

Communications Services via Amateur Radio for Community Groups

The Mississauga Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) group, part of the national ARES infrastructure, is an integral partner in planning for emergencies in the Region of Peel, and in the execution of emergency plans in the event an emergency occurs in the Region. The role of an ARES group is to provide communications services via amateur radio at a time when other means of communication (e.g., "regular" telephones, cellular telephones etc.) may be disrupted. ARES provides government and other agencies within the Region of Peel with reliable communications during any disruption of normal communications services. ARES group members are federally licenced amateur radio operators.

The Mississauga ARES group is closely associated with the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club VE3MIS (web page www.marc.on.ca), and in fact draws much of its membership from the members of the club.

The Mississauga ARES group offers communications services via amateur radio, on a voluntary, no charge and first come, first served basis, to assist charitable organizations and public service groups within the City of Mississauga with their events. This allows Mississauga ARES group members to practice their communications skills and maintain their preparedness, thus ensuring that a high level of response can be provided in the event of an emergency.

The Mississauga ARES group will work with community groups in Mississauga to:

- assist with the development of a communications plan for an event
- execute the plan on behalf of the group
- provide amateur radio operators for the event to assume the communications responsibilities

At the event, the ARES group will set up a communications centre and will establish mobile and fixed communications stations depending on the needs of the charitable/public service organization as outlined in the plan. This will ensure that all event personnel who require communications services have an amateur radio operator at close hand for the duration of the event.

The Mississauga ARES group provides professional quality communications services. Our federally licenced radio operators are not to be considered as replacements for the volunteers who are normally required in order to execute an event. It is the responsibility of the charitable/public service organization to have sufficient volunteers recruited and available so the event runs in an efficient and effective manner. It is also the responsibility of the organizers to inform their volunteers that the role of the amateur radio operators is solely to provide communications services for the event.

The Mississauga ARES group looks forward to assisting charitable/public service organizations with their events and assisting these organizations with their goal of making the City of Mississauga a better and safer place in which to live and work.

To take advantage of this opportunity, contact:

Bob Boyer
(905) 822-6618
email: ve3xbb@rac.ca