

April 20, 2021.

To Mayor Lowry and Mississippi Mills Municipal Council,

The [Pride Mississippi Mills](#) team is grateful to Mayor Christa Lowry and Mississippi Mills Municipal Council for their support for 2020's Pride events. For the first time, our Mayor declared June to be Pride Month in Mississippi Mills, and the Municipality displayed the pride flag on the Almonte Old Town Hall encouraging residents to celebrate the many contributions of the 2SLGBTQ+ community throughout the Municipality.

Since 1995, discrimination based on sexual orientation has been prohibited by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In 2005, Canada was the first country outside Europe to legalize same-sex marriage. In 2012 gender identity and gender expression were added as protected grounds to the Ontario Human Rights Code. And in 2017 Federal Legislation protecting gender identity and gender expression received royal assent. Despite these rights and protections, far too often, members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities feel unsafe and unaccepted.

You may recall, last year's Pride celebrations in Mississippi Mills were marred when the rainbow flag raised on the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum was stolen, pole and all, destroyed and discarded. As the Mayor said then, "Whether the individual(s) responsible did this as a prank, a thrill or an act of bigotry, the hurt it caused to members of our community **touches us all**." The next day, Mayor Lowry stood in solidarity with members of Pride Mississippi Mills and the 2SLGBTQ+ community; that day we talked about painting some 'Progress Flag Crosswalks' in various places throughout Mississippi Mills as symbols of hope and acceptance, demonstrating we are all in this world together, we all belong.

Today, we come to Council in anticipation of PRIDE 2021 with some proposed sites for Progress Flag Crosswalks we hope can be painted in spring/summer 2021.

The following sites are for consideration by Council: (to be clear, we're not suggesting ALL sites, rather, these are sites we thought would have impact due to high pedestrian traffic and we are asking Council to choose from among them so there is at least one Progress Flag Crosswalk in each municipal ward.

**Almonte Ward:**

- On Mill Street in front of the Post Office
- In front of the Old Town Hall
- In front of the MVTM
- Rail trail crossing to the entrance of the Alameda

**Ramsay Ward:**

Blakeney:

- We aren't aware of a formal pedestrian crossing area.

Appleton:

- We aren't aware of a formal pedestrian crossing area.

Clayton:

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- Clayton General Store
- Clayton Taylor Park
- Canada Post
- Highway 102
- Highway 26
- Google
- Guthrie United Church

- Main street (County Road 29)
- In front of the Post Office
- The crosswalk between St. Andrews United Church and the school (see image below).

