

# FIRE & SAFETY NEWSLETTER

*The United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria*



May 2017

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## Townships On-line

Visit us online at [www.townshipsofheadclaramaria.ca](http://www.townshipsofheadclaramaria.ca) to find current information about:

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

## Emergency Services in HCM!

Safety of residents and transients is of utmost importance to Head, Clara & Maria Council and staff.

In 2016 Council participated in the joint decision to dissolve the North Renfrew Emergency Response Unit (NRERU) agreement, after much deliberation and public consultation. In 2008 the volunteer fire service was disbanded. The contents of this newsletter explain safety, emergency services and how these services affect you in Head, Clara & Maria.

For those of you who might be new to the area, Head, Clara & Maria does not have a fire department, we do not have our own police or paramedic service. We do not have auto-extrication services throughout most of the municipality.

As with any other municipal service, a cost analysis is required to determine whether or not specific services are warranted or possible. Considerations are many and do include the impossible calculation of the value of a life. Contrary to monetary awards in law suits and insurance claims there is no price that can be put on a life.

Realistically however, there is a limit to the amount of money our residents would be willing to pay to finance any service; including auto-extrication.

As with all decisions, Head, Clara & Maria Council and staff have completed its due diligence, have relied on experts, our insurance provider, our legal counsel and input from our residents.

Are you Prepared?

### HISTORY

Head, Clara & Maria has never had a full fire department trained and outfitted to engage structure fires. It did have a volunteer Wildfire ser-



vice for a time. These individuals worked diligently to help out where they could; to extinguish grass, brush and forest fires to prevent them from spreading to adjacent property.

In 2008, Council of the day determined that continued operation of that volunteer service was not feasible, was in fact cost prohibitive for the demand and size of our community. The decision was not readily accepted by some, but was the natural evolution of a service which relied on a limited number of community volunteers.

A large number of the same considerations would be required to train and equip a group of individuals capable of providing auto-extrication services. The issue is not simply with the procurement of equipment but with the challenges of ongoing staffing, training and administration as per legislated guidelines. As with many services, the biggest hurdle is manpower—the costs and availability.

## MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS and the Good Samaritan Act

There is currently no support for auto-extrication purposes from the eastern border of Highway 17 to the Bissett Creek hill. Good Samaritan laws offer legal protection to people who give reasonable assistance to those who are, injured, ill, in peril, or otherwise incapacitated. The protection is intended to reduce bystanders' hesitation to assist, for fear of being sued or prosecuted for unintentional injury or wrongful death. Its purpose is to keep people from being reluctant to help a stranger in need for fear of legal repercussions should they make some mistake in treatment.

**Ontario's Good Samaritan Act** "Good Samaritan Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, CHAPTER 2



1. In this Act, "health care professional" means a member of a College of a health profession set out in Schedule 1 to the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, 2001, c. 2, s. 1.

### Protection from liability

2. (1) Despite the rules of common law, a person described in subsection (2) **who voluntarily and without reasonable expectation of compensation or reward provides the services described in that subsection is not liable for damages that result from the person's negligence in acting or failing to act while providing the services, unless it is established that the damages**

**were caused by the gross negligence of the person.** 2001, c. 2, s. 2 (1).

**Persons covered** (2) Subsection (1) applies to,

(a) a health care professional who provides emergency health care services or first aid assistance to a person who is ill, injured or unconscious as a result of an accident or other emergency, if the health care professional does not provide the services or assistance at a hospital or other place having appropriate health care facilities and equipment for that purpose; and

(b) **an individual, other than a health care professional described in clause (a), who provides emergency first aid assistance to a person who is ill, injured or unconscious as a result of an accident or other emer-**

**gency, if the individual provides the assistance at the immediate scene of the accident or emergency. 2001, c. 2, s. 2 (2).**

### **Reimbursement of expenses**

(3) Reasonable reimbursement that a person receives for expenses that the person reasonably incurs in providing the services described in subsection (2) shall be deemed not to be compensation or reward for the purpose of subsection (1). 2001, c. 2, s. 2 (3).

**“Gross negligence”** is defined as conscious and voluntary disregard of the need to use reasonable care, which is likely to cause foreseeable grave injury or harm to persons, property, or both.

