

TOWNSHIP SAFETY NEWSLETTER

The United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria



Friday, August 10, 2007

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Townships On-line

Visit us online at www.townshipsofheadclaramaria.ca to find current information about:

- our community Emergency Plan;
- Emergency planning information;
- Emergency contact numbers; and
- much more.

Police? Ambulance? Fire? Who Do I Call? Who Will Come To Help?

In previous newsletters, on our web page and through other sources people have “heard” any number of versions of who will respond to various types of emergencies within our municipality. This newsletter aims to clear the air and state the facts as they relate to emergency response and assistance within our community. It is our intent to distribute this information package to all rate-payers and residents of the Townships, whether they reside here year round or seasonally. As such, some of this information will seem to be “common knowledge” however; if you are new to the area or if you only visit seasonally, the information may save your life. Our goal is to clarify some misconceptions and, more importantly, inform people who may assume that resources are as where they come from, not realizing the special challenges within a smaller community.

Some of the information in the following pages has been taken from other sources and will be acknowledged as such.

POLICE

The United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does not have its own police force. We contract our services from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) through the Upper Ottawa Valley Detachment stationed in a host office in Pembroke. (please see related article on page 2)

AMBULANCE

The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service will respond to all 911 calls within our area. The County service works within an Ontario wide system that shifts jurisdictions to fill in gaps created by specific situations so that all of Ontario has coverage at all times. Every unit in Ontario is available at any time and will be dispatched as needed.

Because of our sparse population and expanse along highway 17, it may take some time before a dispatched team may reach you. That team may come from Mattawa or Petawawa or as close as Deep River, depending on who is available. Make sure that you have sufficient first aid supplies and know basic life saving skills to protect yourself, your friends and your family until help can arrive.

FIRE

Fire services within the municipality are provided by the Townships’ Volunteer Fire Wardens and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) through a Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement. Our wildfire service volunteers are mandated to engage grass, brush and forest fires only. **They are not trained, equipped or mandated to engage structure or vehicle fires.**

MOTOR VEHICLE

ACCIDENTS

We have an automatic aid agreement with the Town of Deep River and the Town of Laurentian Hills for auto-extrication purposes only. That means that should we have an auto accident where the “jaws-of-life” are required to extricate an individual, these departments will respond. They are contacted automatically by the OPP however; they will not come into the municipality to engage fires of any type.

So when there is an emergency, who will respond?

For house/structure fires – no one;

For forest fires – our Volunteers and/or the MNR;

Auto Accident – the OPP, the Renfrew County Paramedic Service, the auto-ex unit from Deep River and possibly our volunteers.

Know who to call. Know what assistance is available to you and plan accordingly. We are isolated and can not expect quick response times. In a number of cases response might be as much as 1 hour or more. Learn to protect and provide for yourself in the best way that you can – until help arrives. ♦



911 Signs and Service

For your sake – make sure that your property has a 911 sign. 911 signs are the main link between you and emergency services. OPP and ambulance are equipped and trained to locate residences using the County wide 911 system.

Originally, when the 911 system was introduced, special program funding was provided throughout the County.

Since this funding has ended, individuals are responsible for ordering and paying for their own signs. If you have a newly created lot or for some other reason did not get a 911 sign during the initial rollout—call the office and arrange to get one.

Signs are provided by the County, installed by our Road Superintendent but paid for by the property owner. Currently the fee is only \$35 and is payable to the Township. The County invoices us.

Is the fee worth it? If the paramedic service or OPP need to find you, seconds count. You decide if your life or the life of someone you love is worth it.

Property Owners' Responsibility

It is the owners' responsibility to maintain the property identification sign by keeping vegetation, snow or other obstructions away. Repair any minor damage if numbers are still readable and reflective but do not relocate a sign without permission of the municipality. NO property owner shall remove, replace or relocate a 911 sign. If it is determined that a sign has been tampered with, it will be replaced by the municipality with the costs borne by the property owner. Costs may be charged to the property owner in a manner similar to they way taxes are collected.

