in our community, but it's also the hub of so many activities that brings our community together. Easter, Halloween, community events, and other activities have made the hall an important meeting place.

It concerns me GREATLY that the hall received no funding in 2019 as I don't believe this is in the spirit of what the community wants nor do I believe it aligns with Darren White's own words:

"Mayor White told the Free Press, "Council has always in one form or another supported the Horning's Mills' Hall financially. The Township has never suggested we change that." He says some "felt that Council was attacking the Board and trying to get rid of the Hall." But, he states, "This is not the case." He says, "Once Council gets feedback, it feels it would be in a position to create a plan with funding etc for the future based on a needs assessment and resident 'wants."

If Mayor White supports the hall, it is unfathomable that the hall did not relieve 2019 funds, and I am sure he would agree we do not need a meeting (as I do not recall a meeting being called to cancel the funding) to ensure at least the minimum amount of funds is secured until a meeting can occur with a proposal to invest potentially more into ensuring the Hornings Mills Hall continues to be an important part of our community and prioritized within the constraints of the current budget realities.

I look forward to the council's support for the Hall being reinstated.

Regards,

Leigh Himel River Rd. Resident



From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:38 AM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: Save the town hall

Please note: Effective 10:00 a.m. on March 17, 2020, the Township of Melancthon Municipal Office will be closed to the Public until further notice. Some of our services are available online (tax payments, planning applications, fire permits) or Staff will be available by phone at 519-925-5525 to assist.

Wendy Atkinson, Treasurer/ Deputy-Clerk | Township of Melancthon | watkinson@melancthontownship.ca | PH: 519-925-5525 ext 102 | FX: 519-925-1110 | www.melancthontownship.ca | Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail This message (including attachments, if any) is intended to be confidential and solely for the addressee. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it and advise me immediately. E-mail transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free and the sender does not accept liability for errors or omissions.

----Original Message--

From: Roberta Taman

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 7:29 PM

To: Wendy Atkinson < watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>

Subject: Save the town half

The town hall in Hornings Mills is a critical part of the community and an important historical monument to the history of this village. Don't loose something so unique and important for this small community. Our history is special and important for everyone, young and old alike. The cost in dollars is minimal vis a vis its historical value. Thank you. Roberta Taman

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:19 AM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: regarding the Hornings Mills Hall, a letter of support

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From: Wendy Reid

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 11:42 AM

To: Wendy Atkinson < watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>;

Subject: regarding the Hornings Mills Hall, a letter of support



March 30, 2020

Re - Horning's Mills Hall possible permanent closure

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been wanting to write this letter ever since I heard that this amazing hub of our community, our beloved Horning's Mills Hall, may no longer be available, and shut down permanently.

We have rented the hall on many occasions. We hosted a family get-together a few years ago for New Years, and my daughter held an Art exhibition there for me to commemorate winning the Scholarship Exhibition, we wanted to share the show as widely as possible. Now that I am working as a local professional artist I was

looking forward to having another local show. The support that came out to the show was really unique, as an artist it helped my confidence to see and chat with our local friends and family. The hall itself added a lovely dimension to the show, a big room and natural light cascading in!

We've attended dinner shows at the hall as well Easter egg hunts, Halloween at the hall, Markets, just to name a few things. My Grandchildren go to all the events and it is such a close-knit community, we attend not only for them, but to see the other young families and children and enjoy socializing.

I attend Yoga twice a week (pre Covid 19) and was considering teaching a beginner's yoga class as I am also a YTC 200 hr Yoga teacher. I am saddened to think that all I have mentioned so far will stop, and that is very sad, so many social opportunities will be missed if the hall closes. Catherin Stilo's class is very well attended and the space is perfect. I can't imagine where else she would find a community place in Horning's Mills if the hall is closed. Closing the Hall permanently is a mistake.

Thanks, Wendy Reid

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Monday, March 30, 2020 2:08 PM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: Horning's Mills Hall

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From: Lisa Garber

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 1:48 PM

To: Wendy Atkinson <watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>

Cc

Subject: Horning's Mills Hall

The Horning's Mills Hall is a much-needed place for community activities and get-togethers for Horning's Mills and the surrounding area. It would be a shame if it fell into disuse. I have voted there and taken classes there and know it to be an important community centre.