## **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 Petawawa located at Address: 1913 Petawawa Blvd, Pembroke ON K8A 7H5. You may contact them at 613-735-0188.

**When to call the OPP.** [\(Please see related article on page 6\)](#)



## **AMBULANCE**

The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service will respond to all 911 calls within our area. The County service works within an Ontario wide network 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 based on their current location and not simply their normal jurisdiction.

Because of our sparse population and expanse along highway 17, it may take some time before a dispatched team reaches 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. Your 911 property sign/number is a part of this life-line. Information provided when installing 911 numbers is broadcast to first responders to help them find you. Please do not move these signs or municipal road signs to ensure ease of emergency services personnel locating you.



## **FIRE**

Fire services within the municipality are provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) through a Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement (MFFMA) during the ministry fire season only—April 1 to and including October 31, annually. The municipality does not have fire suppression services for structures of any type—simply an agreement for grass, brush and forest fires with the MNRF.

As a component of that agreement the municipality provides public education. MNRF publications and links

to their sites may be accessed through the municipal Fire page located at <http://www.townshipsofheadclaramaria.ca/departments/fire-prevention-safety/>.

FireSmart information is located on our website and through the MNRF sites. A FireSmart property review is located in this Newsletter on [pages 14-15](#).

Under our agreement, Head, Clara & Maria is responsible to control open air burning. The issuance of a fire permit is not specific permission by the municipality to burn but instead evi-



## YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIRES YOU LIGHT

From April through October, people using outdoor fires must follow strict guidelines under the Forest Fires Prevention Act of Ontario to ensure their fires are properly managed.

Anyone who starts a fire outdoors must take all necessary steps to tend the fire, keep it under control, and make sure the fire is out before leaving the site. A person failing to burn safely could be fined and held responsible for the cost of putting out the fire. People living in municipalities should check with local fire officials for bylaws on outdoor fires.

MNRF Forest Fires WebSite—Updated: May 12, 2017, Published: June 15, 2016

dence of our satisfaction and your promise to comply. It is a process used to ensure that you understand the conditions and obligations which go along with being granted the privilege by the province to burn within our community. Please see [page 8](#) for details about the new fire permit process.

## 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 which they have mapped according to placement of signs by municipal personnel. Moving 911 signs or road signs may result in first responders having difficulty locating your property.

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 \$65 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 signage clear of vegetation, snow or other obstructions. 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 or the corresponding road name sign.** If it is de-



terminated 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.

## SO WHEN THERE IS AN EMERGENCY, WHO WILL RESPOND?

For house/structure fires — no one officially, but likely your neighbours;

For forest fires — the MNR during Fire Season—April 1—October 31 annually; your neighbours;

Auto Accident — the OPP, the Renfrew County Paramedic Service and perhaps a Good Samaritan.

## KNOW WHO TO CALL

Know what assistance is available to you and plan accordingly. We are isolated and can not always 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.

### Ontario Provincial Police—Upper Ottawa Valley Detachment

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

Additional information about the Ontario Provincial Police may be found at [www.opp.ca](http://www.opp.ca).

#### Contact Police

For emergency assistance, DIAL 911

You can also call 1-888-310-1122

24 hour toll free, anywhere in Ontario



**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, etc.;

The OPP polices our municipality according to the Field and Traffic Services Command which 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.

There is no 911 service for fire in our municipality. During fire season (April 1 to October 31) call the MNR at 310 3473 or (310 FIRE). 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.



**USE THESE NUMBERS INSTEAD:**

CRIMESTOPPERS	1-800-222-TIPS (8477)
DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE	4-1-1
<b>FIRE</b>	310-3473 (310-FIRE)
or	705-564-0289
HYDRO	1-800-434-1235 - To Report a Hydro Outage
MTO ROAD INFORMATION	1-800-268-4686
ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE	1-888-310-1122 - O.P.P. 24 hr toll-free
ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE	1-888-310-1133 - O.P.P., TDD/TTY telephone for the deaf

There are neighbours who have equipment available within the community who will come out to help prevent fire from spreading but for many reasons this is outside the control of the municipality. Get to know your neighbours, perhaps share their numbers so that you can count on them to help when its needed. Discuss with them what you might do if misfortune strikes as it so recently did in Mackey. What equipment is near you? Who can you call?