Replace any severely damaged or a stolen 911 sign with the proper type of blade and post, and the correct number, to be ordered through the municipal office. Any property containing a residence, permanent, seasonal or otherwise; as well as trailer parks, commercial, industrial, recreational, religious or educational facilities, on public or private roads, require a 911 sign. For your safety make sure your sign is in good condition, positioned correctly and clear of obstructions. ♦

OPP INFORMATION

Eastern Region Headquarters

3312 County Rd. 43 E., Box 2020, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 5K8
(613)284-4500 fax (613)284-4597

Upper Ottawa Valley Detachment

1913 Petawawa Boulevard, Pembroke, On., K8A 7H5 (613) 735-0188 fax (613) 735-7427

The Commander for the Upper Ottawa Valley Detachment is Staff Sergeant Ron Gignac.

Additional information about the Ontario Provincial Police may be found at www.opp.ca.

(Info from their page follows.)

“When to call 911.

Call 9-1-1 to: stop a crime; save a life; in any EMERGENCY situation whenever police or ambulance assistance is required immediately.

If you are unsure, call 9-1-1 and the communicator will make the final determination

Do **NOT** Call 9-1-1 to:

Report a fire (within our Townships); report a hydro outage; check weather or highway conditions; obtain government information; for directory assistance; for information about school closings, road conditions, directions;

Use these numbers instead:

1-888-310-1122 - O.P.P. 24 hr toll-free

1-800-222-TIPS (8477) - Crimestoppers

1-800-268-4686 - MTO Road Info.

4-1-1 - Directory Assistance

1-888-310-1133 - O.P.P., TDD/TTY telephone for the deaf”

The OPP polices our Townships according to the following: The Field and Traffic Services Command is charged with providing front-line policing services in accordance with the province's Police Services Act by: Providing police services in respect of the parts of Ontario that do not have municipal police forces other than municipal law enforcement officers.

Providing police services in respect to all navigable bodies and courses of water in Ontario and maintaining a traffic patrol on the King's Highway. ♦

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ONTARIO

It begins with you—public safety begins at home. Each individual is responsible for the safety, preparedness, and well being of themselves and their family.

Next is the community: each municipality must prepare an emergency management program tailored to local needs. This plan is to be coordinated with the County plan and include mutual aid and assistance agreements with neighbouring municipalities. (We currently have such an agreement for auto-ex purposes.)

The province coordinates community programs and also operates the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC), 24 hours a day, to provide advice and assistance related to actual or impending emergency situations. In the event of an emergency, this is who we call. EMO may send a representative from the PEOC to assist on the scene, depending on the situation. Should we require any assistance beyond our capabilities, the PEOC will be responsible for contacting other organizations. It is not up to us. We do not have the authority to call any other organization for assistance be it the MNR (beyond normal fire procedures), the RCMP or the Armed Forces.

If a community, or the province, requires any sort of assistance beyond what is available in Ontario or through provincial mutual assistance agreements, EMO can make a formal request for assistance to the federal government. The federal government only intervenes when requested to do so by provincial emergency management organizations or when an emergency clearly impacts on areas of federal jurisdiction. ♦

Township Volunteer WildFire Service

The Townships are fortunate to have a group of individuals who are able and willing to volunteer their skills and time to assist their neighbours. These men and women, who volunteer their time to train and come out in case of fire, offer a valuable service to the community and are always looking for other like-minded individuals to become a part of their team.

The time commitment is minimal and in fact, the group volunteers their time training, but are compensated for time spent on call-outs and clean up. They are also covered by WSIB to assist in the unfortunate event that they are injured while in service for the municipality.

Volunteers are required to attend regular training and practice sessions and are on a probationary period for two years of acceptance.

Any interested individuals should contact the office or any Council member for more information.

Wildfire Service Mandate

Our Volunteer Wildfire Service is mandated to extinguish small grass, brush and forest fires. That is what they are trained to do. That is what the equipment they are provided allows them to do. They do not have training or equipment necessary to extinguish or even engage vehicle or structure fires of any type. If you reside in the Townships, know that should your house catch fire,

it will likely burn to the ground. Our volunteers cannot assist you. They can engage surrounding brush to ensure that the fire cannot spread, but they cannot attempt to save your home. Some who read this may be surprised. The following hopefully will explain.

A Municipality's Responsibility

(some of the following was taken from an article in the *municipal Monitor* May/June 2007 issue)

In 1997, *The Fire Protection and Prevention Act* was passed. This new act combined a number of other acts and now dictates how fire protection services are provided in Ontario.