Thank you for your attention.

Lisa Garber

From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Monday, March 30, 2020 11:39 AM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: Horning's Mills Community Hall

**Attachments:** 

Horning's Mills Community Hall\_Letter to Municiple Office\_24March2020.pdf

FYI

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From: John Spencer

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:25 AM

To: Wendy Atkinson < watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>

Cc:

Subject: Horning's Mills Community Hall

Hello,

Please find the attached appeal for your consideration.

I'm interested to learn the P&L numbers to see what kind of a gap we are talking about.

Where there's a will, there's a way.

Thanks,

Iohn

John Spencer

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Monday, March 23, 2020 9:30 AM

To:

Denise Holmes

Subject:

FW: Meeting scheduled for April 6, 2020 at Melancthon Township Office

Please note: Effective 10:00 a.m. on March 17, 2020, the Township of Melancthon Municipal Office will be closed to the Public until further notice. Some of our services are available online (tax payments, planning applications, fire permits) or Staff will be available by phone at 519-925-5525 to assist.



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From: Beverley Long

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 9:24 AM

To: Wendy Atkinson < watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>

Cc

Subject: Meeting scheduled for April 6, 2020 at Melancthon Township Office

Members of the Melancthon Township Council

My husband and I have lived in Melancthon Township for twenty three years. During that time we have seen many changes, but there is a constant and that is our Horning's Mills Community Hall.

We have attended weddings, birthday parties, celebrations of life, Christmas parties for the children and local sales. We have attended dinners for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. And yes, Horning's Mills Community Hall has hosted many polling stations where residents of Melancthon Township have dropped their ballots in ballot boxes and voted for you, the members of our Melancthon Township Council. The Hornings Mills Community Hall is a viable part of our community which serves a wide area and a large number of residents.

We as two residents of Melancthon Township ask you, the Members of Council, to support our Community Hall by funding such things as basic operating costs, capital investment for repairs and upgrades, cleaning and maintenance, advertising, etc.

By your support to our Hall, allow the Horning's Mills Community Hall Board to concentrate on continuing to put on fun events for the residents and their families.

Also, by the Council's support the Hall can remain a gathering place for the community--as has always been intended--for many years to come.

Concerned Residents
Bev and Paul Long

March 23, 2020

**Attention: Denise Holmes** 

To Melancthon Township Council Members:

As a long time resident of Hornings Mills and a former volunteer on citizens committees in the village I am troubled to hear that the future of the community hall may be in jeopardy. The hall is an important part of our rural community and as such should be kept intact for all residents of Melancthon.

To the best of my knowledge the building is in good repair. It has a good roof, floors and foundation, kitchens, natural gas, handicap elevator and a recently purchased parking lot. Much of this is due to the efforts of volunteers.

it is a lovely building and over the years it has been a place for residents to have personal and many community events. I have personally used it for several events over the years. It has also been a place for Melancthon to hold informational meetings for all Melancthon residents.

In recent years Hornings Mlls has attracted many young families with children and the hall has been a gathering place for Halloween and Christmas events for these children.

If I understand correctly it would cost under \$2.00 per resident to provide basic upkeep and expenses for the hall for the year. To my mind this is a small amount to help maintain this facility after so many years of dedicated volunteers working hard for our community.

I ask you to please do the right thing and keep this historic building maintained for the use of our Hornings Mills community and for all residents of Melancthon.

Respectfully submitted, Denise Ralph

From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Monday, March 23, 2020 2:14 PM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: Input re: Horning's Mills Hall - Creating Community

**FYI** 

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From: Patti Pouw

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 12:48 PM

To: Wendy Atkinson < watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>

Cc: Sarah Harrison

Subject: RE: Input re: Horning's Mills Hall - Creating Community

I would like to add to Catherine's message below.

My husband and I recently moved to Mulmur. I started attending Catherine's Yoga sessions at The Hall and I can't express how important these sessions are. I also, have been meeting some wonderful residents in this community.

I do hope that an answer can be found and that the Horning's Mills Community Hall will continue to be available.

Regards,

Patti Pouw

From: Catherine Stilo

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 12:31 PM

To: info@melancthontownship.ca

Cc: Sarah Harrison

Subject: Input re: Horning's Mills Hall - Creating Community

I know the April 6th meeting is on hold due to the situation we are all facing. I also wanted to make sure I sent in my input about the future of The Hall for when discussions resume.

