

# FIRE & SAFETY NEWSLETTER

*The United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria*



April 2016

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## Townships On-line

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

- our community Emergency Plan;
- Emergency planning information;
- 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. Recently there has been much ado about the lack of auto-extrication services along a section of Highway 17 in our municipality.

The fact is, at this time, HCM Council does not have the ability to provide this service. Council made a joint decision to dissolve the North Renfrew Emergency Response Unit (NRERU) agreement, based partly on the belief that Head, Clara & Maria residents should not have to fund a provincial service through its tax base. Some Council members feel that providing auto-extrication is a moral obligation. The reality is that the decision was made after public consultation, and was a unanimous decision of Council. Further, the agreement to dissolve the NRERU was a mutual decision of all three communities; with each Council having its own valid reasons.

No municipality has a responsibility to have a fire department. If a municipality has a fire department it is up to that Council to determine the services the department provides.

According to the Fire Marshal's Office, the obligation to provide auto-extrication is no different than the obligation to provide water rescue for communities along lakes and rivers—some do, others do not.

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.

Head, Clara & Maria Council and staff have completed its due diligence. We have



also contacted many organizations to request assistance for the provision of auto-extrication services. We have attempted to determine if a private provider was available to contract. We have reached out to the Towns of Laurentian Hills, Mattawa, Papineau Cameron, and Petawawa, the County of Renfrew, Garrison Petawawa, the province of Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police and the County Emergency Services. (The Town of Deep River has been advised by the Fire Marshal's office that they are no longer in a position to assist along Highway 17.)

We have not received a positive response for a solution from any of these sources to date, as many current fire departments face similar challenges as we did back in 2008; they do not have the number of staff or volunteers able to respond within their own jurisdictions let alone service areas some distance away. **The discussion is not over.**

**Data Collected by the OPP for the years 2010 to and including 2015 (for the entire municipality) show calls involving motor vehicle collisions resulting in personal injury average 2.2/year.**

2010-4	2011-1	2012-3	2013-2	2014-0	2015-1
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## HISTORY

Head, Clara & Maria has never had a full fire department trained and outfitted to engage structure fires. It did have a volunteer Wildfire service 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. How can any municipality defend the use of taxpayers dollars for the provision a service which is called out less than 3 times per year?

**Council would like your help in answering that question.** At the meeting of April 8, 2016, Council authorized staff to conduct a stakeholder survey.

Please take a minute and complete the survey on the back page of this Newsletter and return it to the municipal office at your earliest convenience. Alternately you can cut and paste it into your email and send it back to us that way. Council would like to make its decisions representative of the majority of rate-payers and not due to public pressure from some who are not even members of our community. **Council will be hosting a public meeting to provide additional information and input in the near future. Watch for signs and plan to come out and have your say.**



## 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 emergency, 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.

Through ongoing discussions with the province local municipalities are attempting to reduce the costs we pay for this service. Mayor Gibson has been working with fellow mayors through the Rural Mayor's Forum of Eastern Ontario to identify and bring to the attention of the province some irregularities with the current billing formula which is simply not accurate and re-

sults in costs to our municipality not based on realistic property counts or values.

**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 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 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 evidence of our satisfaction and your acknowledgement of compliance. 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 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.

## 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

### 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.  
1-800-434-1235 - To Report a Hydro Outage  
4-1-1 - Directory Assistance  
1-888-310-1133 - O.P.P., TDD/TTY telephone for the deaf  
310-3473 (**310-FIRE**) - Report a Forest Fire  
or 705-564-0289



### “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 MNRF at 310 3473 or (310 FIRE) or 705-564-0289. 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.

There are neighbours who have equipment available who will come out to help; for many reasons this is outside the control of the municipality.

## 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

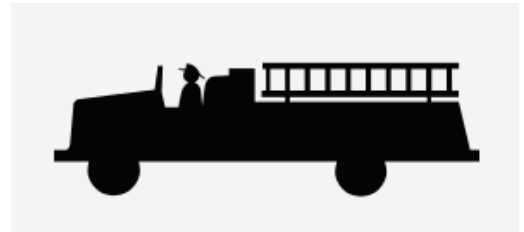
deliver fire prevention and public education either through a fire department or failing to have one, through an appointee of the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office.

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 May or June 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 – this year to be held on June 4th. Bob Labre, our Community Fire Safety Officer, will be on hand with representatives from Haven Fire Safety Suppression to explain and promote a new product. It looks like a smoke detector but acts like a heat-activated fire extinguisher. View it at work at <http://www.havenfiresafety.com/>. Stop by and talk to Bob about this innovative product; easy to install and easy to use.

For our residents and property owners – complete the attached ballot and drop it off at the municipal office before June 3, bring it to the June 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: a rope ladder, a car emergency kit, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, CO detectors and first aid kits. HCM, making our community a safe place to live and work. Watch your mail box for additional fire, health and safety information coming soon. (See ballot on back page.)



## HISTORY

As a review for those who were here and information to newcomers who wonder why the volunteer service was ever dissolved, the following were some of Council's considerations. They are still valid today.