The revised Act ensures that municipalities are responsible for funding and delivering a level of fire protection service in accordance with their individual needs and circumstances. It also mandates us to deliver fire prevention and public education either through a fire department or failing to have one, through an appointee of the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office.

Although we have a Wildfire Service, we do not have a fire department under the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office.

As such, we are required to provide services through an appointee of that office. Currently, Ruth Morin is our appointee to the Fire Marshall and is responsible for fire prevention information and public education. Stop by the

office or visit our webpage for public information and educational materials.

Under the Act, a simplified risk assessment must be completed for each community to determine the needs and circumstances of the municipality and to establish the level of fire prevention and public fire safety education required.

The demographic profile, building stock profile and local and provincial fire loss profiles are all taken into account. This is how it was decided that based on the demographics and resources available, our community is best served by a Volunteer Wildfire Service and a Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

There is also the issue of increased liability to consider. In 2004, Bill C-45 amended the Criminal Code of Canada so that in the case of an injury or fatality, in any workplace, the person supervising the workers can now be held criminally responsible, face fines and/or jail time. If it can be proven that carelessness, lack of training or lack of adequate equipment is identified as the cause, the supervisor at the work site (or fire scene) can be held personally liable and face criminal charges. When an accident happens, one of the first questions asked is whether a municipality has a training program delivered according to a recognized standard and a formalized curriculum. Do we

have proper policies and training in place to protect our workers? Does the municipality have competent supervisors and records to support the type of training that the workers/fire wardens receive? Does the department have the proper equipment? Were the workers providing the type of service that they were equipped and trained to provide? Were they being supervised by a competent supervisor?

These are some of the considerations that need to be made in order to decide what type of fire protection services each municipality will offer. The municipality has both responsibility and liability.

Upon completion of the last evaluation it was determined that the current structure of a "Volunteer Wildfire Service" best suited our community. We do not have the finances, manpower, equipment or experience to properly equip a fire department under the Fire Marshall's Office. Costs of an appropriate truck would be in excess of \$250,000. Protective clothing for firefighters, which need to be replaced quite often, costs \$3,000 to \$3,500 per volunteer.



What We Have

After careful consideration of all the issues and consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Office of the Fire Marshal, the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria entered into a Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and created a group of volunteers that will operate under a by-law which created a "Volunteer Wildfire Service". The "Level of Wildfire Service Document" for Head, Clara & Maria is as follows and details the level of service you can expect from our wildfire service:

"The wildfire service in the Townships is provided by a volunteer system.

There is no provision in the wildfire service for standby or on call service and it is possible that at times there may be no response to a call for fire services because of the inability to contact a volunteer warden.

Training for wardens will be provided so that they may safely use the equipment provided by the Townships for its intended purpose.

The service response to all reported fires in the Townships will provide fire suppression and assistance up to the level of training provided to the wardens.

The service is expected to control and extinguish small brush and grass fires and to prevent the spread of fire from vehicle and structural fires.

The response efforts will vary according to the training of the responders, the number of responders and the ability to obtain and deliver water to the fire scene.

The service is not trained or equipped to fight vehicle or structural fires or provide water in freezing temperatures.

At no time will any member of the service be expected to enter or approach closely any vehicle or structural fire. The Townships will attempt to make provision for 911 service for fire

reporting within the Townships."

Currently, we do not have 911 service for fire.

IN CASE OF FIRE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIPS please call the following:

8:30–4:00 Monday to Friday–
Township Office–613-586-2526;

Any current member of Council:
Ed Aiston, Robert Reid, Jim Gibson,
Dave Foote or Tammy-Lea Sonnenburg–2007-2010 term;
Any of the Wildfire Service Volunteers. The current list follows:

Wilfred Lamure–Chief Fire Warden–
613-401-0372 (during work hours)

Lamure's–613-586-2638

Jim/Marlene - 613-586-2761

Hans–613-586-2368

Bob –613-586-9384

Fred-613-586-2607

Dave –613-586-2228

Dan-613-586-2733

Betty–613-586-2677

Jeff L.–613-633-7907

Jeff J.–613-584-3667

Bill-705-840-6278

The Township service is active from April 1 to and including October 31 each year. At any other time of year there will be no response for fire within the municipality. Please call 911 for medical assistance or the OPP for traffic control should smoke be blowing onto the highway.