For me, the Horning's Mills Hall is the hub of the strong, vibrant community we have here in the area.

When we first moved to Melancthon 5 years ago, The Hall and the events were instrumental in our integration into the community. We were so excited about the numerous breakfasts, dinners and celebrations held regularly at The Hall. The events allowed us to transition seamlessly and easily into the community. With introductions at various events, we quickly knew our neighbours and numerous members of the community. Prior to our move, we had been concerned that our choice to live in a rural setting would mean that we would be isolated. Instead, because of The Hall, we found quite the opposite. We felt so blessed and grateful to have found the spirit of community that was alive in Horning's MIlls.

From there, the community roots took hold and I began to contribute to that community. Instead of choosing to teach yoga from my home or on-line, I chose to host weekly classes at The Hall to make yoga accessible to everyone. What started as 1 class per week with a handful of people has grown, by request, to 2x per week with a strong core group coming together as a community to practice. Many people express that they are thrilled to have yoga so close to home and that they can walk to class and don't have to travel to Orangeville or Collingwood.

The bonds extend beyond yoga classes. I have been invited to many celebrations - weddings, Holiday gatherings of the members of the yoga community, many of which have also been hosted at The Hall

In these uncertain times, I feel even more strongly than ever, that coming together as a community is critical and that community bonds need to be strengthened and nurtured.

I do hope that a solution for support can be imagined so we can ensure our much-loved Horning's Mills Community Hall will continue to be available as a gathering place for many years to come.

Sincerely, Catherine Stilo

#### Catherine Satya Stilo



On behalf of DevaTree School of Yoga and our 200-hr YTT in Mulmur, I acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional territories of the Huron-Wendet, Anishinaabek, and Haudenosaunee Nations, and is the subject of the Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga Treaty of 1818, Treaty 18 of the Upper Canada Treaties. We recognized that these people have longstanding relationships to the land and region. DevaTree School of Yoga values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island.

From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Monday, March 23, 2020 2:14 PM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: Input re: Horning's Mills Hall - Creating Community

FTU

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From: Catherine Stilo

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 12:31 PM

To: Wendy Atkinson watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>

Cc: Sarah Harrison

Subject: Input re: Horning's Mills Hall - Creating Community

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Sincerely, Catherine Stilo

Catherine Satya Stilo



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From:

Wendy Atkinson

Sent:

Monday, March 23, 2020 8:21 AM

To:

**Denise Holmes** 

Subject:

FW: Hornings Mills Hall

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From: Judith Laver

Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 3:39 PM

To: Wendy Atkinson <watkinson@melancthontownship.ca>

Cc: Info - horningsmills

Subject: Hornings Mills Hall

My husbine and I really feel that the hall is very important to the community. I am fairly new to this area and was able to meet a lot of the residence thru the many functions that the hall had put on, also we have had two weddings here and hosted two fund raisers to help improve this lovely building. We also enjoy coming to both yoga classes in the evenings. This hall is the hub of our community, would really like to see more improvements which would really encourage residence to use the hall for other celebrations.

Regards

Judy and Dave Laver Sent from Samsung tablet Get Outlook for Android

From:

Linda Polonsky

Sent:

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 10:58 AM

To:

Denise Holmes

Subject:

Hornings Mills Hall

I have seen the facebook posts about the community meeting on April 6 for the Hornings Mills Hall. Jack and I are planning to attend, but I would also like to state our opinions from our observations at council meetings. It seems there has been an unfortunate break down in communications between the Hall Board and the Melancthon Council. What we are hearing is that the Hall Board members are seriously over-worked and burned out and would like the township to hire at least 1 person to take on some of the routine duties in order to keep the Hall open and functioning for the community. As the usage of the Hall seems to indicate that this is justified, and increasing as the community grows, this should not be an issue. The township shares costs with other outside communities, ie: Honeywood, Shelburne, Dundalk, and the Hornings Mills Hall is Melancthons ONLY community expense. As ratepayers we believe this IS the Townships responsibility.

I would also like to note that it is not just the village residents that benefit from the Hall. We, personally, made use of the table rentals from the Hall at the time of my parents auction sale in Honeywood. As Mom was an Institute member, we turned to the Hall for this and to provide the luncheon on the day of the sale. It is an integral part of the whole community at large and would be greatly missed if these current problems cannot be resolved.

