**Volunteers**

**Needed for Services In Unincorporated** **Communities**

Community volunteer participation is diminishing everywhere, for various reasons. Social media seems to lessen the need for in person participation in community events and the Pandemic has imposed more separation for health reasons. As a result there are fewer people now volunteering to staff community social and emergency services everywhere but the situation in **Unincorporated Communities** is now desperate.

**EST =**Emergency Services Teams: emergency health, accident and fire suppression.
**Community Centres:**host recreational events like Nolalu's "Fish Derby", "Craft Fair", snowmobile "Poker Run" and community services such as affordable meals and a meeting place for local groups.

In the **City** most of these services are performed by paid staff.
In "**Incorporated Municipalities**" it is a combination of township staff and volunteers.
In "**Unincorporated Communities**" like Nolalu, it is done entirely by volunteers. Government financial assistance through the various taxation/benefit systems contributes the bulk of the funding required.

**Nolalu (**includes Lybster, Marks, Strange and Hardwick townships) is served by 3 volunteer Boards: 1. **LSB** = Local Services Board: allocates government funding to **NEST** and **NCC**.
**2. NEST** = Nolalu Emergency Services Team. Fire suppression and health emergencies. 2 firehalls.
**3. NCC** = Nolalu Community Centre. Social services and events.

As a Board Member for the **LSB** and **NEST**, I hear talk of this dilemma of understaffing at every meeting. There is now a risk of having to close down some parts of services we provide.

We encourage you to help maintain the services we provide for each other.

 **If you're a resident: VOLUNTEER - HELP OUT**

We are looking at ways to modify positions to lessen the requirement per volunteer. You can be trained and certified for firefighting and driving trucks by the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office and by Superior North EMS for emergency health response, at their cost. Or you can assist at the Community Centre events, learning from others to host, organize events or prepare meals.
Please think about it and contact either **NEST** or **NCC** personnel about what needs to be done and what you might consider doing to help your community provide essential services.
 **Contact:**

 **NEST** : Nolalu Emergency Services Team: request callback at 807-475-4441. **NCC** : Nolalu Community Centre: prez.ncc@gmail.com , Breanne Neufeld

Sincerely,
Larry Watson, LSB and NEST Board member, Nolalu, Ontario.

**Nolalu website with general information:** https://nolalu.ca