What about my insurance costs?

Insurance professionals have been consulted and have assured us that there is no way, with the distances between hamlets and our meager resources, that we could meet the standards necessary to secure reduced insurance rates for our residences.

MNR / Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement

Pursuant to the *Forest Fires Prevention Act* each municipality is responsible to extinguish grass, brush, and forest fires within its limits. The Ministry of Natural Resources is also responsible for these activities on Crown lands. As such, we have an agreement with the MNR whereby we are responsible to: develop a forest fire prevention plan and program; control open air burning through a fire permit system; and at our own expense, agree to suppress grass, brush and forest fires within the Municipal Protection Area. Under the agreement, we can call in the MNR to assist us if the fire within our area is beyond our capabilities. The agreement also arranges for first response teams to take action until jurisdiction is determined. If we are first on the scene, we can take action and may receive compensation from the province should the fire be under their jurisdiction. Correspondingly, if the fire is on private/municipal property we will be charged by the province. It is important that you as a ratepayer call our fire services first—not the MNR. If a ratepayer places a call to the MNR for a fire that is not in MNR jurisdiction, that private individual may be liable for costs incurred. Call us first.

MUNICIPAL FIRE PERMITS

Under the *Forest Fire Prevention Act* we must develop a program to control open air burning. During fire season—April 1 to October 31 a fire permit is required before any burning can take place. Please contact the office or Wilfred Lamure for a permit prior to burning. The cost is minimal-\$2.00 but the conditions must be complied with. Failure to do so could result in the individual being responsible for all costs incurred should their fire get away from them. For rules and terms please contact the office, our webpage or Wilfred Lamure. ♦



FIRE BANS

In the event of a **municipal** fire ban, the public will be notified of the application/removal of the Ban/Restriction by signs and posters placed at: all mail boxes, Mackey & Stonecliffe Boat Launches, Old Mackey Park, the Community Centre and Municipal Office, Yates General Store, Deux Rivieres Post Office and Lacroix Park.

Radio public service announcements may also be used.

A “**Municipal Fire ban**” means a period of time during which open fires, including camp fires, are not allowed on land within the geographic area of Head, Clara & Maria Townships with the exclusion of Driftwood Park and municipally designated campgrounds.

A “**Restricted Fire Zone**” is declared by the Minister of Natural Resources. The *Forest Fire Prevention Act* dictates that: No person shall start a fire outdoors in a restricted fire zone,

- (a) except in accordance with a permit issued under the regulations; or
- (b) unless the fire is for the purpose of cooking or obtaining warmth and the fire is in a stove or installation of a kind prescribed by the regulations.

(see page 6 for more information on Restricted Fire Zones)

With the severe wind storms we have experienced this summer and last, our forests are dry and full of blow downs—please use caution with fire and obey all laws, bans and declarations of restricted fire zones.

General

Do you have an emergency survival kit yet? For those of you who answered “yes” congratulations. For the rest of us ... Do you feel that “it won’t happen to me”? Or have you just not found the time? Please rethink your choices and take the time. It could mean the difference between life or death—yours or that of someone you love.

Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time. This could mean that utilities are out, roads are closed and we can’t get crucial supplies we need. Local, provincial and federal officials prepare for emergencies, and so should you.

Everyone should be prepared to take care of themselves and their families for up to three days in the event of an emergency or disaster. With increased awareness of security concerns through Canada and the world, it makes sense to prepare for the unexpected.

The lists below are recommended guidelines to help you gather the items you should have on hand and keep stored in a place everyone in your family knows about, ready to go with you if you have to leave.

If you are ever in an emergency situation, stay calm. People have survived three days without water and three weeks without food. Your home can retain heat for up to three hours in winter. Be prepared.

Food and Water Kit

Have at least a 3-day supply of food and water on hand. Choose ready-to-eat foods that your family likes that don’t need refrigeration. Canned foods are a good choice—soups, stews, baked beans, pasta, meats, poultry, fish, vegetables and fruits. Crackers and

biscuits, honey, peanut butter, syrup, jam, salt and pepper, sugar, instant coffee, tea.

Water—at least 4 litres per person per day.

