

Emergency Measures Committee Report – Gail Ling, Chair

Miltonvale Park Community Council now has an EMO Committee. I am the Chair. Hal Parker and Walter Carver are the other committee members.

While attending the Basic Emergency Management Course put on by the province, I learned that, as a community council, we are responsible if an emergency happens in our area. We are liable if we do not have an emergency plan in place. With this information, Council felt it was very important to put a plan in place as soon as possible. The committee is now working to update the 2005 plan and have it approved.

The first reading of the EMO bylaw to establish and maintain a Municipal Emergency Measures Organization will take place at the March 23, 2010 Council meeting. The second reading and adoption of this bylaw is planned for the April Council Meeting. This bylaw will then be registered with the Province.

It is the aim of the EMO committee that all Councillors will attend the Basic Emergency Management (BEM) Course. To date, three of the Councillors, as well as the administrator, have completed the BEM Course.

The Province has assessed each area and determined the greatest risks faced by each municipality. Most likely to happen in Miltonvale Park are storms (ice, winter and/or high winds), power outages, chemical spills or bus accidents, as our roads are highly travelled with trucks carrying dangerous chemicals and bus tours. The two lagoons in the Sleepy Hollow area could also pose an environmental danger.

Our emergency plan is now being reviewed and updated. Former Councillor Gary Robbins originally developed the plan in 2005, and it requires significant updating to make the information current. We record where heavy equipment can be acquired, where generators are located, where there may be vulnerable people at risk, and which residents may have expertise in various fields and could assist in the event of an emergency.

Our committee is looking forward to having all the information in place, so we will be ready, if ever needed. This will put our community in a position where we will be able to call upon the province and the federal government if needed, because we will have a plan in place. We will also continue to promote emergency preparedness to residents through the website and newsletters.

Please feel free to contact Council office or any of the EMO Committee members with information or questions regarding the community's EMO plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Ling