**FIRE PROTECTION AND A MUNICIPALITY'S RESPONSIBILITY**

In 1997, *The Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)* was passed and 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 municipalities 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.

HCM does not have a fire department under the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office and as such, provide services through an appointee of that office. Currently, both Melinda Reith and Bob Labre are appointees to the Fire Marshall responsible for fire prevention information and public education. Stop by the office or visit our webpage for public information and educational materials.

Every year at the Library Board's yard sale event Head, Clara & Maria staff host an emergency management and fire prevention and safety display at the Community Centre in Stonecliffe.

As a component of our public education and promotion, the municipality holds a draw for emergency and safety products “FREE” for municipal residents. Due to expected crowds during HCMHomecoming2017 we are hosting our annual display and draw at Homecoming at Old Mackey Park. Bob Labre, our Community Fire Safety Officer, will be on hand at the Library Board’s June Jazaar to be held Saturday, June 3, 2017

For our residents and property owners – complete the attached ballot and drop it off at the municipal office before July 1, bring it to the June or July event or come out and fill one out on the spot. Talk to Bob about your fire safety (or building) concerns and enter for your chance to win. This year’s prizes will include: an emergency kit, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, CO detectors and first aid kits.

HCM, making our community a safe place to live and work. (See ballot on back page.)

## MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY / MUNICIPAL FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

### WHAT HEAD, CLARA & MARIA DOES HAVE

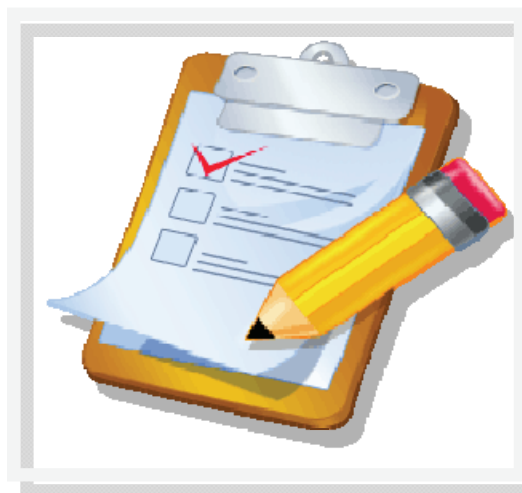
After careful consideration of all the issues and consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources (at the time) and the Office of the Fire Marshal, the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria entered into a Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Pursuant to the *Forest Fires Prevention Act (FFPA)* each municipality is responsible to extinguish grass, brush, and forest fires within its limits. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is also responsible for these activities on Crown lands. Under our agreement with the MNRF we are responsible to:

- ♦ develop a fire prevention and education plan and program based on the principles of the Ministry’s FireSmart program;
- ♦ control open air burning in a coordinated fashion consistent with the ministry guidelines potentially through by-laws and a fire permit system;
- ♦ be responsible for the management and enforcement of any fire permits system.

The municipality meets these requirements annually.

### MUNICIPAL FIRE PERMITS



During fire season—April 1 to October 31, in Head, Clara & Maria, a municipal fire permit is required before any burning of yard waste can take place. No permit is required for small fires used for food, warmth or entertainment (roasting marshmallows/hot dogs with the family and friends). Please contact the municipal office for more information and to obtain a permit. The price is minimal, at \$5 simply to offset administrative costs—but **the conditions must be complied with.**

Failure to burn safely or to obtain a permit where one is needed could result in the individual being fined and held responsible for all costs incurred should their fire get away from them up to and including property damage.

## NEW FIRE PERMIT SYSTEM—2016

New last year is our system which formalizes the processes which have evolved over the past number of years. The purpose of issuing a fire permit is to ensure that the individual understands the seriousness of consequences of not burning in a safe manner and understands what is required to burn safely and responsibly. Instead of having people come into the office each time they wish to burn, we have implemented a seasonal permit system. The individual then only has to come into the office once per season to sign off on the permit, acknowledging the requirements, conditions and consequences. After that, they agree to notify the municipality, 24/7 either through email or by leaving a voice mail on the office phone system, when they plan to burn. This provides the required information to office staff which may be shared with the MNRF as required and simplifies the process in our sparse municipality for ratepayers.