Equipment—cutlery, disposable cups and plates, manual can opener, bottle opener, fuel stove and fuel (follow manufacturer’s instructions; never use a BBQ indoors), waterproof matches, plastic garbage bags, pocket knife, multi-tool.

Emergency survival Kit

Flashlight and spare batteries; radio or crank radio (for news bulletins, warnings); first-aid kit; candles, matches/lighter and fuel; extra car keys; cash including coins/cards for telephones; copies of important documents (ID for everyone, insurance papers, emergency numbers etc.); weather appropriate clothing and footwear (one change of clothes per person); blankets or sleeping bags (one per person); personal hygiene products—toilet paper, tissues, shampoo, hairbrush, toothpaste and toothbrush, soap, towel and face cloth (one per person), feminine hygiene products; medication—prescription and other; backpack or duffel to pack supplies in case you have to evacuate; whistle to attract attention; playing cards, gum, small tool kit.

Car Kit

Shovel; sand, salt or kitty litter; traction mats; tow chain; compass; cloth or roll of paper towels; warning light or road flares; extra clothing and footwear; emergency food pack; axe or hatchet; booster cables; ice scraper and brush; road maps; matches and a “survival” candle in a deep can (to warm hands, heat a drink or use as an emergency light); fire extinguisher; methyl hydrate (for fuel line and windshield de-icing); flashlight; first-aid kit with seatbelt cutter; blanket (special “survival” blankets are best); mitts.

Special Needs

In addition to the basic emergency needs, consider those individuals in your family who might have other needs and provide for them as well. This might include:

Babies/toddlers—diapers, bottled milk, formula/food, toys, crayons, paper, games, medications;
Other Family Members—1 week’s supply of medications, copies of prescriptions, extra eyeglasses, spare batteries for medical devices, extra oxygen cylinder;

Pets—three days supply of pet food and water;

Water—at least four (4) litres per person per day—two for drinking and two for food preparation, hygiene and dishwashing. Keep a supply of water purification tablets on hand as well.

Note: consume and replace canned food and dry goods once a year, medications more often.

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FIRE

To **REPORT** a Forest Fire in the East Fire Region please call **1-888-863-FIRE (3473)**.

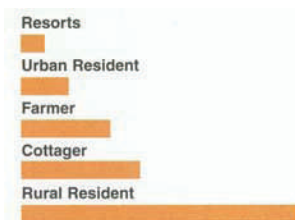
What You Should Know About Restricted Fire Zones

It's Important And It's the Law
A Restricted Fire Zone is designated by an Order made by the Minister of Natural Resources. It is strictly enforced throughout the restricted area. It's a drastic measure, taken only when necessary, but it has proven effective when the forest fire danger reaches the crisis level.

A Restricted Fire Zone does not restrict movement or recreational activity in the forest, but it does restrict the use of fire. After a Restricted Fire Zone has been declared, it is illegal to set out a fire for any purpose within the affected area, and failure to comply could result in a fine up to \$1,000, three months in jail, and financial responsibility for any costs incurred in fighting a forest fire caused by the illegal act. It's a tough law, but a necessary one - one that's helping save thousands of hectares of forest. ♦

(From the MNR Website
<http://affm.mnr.gov.on.ca/>)

Who Causes Fires in Ontario?
Among forest fires caused by people, an average of over 200 fires each year are caused by rural residents.



THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHALL APPOINTEE

The Townships of Head, Clara & Maria shall appoint a Community Fire Safety Officer who will complete/or has completed the Basic Fire Prevention and Inspection Course given by the Office of the Fire Marshall. The Townships will, through the Community Fire Safety Officer, provide guidelines detailing fire prevention programs and activities that will aid in reducing or eliminating concerns regarding fire prevention.

The Community Fire Safety Officer will:

- conduct inspections of properties upon complaint or request.
- provide fire safety lectures and/or demonstrations for the public upon request or where resources are available.
- encourage the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, in all dwelling units and sleeping units not within a dwelling unit.
- periodically provide public fire safety messages.
- make fire prevention and safety information and literature available to the public through the Township Office and other locations in the community. ♦

WORKING SMOKE ALARMS: IT'S THE LAW

Effective March 1, 2006, it is the law for all Ontario homes to have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. With this previously announced Fire Code amendment now in effect, it is hoped there will be a reduction in the number of preventable fire-related injuries and fatalities. The amendment covers single family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner-occupied or rented. This also includes lodges, camps, cottages, bunk houses and trailers - any sleeping area aside from small tents.

