

# Almonte Trivia

Learn a bit more about your hometown!

*in celebration of our Mississippi Mills Bicentennial:  
1823-2023*



Test yourself, your family and friends 😊

## QUESTIONS

1. Under what name(s) was Almonte referred to before it was Almonte? Name as many as you can!

2. What year was Almonte incorporated as a town?

BONUS QUESTION: When did the amalgamation of the three wards into Mississippi Mills occur?

3. What famous architect designed the Almonte Old Post Office, which is now a National Historic Site?

BONUS QUESTION: Name the famous building in Ottawa also designed by this architect?

4. From where did Almonte branch library move to its current location? What was originally located where the Almonte branch library is now?

5. In which month & year did the Almonte train wreck happen?

6. What year did the train stop coming through Almonte?

7. What local mens' & boys' wear shop on Mill St., now closed, used the tagline "No one ever regretted buying quality"?

8. What artist/sculptor is responsible for the statue at the Almonte Cenotaph? What is the statue's title?

9. Name the remaining, repurposed Mill buildings in Almonte as of 2023 (both sides of the river)?

10. Name an internationally-famous master luthier living in Almonte.

11. Who described Almonte thus: *Mill is the best kind of street: curving and mysterious. A street that has had years to find itself. A street that sprung from dreams rather than schemes, slowly emerging brick by brick from the aspirations of the many rather than the stroke of some planner's pen.*

12. What hardware store first occupied the site of the current L. G. Lee & Sons (Lee Valley)?

13. Name as many other "institutions" as you can that occupied The Hub building before the Hub

14. How many years old is the Hub?

BONUS QUESTION: How much did the Almonte Community Coordinators (the Hub/Rebound) donate back to Mississippi Mills' community in 2022?

15. When did the first Almonte Fair occur on the current NLAS Fairgrounds? And the age of our Grandstand?

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### ANSWERS (and extra facts)

1. Shepherd's Falls, Shipman's Mills, Ramsayville, Victoriaville, Waterford

2. Mill owner, John M Haskin proposed "Almonte", the name of a Mexican general then familiar to all newspaper readers, as the town's name: officially adopted in 1856 at Council. Canada Post recognized the name in 1859. **Almonte incorporated as a village in 1871** (apart from Ramsay Township) **and as a town in 1880**. 1885 saw Almonte Old Town Hall completed. (*Almonte Gazette archives 1870*)

**Backstory to the MM Bicentennial:** 1823 marks the establishment of European settlers in all wards of Mississippi Mills. Daniel Shipman built the first sawmill in 1821 and gristmill in 1822: "Shipman's Mills" circa 1823. *In 1822 there were two cows in the township of Ramsay* (famous bit of recorded evidence). Settlers in Ramsay (including Shipman's Mills/Waterford, Blakeney, Clayton, Bennies Corners, Appleton...) were active by 1823. Pakenham village's postal station was established in 1823. ([almonte.com](http://almonte.com) & [mississippimills.ca](http://mississippimills.ca) & *Wikipedia*)

ANSWER to bonus question: Amalgamation into Mississippi Mills: January 1998

3. Thomas Fuller

ANSWER to bonus question: National Library of Parliament (all other original Parliament buildings burned down)

4. The Almonte branch was in the Almonte Old Town Hall before it moved to its current location in 1980. The Almonte Train Station was originally located where the branch is now. Unfortunately, the station was demolished in 1978.

**Backstory to Mississippi Mills Public Library:** Conceived at an 1828 meeting of settlers. In 1829, the Ramsay Library Association formed and the library was in a building in Appleton. (*Faces & Places*)

5. December 1942

6. 2011

7. Timmons Clothing, 80 Mill St.

8. R. Tait McKenzie (1867-1938). R. Tait was a physician, educator, sculptor, athlete, soldier and scout. He was born in Ramsay Township. In the 1930s, he and Ethel, his wife, retired to the Mill of Kintail. Almonte cenotaph: "The Volunteer"

9. Victoria Woollen Mill (now condos, restaurant, businesses), Thoburn Mill (businesses, condos), The Flour Mill (rental apartments, Enerdu), The Rosamond Mill (condos and the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum)

10. Linda Manzer

11. CBC Radio's Stuart McLean. He and his show, The Vinyl Café, came to Almonte Old Town Hall in 2013.

12. Lee Hardware

13. The Orpheum Theatre, The O'Brien Theatre, The People's Store and the Royal Bank

14. 49 years. Established in 1974, the Hub opened its doors at 66 Mill St. It was located there until a devastating fire in 1997. In 1998, RBC sold The Hub's current location to the organization for \$1. ([thehubalmonte.com](http://thehubalmonte.com))

ANSWER to bonus question: \$109,400

15. In 1862, North Lanark Agricultural Society (under a slightly different name at the time) purchased our current Fairgrounds, but the first fair was in 1860 on another property. This fall Almonte Fair celebrates 163 years! Almonte's Grandstand is 155 years old, the oldest covered grandstand in Canada. It seats approx. 650 ([almontefair.ca](http://almontefair.ca))

*(The above facts were verified by the municipality's Historical Researcher, a member of the MM Heritage Committee)*