You will be provided with a copy of the agreement which you are required to keep for the season, the original to be kept by the municipality. If you are planning to burn, please drop by the office to obtain your permit.

### MNRF RULES FOR OUTDOOR FIRES

(Adapted from the MNRF website)

In Ontario, outdoor fires are regulated under the *Forest Fires Prevention Act*. If you cause a forest fire, you could be held responsible for the costs of putting out the fire and for any property damage in addition to any fine that accompanies a charge.

By law, the only material that can be burnt without a fire permit (in certain jurisdictions) is grass, wood, brush and wood by-products. **In HCM a permit is required.**

You must be able to follow all the rules outlined below **and**:

- conditions allow it to burn safely until extinguished;
- you take all necessary steps to tend, control and extinguish the fire;
- you are not having an open fire in a restricted fire zone.

### RULES TO BURN WOOD, BRUSH AND LEAVES

For safe burning you must:

- ignite the fire no sooner than 2 hours before sunset and extinguish it no later than 2 hours after sunrise;
- burn only a single pile at any one time;
- ensure the pile is less than 2 metres in diameter and less than 2 metres high;
- keep the fire at least 2 metres from any flammable materials;
- have tools or water adequate to contain the fire at the fire site;
- ensure a responsible person tends the fire until it is extinguished.

## To REPORT a Forest Fire or

a fire in a Restricted Fire Zone in

Ontario please call



# 310-FIRE—310-3473



## **RULES TO BURN GRASS OR LEAF LITTER**

You require a fire permit to burn areas of grass or leaf litter on land you lawfully occupy so long as you:

- ignite the fire no sooner than 2 hours before sunset and extinguish it no later than 2 hours after sunrise;
- keep the total area to be burned under one hectare;
- ensure the flaming edge of the fire does not exceed 30 metres in length;
- have tools, water and personnel adequate to contain the fire at the fire site;
- ensure a responsible person tends the fire until it is extinguished.

If your local municipality has more stringent open burning by-laws than those described on the MNRF site, you must also follow those rules.

## **SAFE BURNING TIPS**

The Municipal Burn Permit is based on the following safe burning tips from the MNRF. Consider chipping or composting brush or grass before burning. If you must burn, make sure you know the rules and follow these tips to ensure you burn grass and woody debris safely.

### **Choose a safe time**

- burn during the coolest, dampest and calmest time of the day: 2 hours before sunset, or later
- a fire is more likely to get out of control on a hot, dry or windy day
- put fires out two hours after sunrise, or earlier.

### **Keep your fire small**

- small fires can be controlled by 1 person using hand tools and water
- keep your pile of wood, brush, or wood by-products to be burned less than 2 metres in diameter and less than 2 metres high
- an area of grass or leaves can be burned if the area is less than one hectare (2.5 acres) and the length of the flaming edge is kept to less than 30 metres (100 feet)

### **Choose a safe site**

- keep burning piles at least 2 metres from other flammable material so the fire doesn't escape by running along the ground away from the pile or burn area
- if burning an area of grass or leaves, make sure the area is surrounded by a fire-proof boundary, such as a road, wet ditch or ploughed ground

### **Stay with your fire**

- if you start a fire outdoors, you must tend the fire, keep it under control, and extinguish it before leaving the site
- a responsible person must be present to tend the fire at all times, even if it is contained in an incinerator
- keep adequate tools and water on hand to control the fire if it begins to spread

### **WHAT WE DO HAVE!**

A MUNICIPAL heli-pad and agreement with ORNGE Air to assist with emergency air-lift if required.

A smoke alarm exchange program.

CO detectors for sale in the municipal office.

Public education and information.

An annual draw for fire and emergency safety equipment.

Neighbour to neighbour assessment after emergency events.

### USING AN INCINERATOR

You **don't need a fire permit** to burn piled wood, brush, leaves or wood by-products in an incinerator if you :

- ensure the incinerator is an enclosed device constructed entirely of non-combustible material;
- cover the incinerator with a screen having a mesh size of not more than 5 millimetres;
- keep the incinerator at least 5 metres from any forest area;
- keep the incinerator at least 2 metres from any flammable material;
- ensure a responsible person monitors the fire until it is extinguished.