FREE SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM

Did you know that the Townships of Head, Clara & Maria will give to all residents and ratepayers, **FREE OF CHARGE**, a new **SMOKE ALARM**. You guessed it, there are strings attached!

You will be given a smoke alarm if you:

At home, watch the 13 minute video "No Time To Spare";

Read two pages of information on fire safety;

At the municipal office, sign a form stating that you have completed the above.

For additional information on fire safety visit our webpage or the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office page at <http://www.ofm.gov.on.ca/english/default.asp>.

**CHECK YOUR ALARMS AND CHANGE YOUR
BATTERIES – IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND YOU!—WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT THE MUNICIPALITY TO DO FOR YOU DURING AN EMERGENCY?

Hopefully you have read the preceding pages of this newsletter, and have learned what services we have available to us. You must therefore, realize that the response that we can expect during any type of emergency within our municipality is quite limited. We do not have our own Police, Ambulance or Fire Departments. We have 13 volunteer fire wardens. We have 7 employees, most of whom are part time and/or seasonal. We encompass 727 km² along 60 km of Highway 17, the Ottawa River and 39 km of gravel roads. A vast area with a limited response capability.

We are mandated by the province to develop a plan that may be activated in an emergency. We must rely on the organizations previously listed for assistance. Even though we call the OPP and paramedics, we might not receive assistance for some time. It will all depend on the type and extent of each individual situation. Often our hydro and communication systems are down. We are working on a solution to our communications dilemma.

So — who can you depend on during an emergency? The short answer is — you and your neighbour.

We at the township recognize our limited capabilities and are attempting to develop a system where neighbours can help neighbours, with some coordination and assistance from the municipality.

What we propose is a system whereby those who are capable, able and willing to help during an emergency will do so but with some coordination so that we at the office are aware of the specific situations within the mu-

nicipality. What we would like to create is a type of incident management system with triage, treatment, safety and rehabilitation stages. We would like to ask the community for assistance with the triage part, to let us know where the need is most and to allow us to direct limited resources there. In most emergency situations, neighbours look out for neighbours anyway.

What we would like to do is coordinate that approach somewhat so that we can help to account for all residents during an emergency as quickly as possible.

If you are willing, you might be responsible to visit each of your neighbours (on foot, by boat, by snow machine, whatever the situation dictates) and report findings back to the office. In this way, we will know that everyone has been contacted and informed by the most efficient means available.

After reports are received at the office, the treatment, safety and rehabilitation operations can begin. Again, with the limited resources we have, it will be a method of streamlining the process to ensure that those who are most in need will receive assistance first.

We must reiterate that you are responsible for you. You must consider that those who are charged with assisting you have families of their own. Although their job is to help others, they may be in a position where they need assistance as well. Tragedy does not consider where it will strike.

Do you have an emergency kit? Will it provide for you and your family (including pets) for at

least 72 hours? In summer and winter? As much as the township has an emergency plan, depending on the extent and type of the emergency, it may still take days to reach you—prepare to take care of yourself.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY— NO ONE ELSE'S!

Are you willing to help? If so please answer some of the questions on the back page and return it to us.

Are you able to check on a neighbour or neighbours and report to the Township Office in the event of an emergency? Do you know that you require special assistance and want to be on a list to be contacted? Do you not have alternate heat/water sources or an alternate place to stay in the event that the power is out for an extended length of time? Let us know that too. We will be having public emergency planning meetings in the future. Please watch for notices in the office and where you get your mail and plan to come out.

Although we are doing what we are legislated to do, we would like to do more but we have limited resources. We require assistance. Would you like to be a part of the solution? Also, we are always looking for volunteers to fill various positions within our Emergency Management Plan. Please call or drop by the office for additional information. ♦

ODRAP— WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE PROVINCE

The following is taken directly from the webpage of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

"The Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program (ODRAP) is an assistance program designed to help municipalities, individuals, farmers, small business, and non-profit organizations get back on their feet after a **natural disaster**. It is intended to **cover the costs of returning essential items to pre-disaster condition** for people who have suffered damage in designated disaster areas.

