



ESS CONNECTIONS

National Municipal ESS Network (NMESSN)

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Largest Emergency Exercise Ever Conducted in Durham Region

Pauline Hopley, ESS Coordinator, Regional Municipality of Durham

On October 29, 2009 Durham Region and its eight local area municipalities carried out a communications simulation exercise to practice and evaluate their response capabilities. This was the largest emergency exercise ever conducted in the Region, with more than 250 staff participating.

“Operation Weather Woes” was based on a simulated severe weather event that swept through Durham. Regional and municipal emergency operations centres (EOCs) were staffed and fully operational. The new Regional Traffic Control Centre was tested by Durham Regional Police along with the Works Department.

At the same time, an Evacuation Centre exercise was conducted by the Social Services Department at the Ajax Community Centre.

The Town of Ajax staff (representing Recreation Services, Communications and By-Law Services) Regional staff from the Health Department, Durham Region Transit, Emergency Medical Services and the Durham Regional Police Service participated along with community partners, including the Canadian Red Cross, Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team (OVERT), St. John Ambulance and Salvation Army in providing support to operations within the evacuation

centre. More than 100 inputs were developed, and evacuees included Regional staff, community volunteers, Ajax High School students and 115 pre-school children from five area child care centres.

The facility itself proved to be very suitable as an evacuation centre and communications capability within the centre was excellent. These factors along with the outstanding support from our partners and participants helped to make this exercise a huge success.



This issue includes:

- 2010 Membership Form
- NMESSN Executive Member Profiles

Website:

Continue to check in with our website, located at: www.nmessn.ca for resource sharing documents, conference announcements, an online forum and much more.

2010 NMESSN Executive Profiles



Steve LaRochelle

Co-Chair

Steve has been a Social Planning Associate and Lead Planner for Emergency Social Services for the Region of Waterloo Social Services since April 2002. He is originally from the Eastern Townships, Quebec and has lived in Fredericton,

New Brunswick where he obtained his Bachelors of Social Work (1993) and finally settled in Southern Ontario once he completed his Masters of Social Work.

Steve has also, for the past two years, been the Co-Chair of the National Municipal Emergency Social Services Network (NMESSN) which looks at municipal aspects of Emergency Social Services and where that fits into the larger National picture. Steve recently obtained the Certified

Emergency Manager (CEM®) designation from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM).

As of January 2010, Steve has taken on the lead role in the Emergency Measures Office with the Region of Waterloo as the Coordinator of Emergency Plans and Training for a one year secondment. He currently resides in Kitchener, Ontario with his wife and three children.



Elaine Smyer

Co-Chair

Elaine is the Manager for Emergency Planning responsible for Mass Care for the City of Toronto. As part Toronto's Emergency Plan, Mass Care addresses the urgent needs of food, shelter, clothing, registration and personal services to evacuees and their pets in times of large

scale disasters and public emergencies. She has been with the city for 26 years and involved in the city's emergency planning and management program for 18 years.

Elaine received training at the Emergency Preparedness College in Arnprior Ontario. Elaine is responsible for managing the City's Extreme Cold Weather Alert program in the winter and, in partnership with Toronto Public Health, manages the Cooling Centres during Extreme Heat Alerts in the Sum-

mer. She has been involved with many emergencies such as the opening of a 400 bed reception/evacuation centre during 911, SARS 1&2, First Nations communities' evacuations and the Canadian - Lebanese Repatriation response. Recently, Elaine was responsible for the operations of the evacuation centres set up for both the Second hydro vault explosion and the Murray St. propane explosion. Elaine is the co-chair of the National Municipal Emergency Social Service Network.



Sara Walsh

Academic Liaison

Sara, Deputy Emergency Coordinator with the Victoria Emergency Management Agency, has a BSc in Applied Disaster Emergency Studies from Brandon University. Originally from Owen Sound Ontario, Sara spent her transient university days living in various parts of Canada including Halifax, Ottawa,

Brandon, and Victoria. Sara worked with the Canadian Red Cross on an analysis of how Emergency Management organizations across Canada are connecting with at-risk populations, as well as contributed to several projects focusing on topics such as gender and disaster, and international federal emergency management legislation.

Sara is now a permanent resident in the very beautiful and earthquake prone City of Victoria. Within the City of Victoria, Sara is responsible for assisting with emergency planning and coordination, management of the Evacuee Assistance (ESS) program, promoting

emergency preparedness in the community through public talks and workshops, and has a keen interest in supporting the community based/non-profit sector with their emergency planning efforts.

