

## **Reducing Risks of Fires**

The Kannata Valley Highlands provides a very beautiful 80 acres of environmentally sensitive grasslands and woods. Unfortunately this same environment also presents risk of grass/wild fires. Our village, nestled in the hills of the Qu'appelle Valley is described as "wildland/urban interface. The following are some ideas/suggestions for reducing risks and preventing loss to property.

- In wildland/urban interface areas, it is recommended to have at least a 30 foot "non-combustible" area. This means an area free of trees/bush, fire wood, combustible scrap materials, etc. Realistically, this is not possible for many cottages/buildings that have been in existence for many years. However, it is something to consider for existing properties or new builds.
- Clear as much deadfall as possible in the surrounding bushes.
- Keep vegetation trimmed.
- The village should have an annual "clean up/ clearing day".
- New buildings or "rebuilt" should use non-flammable material as much as possible – metal roofs, Hardy board siding (the Siltan Fire Chief indicated vinyl siding is extremely flammable).
- The village encourages trimming of grass in behind properties adjacent to the Highlands ( to help facilitate the 30 foot non-combustible area.

The Siltan Fire Chief indicated their priority in fighting a grass fire would be protection of property. A grass fire would be attacked mainly be "knock down" footpatrols. Trucks would be used for property defence.

The Fire Chief also recommends carrying Fire Protection insurance of \$10,000 to cover the costs of a Fire Service call out. Should a property owner be determined to have caused a fire, they would be required to pay the call out costs.

The Kannata Village Council, as part of our Emergency Plan, will be discussing ways of reducing risks of fire in the Highlands.