### MUNICIPAL FIRE BANS and MNRF RESTRICTED FIRE ZONES

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, Library and Municipal Office, Yates General Store and Lacroix Park.

Radio public service announcements may also be used and the municipal website will be updated. Those who subscribe to the community email message system from the municipality will receive email notification.

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, municipally designated campgrounds and municipally designated private property.

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.

In the event of a **Ministry Restricted Fire Zone**, highly visible green and orange Restricted Fire Zone signs are placed: along roadways, at popular camping spots, in sport lodges, in gas stations and stores in the affected area.

Large advertisements also appear in local newspapers, and announcements are made on radio and television stations in the area. These announcements may indicate which areas are restricted by referring to the zone number.

## PUT THE FIRE OUT!

**If you start a fire, you are responsible for putting it out. Since coals can smolder for hours and hot embers and sparks can be blown by the wind dispose of used charcoal or ashes in a pit; drown hot coals thoroughly, stir them and drown them again until cold.**



## WHEN A RESTRICTION IS IN PLACE

There are 2 reasons why a Restricted Fire Zone is in effect:

- when outdoor conditions are extremely dry
- the number of fires occurring has stretched firefighting resources to capacity.

A Restricted Fire Zone is a temporary measure for extreme situations. As soon as outdoor conditions permit, the restrictions are lifted.

## 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 by the MNR. 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 LAW

By law, you **cannot** have an outdoor fire in a Restricted Fire Zone. This includes all grass and debris burning and campfires, even when using an outdoor fire gate, fire place or fire pit.

If you need heat for cooking and warmth, and you're in a Restricted Fire Zone, you can only use certain equipment (e.g., portable gas or propane stove) if you follow certain rules.

**Exceptions**—There are exemptions to the ban on outdoor fires in a Restricted Fire Zone. If strict criteria are met, campfires and charcoal barbecues may be allowed in organized camp grounds, parks and designated private property within Head, Clara & Maria.

**Penalties**—Once a Restricted Fire Zone is declared, it is illegal to set a fire for any purpose within the affected area.

Failure to comply could result in:

- a fine up to \$1,000
- 3 months in jail
- financial responsibility for any costs incurred in fighting a forest fire.



## 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**?

Bring in your 5 year old or older smoke alarm and we will replace it with a new one.



**WE ALSO HAVE CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS AVAILABLE AT A REDUCED RATE OF \$33.35.**

## CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS: IT'S THE LAW

Since 2014, It is the law in Ontario to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home if you have a fuel-burning appliance or an attached garage.

**"If your home has a fuel-burning appliance, an attached garage or carport, you must have a working CO alarm adjacent to each sleeping area of the home,"** says Bob Labre Community Fire Safety and Prevention Officer. "For added protection, install a carbon monoxide alarm on every storey of the home according to manufacturer's instructions." Fuel-burning appliances can include furnaces, hot water heaters, gas or wood fireplaces, portable fuel-burning heaters and generators, barbeques, stoves and vehicles.

Single-family homeowners and owners of residential buildings that contain no more than six suites have until April 15, 2015 to comply with the law. The law will be enforced by our Community Fire Safety Officer. Failure to comply with the CO alarm requirements could result in a fine or worse, death.

**For more information, contact:**

*Bob Labre, Community Fire Safety and Prevention Officer – 613-586-2526*

From The Government of Canada Emergency Planning website...

## Wildfire facts

Since 1990, "wildland fires" across Canada have consumed an average of 2.5 million hectares a year. These fires occur in forests, shrub lands and grasslands. Some are uncontrolled wildfires started by lightning or human carelessness. A small number are prescribed fires set by authorized forest managers mimic natural fire processes that renew and maintain healthy ecosystems.

- Approximately 8,000 wildfires occur each year in Canada.
- The average area burned in Canada is 2.5 million ha/year.
- Fires caused by lightning represent 45% of all fires, but because they occur in remote locations and often in clusters, they represent 81% of total area burned.

Human-caused fires represent 55% of all fires. They occur in more populated areas and are usually reported and extinguished quickly.