In her position as Academic Liaison with the National Municipal Emergency Management Network, Sara hopes to be able to connect Municipal ESS practitioners with interested Emergency Management researchers and vice versa. For more information, please contact Sara at swalsh@victoria.ca.



Jodi DeNoble

Regional Rep: Central

Jodi is the Manager of Emergency Management / Commu-

nity Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Peterborough, ON. In her role, Jodi is responsible for coordinating the City's comprehensive emergency management program including the development, implementation, testing, training and education of emergency plans and

procedures, emergency social services and nuclear reception centre services. Jodi is a member of the Ontario Central Emergency Social Services Committee and the Peterborough Community Support Agencies for Emergency Planning Committee.

Executive Profiles Continued



Jackie Kloosterboer

Regional Rep: West

Jackie is a certified Emergency Planner with the City of Vancouver. With over 15

years of experience in emergency management, Jackie has seen first hand the importance of being prepared for emergencies and disasters.

As the Emergency Social Services Coordinator Jackie responds to emergency events to assist evacu-

ees displaced from their homes or apartments. Jackie is responsible for the City of Vancouver's Public Education Program (NEPP) and has developed and presents a series of workshops designed to help residents get prepared for emergencies or disasters.



Wendy Hayko

Secretary

Wendy worked for the Regional Municipality of York as an Emergency and Operational Contingency Planning Specialist for over two years. Her background is in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery from Human Resources and Information Technology perspectives for large private enterprises. Wendy has a certificate in Community Emergency Management

from Durham College and is currently enrolled in the Master of Arts, Disaster and Emergency Management course at Royal Roads University.

In her position at York Region, she focuses on Emergency Social Services (ESS) planning and Business Continuity planning for the Community and Health Services Department. When there is an emergency which requires ESS Wendy coordinate the response effort with our partners. York Region partners with the nine area municipalities making up York Region and the NGOs and CBOs operating in

those municipalities to deliver ESS. NMESSN is an important source of support and information which is accessed regularly. Wendy looks to NMESSN to provide recommendations on a wide variety of topics from partner recommendations and partnering arrangements to best practices and procedures for delivering specific components of ESS. NMESSN also provides a great support network where she can learn about the challenges delivering ESS in other locations and share advice on how York Region has solved the challenges we have faced.

Upcoming Conferences Across Canada

Conference	Location	Date	Website
Disaster Forum	Banff, AB	May 10-13, 2010	www.disasterforum.ca
4th Annual ESSA Conference	Kelowna, BC	May 29, 2010	www.essa.ca
Conference on Disaster Management	Halifax, NS	June 1-3, 2010	www.redcross.ca
World Conference on Disaster Management	Toronto, ON	June 6-9, 2010	www.wcdm.org
OMSSA Annual Conference	Collingwood, ON	June 6-9, 2010	www.omssa.com
Canadian Industrial Emergency Conference & Expo	Calgary, AB	September 19-25, 2010	www.industrialemergencyexpo.com
23rd Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference	Vancouver, BC	Nov 23, 24 & 25, 2010	www.epconference.ca

2010 National Municipal ESS Network Application

Purchase your NMESSN membership by filling out the form below and sending in with your payment (cheques should be made out to ESSA)

COMMUNITY:	
CONTACT PERSON:	
EMAIL:	
PHONE:	
ADDRESS:	
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED:	
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP	\$125 ANNUALLY
<i>Municipal ESS</i>	This membership entitles general members to participate on monthly conference calls including agendas and minutes, receipt of quarterly newsletters, and access to information-sharing website and resources.
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	\$100 ANNUALLY
<i>Emergency Response Agencies & other levels of Government</i>	This membership entitles associate members to participate in quarterly conference calls, receive quarterly newsletters, have an opportunity to speak to the network about their agency (via conference call), and access the information-sharing website and resources.
SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP	\$500 ANNUALLY
<i>Same as Associate Member- ship but includes the oppor- tunity to promote your organization/agency</i>	This membership entitles the sponsor member to the benefits included with the Associate level membership PLUS includes opportunities to promote their organization and/or agency through the distribution of their information & brochures at any in-person meetings and on the information-sharing website and resources.
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP	\$50 ANNUALLY
<i>Students studying Emer- gency Management & ESS</i>	This membership entitles the student member to full general membership benefits.



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