

Report #20/07/12/803

July 20, 2012 – Report to Council on Basic Emergency Management Training

On June 18th and 19th I had the opportunity to attend the Basic Emergency Management Training presented by Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) at the Pembroke Community Centre. The objective of this course is for the participants to demonstrate an understanding of emergency management and thus be better prepared to fulfill their emergency roles.

The course is based on Ontario's Emergency Management Doctrine developed as a result of lessons learned from 1998 ice storms, preparation for Y2K and September 11th, 2001. The five core components of emergency management include: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The aim of an emergency management program is to ensure that a proactive, coordinated and comprehensive approach to managing emergencies is in place to reduce the significant risks faced by Ontario communities.

I am very proud to report that the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria was the first community in Ontario to comply with the provincial Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. Our community's emergency management program is based on a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) developed by staff and council that identifies risks present in our community and is reviewed regularly.

The participants in the BEM course represented many different occupations and interest groups. Firefighters, an industry health and safety officer, a Red Cross worker, municipal staff and councillors and ham radio operators all brought insight from their personal experiences and added much to my understanding of emergency management.

Our two day course culminated in a role play exercise where we applied our new emergency management knowledge to a flood in the fictional town of Trillium, Ontario. Our course leaders lead us through the exercise quickly, having each team perform under pressure as it would be in reality.

I appreciate the opportunity that this training has offered me and I would again like to thank the CAO for keeping us informed of these local professional development events.

Councillor Debbi Grills