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



to



# Before a wildfire

## How to prepare for a wildfire

If your community is surrounded by brush, grassland or forest, follow these instructions to prepare your home and family for potential wildfires.

- Prepare an emergency kit.
- Check for, and remove, fire hazards in and around your home, such as dried out branches, leaves and debris.
- Keep a good sprinkler in an accessible location.
- Learn fire safety techniques and teach them to members of your family.
- Have fire drills with your family on a regular basis.
- Maintain first-aid supplies to treat the injured until help arrives.
- Have an escape plan so that all members of the family know how to get out of the house quickly and safely.
- Have a emergency plan so family members can contact each other in case they are separated during an evacuation.
- Make sure all family members are familiar with the technique of "STOP, DROP, AND ROLL" in case of clothes catching on fire.
- Make sure every floor and all sleeping areas have smoke detectors.
- Consult with your local fire department or Community Fire Safety Officer about making your home fire-resistant.
- If you are on a farm/ranch, sheltering livestock may be the wrong thing to do because a wildfire could trap animals inside, causing them to burn alive. Leaving animals unsheltered is preferable, or if time and personal safety permits, evacuation away from the danger zone should be considered.



## If you see a wildfire approaching your home

If you see a fire approaching your home or community, report it immediately by dialing 310-Fire (310-3473) and the municipal office at 613-586-2526 or other local emergency number. If it is safe, and there is time before the fire arrives, you should take the following action:

- Close all windows and doors in the house.
- Cover vents, windows, and other openings of the house with duct tape and/or precut pieces of plywood.
- Park your car, positioned forward out of the driveway. Keep car windows closed and have your valuables already packed in your car.
- Turn off propane or natural gas. Move any propane barbeques into the open, away from structures.
- Turn on the lights in the house, porch, garage and yard. Inside the house, move combustible materials such as light curtains and furniture away from the windows.
- Place a ladder to the roof in the front of the house.
- Put lawn sprinklers on the roof of the house and turn on the water.
- Move all combustibles away from the house, including firewood and lawn furniture.
- Evacuate your family and pets to a safe location.

Stay tuned to your local radio station for up-to-date information on the fire and possible road closures.

# During a wildfire

- Monitor local radio stations.
- Be prepared to evacuate at any time. If told to evacuate, do so.
- Keep all doors and windows closed in your home.
- Remove flammable drapes, curtains, awnings or other window coverings.
- Keep lights on to aid visibility in case smoke fills the house.

If sufficient water is available, turn sprinklers on to wet the roof and any water-proof valuables.

From Ontario.ca... **Safe campfires** Follow these easy steps to build a safe campfire.

## Choose a site

- pick a site close to a water source and sheltered from the wind
- build your fire on a rock surface or bare dirt
- build your fire at least three metres away from logs, stumps, trees and overhanging branches
- build your fire 15 metres away from buildings or tents

## Prepare the site

- clear a space (about two metres wide) for the fire
- remove pine needles, grass, leaves and twigs
- scrape the area right down to the soil
- ensure you have a pail of water and a shovel to control the fire

## Build your campfire

- keep your fire small — it shouldn't be bigger than one metre high and one metre wide
- small fires are safer, easier to control, and easier to put out
- a small fire will also keep cooking tools from blackening and let you get close enough to cook



## Stay nearby

- never leave a campfire unattended
- if you start a campfire, you are responsible for tending it, ensuring it is kept under control, and putting it out

## Put the fire out

Use the following steps to put your fire out.

- pour lots of water on the campfire
- stir the ashes with a stick
- pour more water over top of it
- Repeat these three steps until:
  - the ashes don't hiss
  - everything looks wet
  - no more smoke comes from the ashes.



## The Rural Reality

**BE FireSmart.**



**Take the FireSmart  
Home Assessment Test**

Wildfires can spread at an astonishing rate – up to 15 kilometres an hour under the right conditions.

Ontario averages 1,350 wildfires each year, consuming over 125,000 hectares of land annually. In some cases, families have been evacuated from their communities and homes or cottages have been destroyed.