ODRAP is not intended to be an alternative or a substitute for adequate insurance coverage.

In the event of a natural disaster, **individuals are expected to bear the initial responsibility for their losses**. If the losses are so extensive that individuals cannot cope on their own, the municipality and the community at large are expected to provide support."

It is important to note that only **essential** property is covered. Boats, motors, trailers, cottages, docks, sheds etc. will **NOT** be covered. This is not insurance for property that should be covered by private policies — it is an insurance provided for the essentials of daily living. Also, the funds available have to be matched by funds generated within the municipality in the form of donations. It is expected that there will be fundraising, with the province matching any proceeds. There are provisions for small communities, like ours, however, don't expect too much. It's also important to remember where the province gets its money—ultimately its coming out of your pocket. ♦



TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD CLARA & MARIA

Should you require information?
Have a question? Concern?
Complaint? Contact us ...

Melinda Reith-Clerk
Ruth Morin-Treasurer
Wilfred Lamure-Road Superintendent
Carol Larocque-Disposal Site Attendant
Robert Labre-CBO-613-586-1950

15 Township Hall Road
Stonecliffe, Ontario
K0J 2K0

Phone: 613-586-2526
Fax: 613-586-2596
Email: New Address

twpshcm@xplornet.com

www.townshipsofheadclaramaria.ca



The Township Office

In the event of an emergency the Township Office may or may not be open. It will depend on the situation, the time of year, the extent of the emergency and the status of the utilities and phone lines.

If there is no immediate threat to life (as in the case of the July 2006 storm), and there is no power, there is very little that we at the office can do.

Although we are a public building, without water or power, we can not remain open. We do have generators to operate the emergency operations centre should that be required, however, these items are not to be used simply to keep the office open in the event of power outages.

If there is an emergency that requires immediate response (OPP, roads, ambulance, fire) the office will likely be open but operating as an emergency operations centre. If you have a life threatening concern, please call 911.

Call the township phone line for updates on the message service. If the office is closed for any length of time, we will remotely monitor the messages and update as necessary.

TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SURVEY

If you can answer yes to any of these questions and would like to be a part of our emergency response team, or may require special assistance yourself please let us know. Circle the number beside all that apply and return to the Township office or any Council member.

In the event of a large scale emergency where individual lives and/or property are at risk...

- 1. I have an extra generator that I would be willing to use/share.
2. I would be willing to volunteer to check on my neighbours or others in a pre-determined area and check back with the Township office.
3. I have special vehicles (boats and motors, snow machines, 4 wheelers) that I would be willing to use to assist in contacting/helping my neighbours.
4. I have an alternate source of heat and water and an extra room, I would be willing to billet a neighbour for a short time.
5. I have means of transportation and would be willing to shuttle those who require assistance for short distances.
6. I have a tent/trailer and other camping equipment that I would be willing to lend.
7. I have a chain saw/axe/other tools that I would be willing to use to assist.
8. I have a utility trailer and pick up truck that I would be willing to use to assist.
9. My home does not have an alternate heat source (i.e. wood) and I would need help during a winter emergency.
10. I might need alternate accommodation.
11. I would be willing to go door-to-door delivering messages, ensuring that everyone is aware of the extent of the damage/emergency and what to do.
12. I have means of transportation and would be willing to assist in evacuations.
13. I have means of outside communication in the event of power and telephone outages that I am willing to share.
14. I would be willing to volunteer my time in the office to answer phones or perform other administrative tasks during an emergency.
15. I would like to be a part of the decision making process in emergency planning for my community.

Responding to this survey does not mean that you are committing to anything. We are simply attempting to determine if there is interest in the community to create a more coordinated approach to assisting neighbours in the event of an emergency. As we have limited resources and are relatively remote in relation to the county and provincial assistance, a cohesive response might save a life. Would you like to play a part. The Emergency Management Committee is looking at ways to best serve our residents. Please let us know if you are interested and/or willing to assist.

Name _____

Phone _____

Comments _____

Please complete and drop by the office, give to your local Council member, mail or reply via email. Based on the results, we will organize a public meeting in the near future. Thank you

Melinda Reith, Community Emergency Management Coordinator