



MILLIGAN'S POND ENCAMPMENT EVICTION

FOLLOW-UP REPORT

On June 18, 2020, an eviction was enforced for those sheltering in a homeless encampment community established in the Barrie city park property known as Milligan's Pond.

Leading up to this eviction, city staff arranged several meetings including representatives from the City, County, Police, Paramedics, SMDHU, and multiple social service agencies. Unfortunately, very limited meaningful housing options and solutions were generated. Emergency shelters made space to offer spots to those at Milligan's Pond and outreach teams were onsite to offer shelter spots and other resources, however the shelters proved not a good fit for many individuals involved in the eviction.

Some people in our community may be under the impression that those who were evicted moved into housing, however this was unfortunately not the case. The purpose of this brief follow-up report is to shed light on where those who were evicted are now, two months later.

In June there were between 40-50 individuals in Milligan's Pond at any given time. Outreach teams identified 40 individuals that they were interacting with regularly.

Current status of those 40 individuals:

Housed - 2

Couch surfing - 3

Emergency shelter - 6

Relocated out of the area - 1

Squatting in abandoned building/house - 3

Camping/sleeping on benches/doorways/alleys - 18

Lost contact - 2

Substance treatment centre - 1

Jail - 3

Deceased - 1

The outreach teams note: "These numbers are not stable. For example, someone who is camping as of this week was at the shelter for two days last week and has also couch surfed in the last 3 weeks."

The SCATEH Barrie Chapter find these numbers sobering and we believe that a compassionate, rights-based approach to addressing homeless encampments that does not put people in an even more precarious or vulnerable situation is needed. We recognize the City of Barrie by-law enforcement officers as key stakeholders and invite the City of Barrie to engage with us to do better together, ensuring individuals experiencing homelessness are supported. It is crucial that the "No Camping" by-law is implemented with discretion to ensure enforcement does not criminalize homelessness.

- SCATEH Barrie Chapter, August 18 2020