If you live in a forested or grassy area called the wildland urban interface, you may have to contend with the threat of a wildland fire. Of course the best protection against personal injury or damage to property is preventing wildfires. But there are things you can do to reduce the chances of losing your home when a wildfire occurs.

### FireSmart Your Property

#### Manage the vegetation around your home

- Reduce shrubs, evergreen trees, dead material within 10 metres of your buildings
- Thin and prune trees within 10 to 30 metres
- Ensure power lines are clear of tree limbs
- Plant fire resistant plants

#### Use FireSmart building materials

- Brick, stucco, metal siding, metal roofing or asphalt shingles should be used on new construction or remodelling projects
- Enclose decks, porches and vents

#### Burn carefully

- Use a proper burn barrel with screened cover
- Have safe campfires
- Ensure chimneys are screened
- Store firewood away from buildings

#### FireSmart tools – Be prepared

- Have shovels, rakes, garden hose and sprinklers on hand
- Ladders to access roof
- Have a fire plan

Visit [Ontario.ca/fireprevention](http://Ontario.ca/fireprevention) for contact information or a copy of the *FireSmart Homeowner Manual*.

**For a FireSmart Home Assessment—Visit our website or come out to see Bob on June 3, 2017 at the Community Centre in Stonecliffe.**



## A well thought out FireSmart protection plan



- A** Prune tree branches to a height of 1 or 2 metres
- B** Store fire wood well away from the house
- C** Remove evergreen trees within 10 metres of house
- D** Trees thinned (crowns don't touch) for at least 30 metres from the house
- E** Branches are clear of power lines (if possible bury power service)
- F** Remove brush, mow and water lawn
- G** Your name and lot number clearly visible for quick identification
- H** Driveway is wide enough to accommodate emergency vehicles
- I** Provide additional emergency exit
- J** Pond or cistern with emergency water supply
- K** A FireSmart ash pit or burning barrel
- L** Driveway clear of trees to a distance of at least 3 or 4 metres
- M** Chimney installed to code complete with spark arrestor screens
- N** All soffit vents and gutters should be screened
- O** Porches and balconies screened, crawl spaces enclosed
- P** Position propane tank with valve pointing away from house
- Q** Fire resistant exterior roof and walls
- R** Protective drapes and or shutters on windows to protect interior from radiant heat

It's your home. You and your neighbours can reduce the threat to your property from wildfire by learning about FireSmart and following the recommended best practices.

For more information about protecting your home and community from wildfire, contact your local fire department or Ministry of Natural Resources, Fire Management office.

### Emergency Phone Numbers

Find and copy down the emergency numbers for your area and keep them in a visible area close to your telephone.

Fire Department: 310-FIRE—310-3473

Police: 911—613-735-0188

Municipal Office: 613-586-2526



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### To report a wildfire call:

Northwestern Ontario

Northeastern Ontario

**310 FIRE (3473)**

Central and Southern Ontario:

Call 911 or your local municipal fire service

**Forest Fire— call—310-3473**



## TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD CLARA & MARIA

15 Township Hall Road  
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Officer 613-401-6955

Mel Theil—Librarian 613-586-1950  
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## FREE DRAW FOR HCM RESIDENTS and PROPERTY OWNERS!

### FIRE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

QUALIFYING ADDRESS: (Within Head, Clara & Maria)

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop ballot off at the  
office before June 28,  
2017 to qualify. Or  
drop into the ballot  
box at Homecoming.

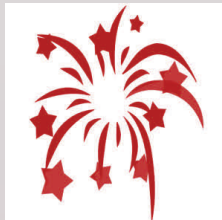


## Power Outages and You!

**Reminder Raj**, at Yates General Store has installed a generator which will allow him to remain open and serve gas during power outages! Great News. Thank you Raj for thinking about the safety of our community!



Planning to use fireworks this summer? Under the *Forest Fires Prevention Act (FFPA)*, any person who sets off fireworks is responsible to ensure any hot residue from the discharge of fireworks is extinguished.



That means that if a fire results from your fire works, you may be financially responsible. Make sure conditions will allow safe use of fireworks before you light them.

### Contact Council

#### Mayor Jim Gibson

home - 613-586-2761

hcmjimg@gmail.com

#### Calvin Chartrand

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chartrandc@hotmail.com

#### Dave Foote

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