Sincerely,

Jack and Linda Polonsky

From: Sent:

To:

debbie.fawcett debbie.fawcett

Saturday, March 14, 2020 12:28 PM

Subject:

Horning's Mills Community Hall

### Help!!!

The Twp. of Melancthon is having a Public meeting on April 6th at the Township office @ 7:00 p.m.

Regarding the future of The Horniing's Mills Community Hall

They have even offered to give it back. (to me/WI as my name is on the deed as president) as an alternative.

The Hall is in **excellent financial shape**.thanks to all the community volunteers.We are trying to get as many people to respond/attend/email to this as possible.... as to **WHY** it should be kept in the Community for Community use. The Twp. currently insure it under the Twp Insurance Policy & Manage the treasury,

I went/was invited to our Dufferin County neighbouring Township of Clearview Council Meeting, who were having the same discussions about their **7 community halls...** and came home pretty proud of the job we are doing. **None** of theirs are accessible or even meet the current fire requirements. Plus the Twp of Clearview, fund them **BIG** Time. They just underwent a review of their Halls by R.J.Burnsides and I was blown away at how great our hall was doing. Check it out if you would like to.

We have only one hall and it meets all of the above requirements. Thanks to the 2 grants that we were able to attain over the years, the first in 1967.followed by the more recent **Trillium Grant** for the addition and lift .. We might just have to go that route again to fix /replace the fire escape. The majority of the grunt labour in these cases was volunteer. As per requirement when receiving a grant.

I feel really bad about the whole situation, as we have the Easter egg hunt coming up...now it may be put on hold. If we have to cancel this event we might lose it to the Town of Shelburne. It has happened before.e.g fish fry, fireworks, jamborees etc.

We also had to cancel our plans for "A Coffee and Dessert Evening" with the Community at which we had 2 guest speakers tentatively booked.... Cty of Dufferin, re: garbage and recycling, The Food bank,.... Pie making Workshop planned, c/w displays..Teddy Bears display, Women Inspired, Women's Day, etc.

I also learned The Township of Melancthon had also turned away people wishing to rent their Community Hall at which they have volunteered many times over the years, unfortunately, one was for a family funeral lunch.

## I believe this issue could easily be resolved if everyone would send their input or attend this meeting!

If you are able to attend the Meeting on April 6th ..... Please do so.

Please forward this plea to everyone you think would be interested in the future of our hall.

If unable to attend, please, please send your Comments and concerns

Att:Denise Holmes CAO of the Township of Melancthon....dholmes@melancthon.ca

or myself,

if that would be more comfortable for you. I will ensure all your comments will be added to the list.

**Yours Truly** 

Debbie

From:

Sarah Harrison

Sent:

Monday, March 30, 2020 1:20 PM

To:

Info - horningsmills

Subject:

Update about the Horning's Mills Hall

Hello, Friends and Neighbours,

I hope you are all well and staying safe, and making the most of shouting across the street to people you encounter when out for a walk.

Although the situation at the Hall isn't top of mind right now (the Public meeting scheduled for April 6 has been cancelled, and the Hall is closed until further notice), we want to direct everyone to a balanced and well-written article that was recently published in the Shelburne FreePress. As well, thank you to everyone who has written a letter in support of the Hall. If you haven't submitted one yet and find yourself with a bit of free time in the next couple of days, please consider doing so - the Hall still needs you! Send your message to <a href="mailto:info@melancthontownship.ca">info@melancthontownship.ca</a>, and cc us at <a href="mailto:info@horningsmills.ca">info@melancthontownship.ca</a>, and cc us at <a href="mailto:info@horningsmills.ca">info@melancthontownship.ca</a>, and cc us at

Best wishes to you all,

The Horning's Mills Hall Board of Management

http://shelburnefreepress.ca/?p=24820

# Confusion and controversy over management and upkeep of Horning's Mills Hall

Written By MARNI WALSH

Confusion over where the responsibility lies for the financial upkeep and management of Horning's Mills' Community Hall has led to controversy in Melancthon.