- The finances, manpower, equipment or experience required to properly equip a fire department under the Fire Marshall's Office regulations.
- Costs of one appropriate truck would be in excess of \$250,000 and would require at least one auxiliary vehicle. Annual maintenance, eventual replacement.
- Protective clothing for fire-fighters, which need to be replaced frequently (3-5 years), costs \$3,000 to \$3,500 per volunteer. People on call to adequately staff a department.
- Costs of continued training, monitoring, policy development etc. to determine annual operating costs.
- The distances between homes and hamlets and the number of times the service is actually required each year.



## WHAT ABOUT MY INSURANCE COSTS?

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

## **MNRF / 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.

### **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 your permit. The price will be minimal, simply to offset 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 for 2016 is a 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. (Council will determine cost at their meeting of May 13, 2016.)





## **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.

## **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

### **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.

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



### 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.

### **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.

## 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.

### 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 fire-fighting 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 MNRF. 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/>)

Restricted  
Fire Zone

Zone de  
restriction  
des feux



**WHO CAUSES FIRES IN ONTARIO?** Among forest fires caused by people, an average of over 200 fires each year are caused by rural residents.



**To REPORT a Forest Fire or a fire in a Restricted Fire Zone in Ontario please call**

**310-FIRE—310-3473**

**OR 705-564-0289**

**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 barbeques 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 – 613-586-1950 or 613-586-2526*

**CHECK YOUR ALARMS AND  
CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!**

**IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!**





## 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 4 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.

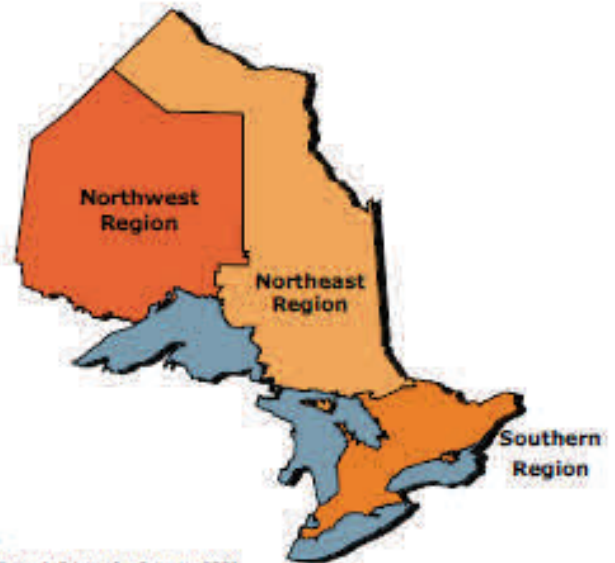
For more information about protecting your home and community from wildfire, contact your local fire department or Ministry of Natural Resources, Fire Management office.

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

Police: \_\_\_\_\_



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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



TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD CLARA & MARIA

Contact us ...

15 Township Hall Road  
Stonecliffe, Ontario, K0J 2K0

Melinda, Noella, Bill, Wilfred (Terry),  
Gayle, Crystal  
P: 613-586-2526 Fax: 613-586-2596

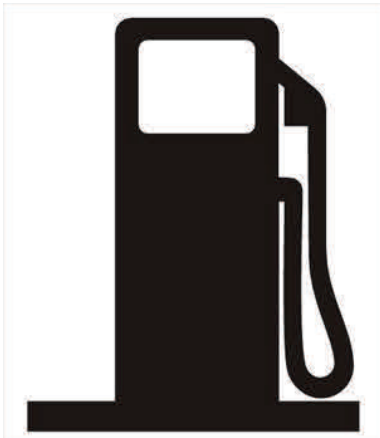
hmcclerkmreith@gmail.com (Melinda)  
hcmtreasurerslebreton@gmail.com (Noella)  
hcmadmigwatters@gmail.com (Gayle)  
hcminfocfischer@gmail.com (Crystal)  
hcmcho@gmail.com (Bob - not checked daily)  
Bob—CBO/Community Fire Safety Officer  
613-586-1950 or 613-401-6955

www.townshipsofheadclaramaria.ca



Power Outages and You

**NEW \*Raj, at YGS has informed us that he has purchased a generator for the store 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!**



**AUTO-EXTRICATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Council and staff have **not**, as yet, been successful in locating anyone able to provide auto-extrication services at any cost. Council wants to know what you think?

Do you feel that HCM should be responsible for providing auto-extrication services throughout the municipality along Highway 17 even though it is not a legislated service?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**At what cost?**

I am comfortable with annual costs for auto-extrication of up to \$50,000 knowing that this will result in an increase to the residential tax rate of approximately 10.6%.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I am comfortable with annual costs for auto-extrication of up to \$100,000 knowing that this will result in an increase to the residential tax rate of approximately 21%.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I am comfortable with annual costs for auto-extrication of up to \$200,000 knowing that this will result in an increase to the residential tax rate of approximately 42%.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I am comfortable with annual costs for auto-extrication of up to \$250,000 knowing that this will result in an increase to the residential tax rate of approximately 52.6%.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Costs above \$250,000 are prohibitive.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\* ✂

**FREE DRAW FOR HCM RESIDENTS/RATEPAYERS!**

**FIRE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT!**

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

QUALIFYING ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

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