

KERA EXPRESS

February 12, 2014.

Greetings to our Kingscross Estates neighbours amidst this never ending and unforgettable winter. Welcome to KERA's Express Edition, providing a wrap-up of the ice storm, with a handy Survival Kit which can be printed for future reference, as well as an update and response to recent proposed by-laws. We urge non-members to contact Vanessa Braganza at vbraganza@kera.ca to become members as Newsletters will not be hand delivered to non-members after this publication. KERA membership will be especially important in the event of future emergency situations since KERA plans to provide communications and assistance in these circumstances. The Survival Kit for non-members can be accessed at www.kera.ca

Kingscross Estates experienced a power outage that lasted from thirty-six to fifty-five hours, an emotionally draining experience as residents grappled with the prospects of a Holiday Season without power and not being able to live in their home. Power was restored on Monday afternoon to a small portion of Kingscross, west of Keele Street, serviced by underground wiring. Hydro One assumed that all Kingscross was now with power and only a telephone blitz by our residents aided in the restoration of power for the rest of Kingscross the following day, Christmas Eve, at 2 p.m.

Throughout this ordeal, we agonized over the loss of our magnificent trees, shrubs and bushes. A resident said she walked out onto her deck the first night of the storm to the terrible sound of cracking limbs and crashing trees and cried. We hope never to experience such a storm again, but we should be prepared for future emergency situations. Residents felt that there was a lack of communication during the storm, whether it was with Hydro One or with the Township, in terms of location of warming centres, food and water availability, as well as accurate power updates. As such, KERA has prepared a Survival Kit, as seen on the back page, with helpful information to plan for any emergency.

Discharge of Fire Arms By-Law

After a lengthy review and significant input from the community, especially from OFAH (Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters) as well as some Kingscross residents, the Discharge of Fire Arms By-Law was passed by King Council on January 27, 2014. The By-Law was of special interest to the approximately twenty Kingscross Estates households abutting the vacant land to the south of Kingscross Drive between Jane Street and Manitou Drive and to the west of Manitou Drive, where gunshots have been heard and where three hunting blinds were found. Stray bullets, as well as being mistaken for game, were a real concern for our residents. The new By-Law prohibits hunting in King City including the said vacant land and on land not designated farmland in King Township. The By-Law also expanded the King City boundaries in response to growth, narrowing the range for hunters. Public safety was the main focus; it appears this has now been addressed.

Tree Preservation By-Law

The proposed Tree Preservation By-Law, can be accessed at www.king.ca Committee of the Whole, December 16, 2013. The Township has asked the public and other interested parties to submit their comments by February 24, 2014, at which time it is expected a revised proposed Tree Preservation By-Law will be presented for another round of input. The By-Law is to provide protection for the gap not addressed in the Region of York's Forest Preservation By-Law which applies to all woodlots between .2

hectares to no more than 1 hectare and woodlands over 1 hectare. King Township has identified this gap to be the typical subdivision private property lot. However, KERA contends there is yet another gap in that Kingscross Estates cannot be defined by either the typical subdivision lot, woodlot or woodland. We are a unique 1 hectare plus residential estate development that requires an exemption from the By-Law. Please visit www.kera.ca for KERA's submission to the Township.

Generators for Power Outages

Look to www.kera.ca for a helpful guide to the purchase and installation of a generator as back-up for power outages, including names of generator retailers, electricians and tree cutting services.

DID YOU KNOW:

- LAND LINES SERVICED BY BELL OPERATE DURING POWER OUTAGES SINCE THEIR LINES ARE DEDICATED AND POWERED AT THE SOURCE.**
- WATER SHORTAGE DURING POWER OUTAGE? DRAIN YOUR PRESSURE TANK (80 GALLONS) OR YOUR HOT WATER HEATER (40 GALLONS) FOR AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY. JUST OPEN THE DRAIN VALVE AND FILL PAILS WITH WATER. DURING WINTER POWER OUTAGES, DRAINING BOTH TANKS RELIEVES PRESSURE ON PIPES WHICH MAY BURST WHEN TEMPERATURES FALL BELOW FREEZING.**
- THE CANADIAN TIRE GAS STATION ON THE EAST SIDE OF HWY 400, SOUTH OF THE KING CITY EXIT, HAS A MASSIVE GENERATOR FOR EMERGENCIES AND IS READY TO PROVIDE BOTH GAS AND FOOD.**

It will be the intent of KERA to provide communications as well as ensure all Kingscross residents are safe in emergency situations. We are asking for volunteers to serve as 'Block Volunteers' to provide door to door visits, should it be necessary. Please contact Nina Graham at ngraham@kera.ca to volunteer.

Detailed information on King Township's Ice Storm Clean-up can be accessed though www.king.ca Engineering and Public Works. Please note that tree waste cannot be removed outside the Region due to the presence of Ash Tree Borer larvae.

The Spring Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2014, from 9a.m. and 1 p.m. Vanessa Braganza and Pat DiFiore will organize the clean-up. Again, volunteers are needed. Please contact Vanessa Braganza at vbraganza@kera.ca to volunteer.

The KERA Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Anglican Church located at 12935 Keele Street, on the east side, south of King Side Road. Our guest speaker Dr. Hans Martin will discuss 'Protecting the Natural Features of Kingscross Estates.'

KERA thanks the residents who provided valuable information about the power outage, who contributed to the preparation of the Survival Kit and gave other helpful tips to survive emergencies.

KERA (Kingscross Estates Rate Payers Association)

www.kera.ca

KERA SURVIVAL KIT

- CELL PHONE WHICH ACCEPTS EMAIL, WITH CAR CHARGER ADAPTER
- BATTERY AND WIND-UP OPERATED FLASHLIGHTS (NEW LED TYPE) MINIMUM ONE PER OCCUPANT
- BATTERY AND WIND-UP/CRANK OPERATED RADIO/ALARM CLOCK
- BATTERY OPERATED CANDLES
- SPARE BATTERIES
- BOTTLED WATER (FILL POTS AND BOTTLES BEFORE ICE STORM--PAY ATTENTION TO STORM WARNINGS) EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY DRAINED FROM PRESSURE TANK & HOT WATER HEATER
- CANNED FOOD
- MANUAL CAN OPENER
- FULL TANK OF GAS & SPARE GAS FOR GENERATOR; POWER OUTAGES MAY AFFECT GAS STATIONS
- BBQ-PROPANE OR DIRECT HOOK-UP TO GAS LINE, FOR PREPARING MEALS
- ENERGY EFFICIENT WOOD BURNING STOVE FOR HEAT AND PREPARING MEALS
- PORTABLE SOLAR BATTERY CHARGER FOR CELL PHONE, COMPUTER AND LIGHTING
- BACK-UP GENERATORS POWERED EITHER BY GAS, DIRECT HOOK-UP TO YOUR NATURAL GAS LINE OR BATTERY BACK UP WITH INVERTER
(SEE KERA WEBSITE WWW.KERA.CA FOR FURTHER INFORMATION)

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS: 9-1-1 or

KING TOWNSHIP	905-833-5321
FIRE DEPARTMENT	905-833-2800
YORK REGIONAL POLICE	905-881-1221
MACKENZIE HEALTH CENTRE	905-883-1212
HYDRO ONE	1-800-434-1235

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