Frustrated and over-tasked board members and volunteers at the Hall are looking to Melancthon Council to step-up financial support for the Township's only functioning hall to ease their work-load and maintain the 1938 building, which they say is "the heart" of "community unity" in the rural township.

According to the voluntary Horning's Mills' Hall Board, the building was originally constructed by funds from the Horning's Mills Women's Institute. They say the

OCT 1 9 2020

Township purchased the Hall for \$1 from the Women's Institute in 1987 with the stipulation on the deed that it was to be used for public purposes, or ownership would revert back to the Women's Institute. The Hall Board says this was done with the intention of protecting the building from being sold, and that "Melancthon Township is the sole deed holder."

The current Horning's Mills' Hall Board members include: James Webster, Chair; Debbie Fawcett, Vice Chair; Lynn Hodgson, Secretary; Sarah Harrison, former long-standing Treasurer; Jennifer Weaver, member; Jocelyn Burke, member; and Jim Hill, member.

In recent years, the hardworking board "has raised \$30,000 from functions, with the goal of having a small nest egg for bigger future upgrades or emergency repairs – a modest contingency on a large historic public building" says Chairman Webster. He states the operation cost for "bare minimum utility funds" is approx \$5,000 per year.

He says, "The Hall Board pushed to get all operating costs (\$5,000 or \$1.66 per Melancthon resident) to be covered by the Township ongoing, so the board could focus on fundraising for socially enriching community events and not be constantly fundraising just to keep the lights and heat on" – in what the board believes to be "a Township owned building."

Board member, Jennifer Weaver, who has enjoyed volunteering for the Hall, says many upgrades and improvements have been made in the past five years or so.

"The Hall Board has worked extremely hard, with a couple of members going above and beyond to make this happen," she says. "I would like Council to work with the Hall Board to keep the Hall doors open, starting with financial support to cover operating costs in order to take pressure off of the over-extended group of dedicated volunteers."

Sarah Harrison, a member of the Hall Board for nearly 20 years, who has acted in a number of capacities, including Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer says it was with much regret she resigned as Treasurer last November. She told the Free Press, she was "disillusioned with the confrontational manner with which successive Councils have approached the Board's requests, going back years, for a basic level of financial support for the Hall." She says, "It is as though the Township does not truly appreciate the level of love for and dedication to the Hall that the Board's

volunteers, many of whom are also over-extended small business owners, have evidenced over the years."

According to James Webster, the Hall received no funding from the Township in 2019, and in November of last year, Council requested a proposal for 2020 outlining: how the Board sees the Hall best functioning; Council's potential role; and an operating budget with a projection of needed future investments. This proposal was submitted in January 2020. Melancthon Mayor Darren White says Council reviewed the proposal "and decided as a result to hold a public meeting to seek input from residents directly as to what they want the direction of the Hall to be in the future."

Mr. Webster has expressed concern that the minutes from a subsequent Feb. 6 Council meeting stated that "the Township doesn't own the Hall." He calls this "confusing" and claims it contradicts earlier discussions.

Mayor White told the Free Press, "Council has always in one form or another supported the Horning's Mills' Hall financially. The Township has never suggested we change that." He says some "felt that Council was attacking the Board and trying to get rid of the Hall." But, he states, "This is not the case." He says, "Once Council gets feedback, it feels it would be in a position to create a plan with funding etc for the future based on a needs assessment and resident 'wants."

The Mayor says, "Suggestions that the Township is "reluctant' to offer funding are incorrect, as, we, at our last meeting passed a motion to provide funding in the budget." Melancthon Coun. Margaret Mercer, who put the motion forward to give the Hall Board \$5000 a year, says, "We need to support the Hall and appreciate the amazing volunteers who are and have been dedicated to its operations."

"Until we have the public meeting," says Mayor White, "I can't offer suggestions on solutions, but I'd like to see how we could better support all our local boards in Horning's Mills, as well as the boards that cover the rest of the communities in Melancthon. I hope the public meeting will assist with that."

James Webster says, "The Hall Board volunteers hope the public comes out or writes in to Council for the upcoming public meeting on April 6, and expresses to Council what the Hall means to them, how lucky we are to have such a beautiful building to bring together our rural communities, and how essential it is to have a place to come together for both personal and community events."

A public meeting on the future of Horning's Mills' Community Hall is scheduled for April 6 at 7 p.m. the Melancthon Township Office.