

For Immediate Release

## **Box 690 Fire Department Canteen Association Honoured For 20 Years of Volunteer Service**

Cambridge, Ontario. November 25, 2008... The Waterloo Region Mutual Fire Aid Association is honouring Box 690 for their many years of completely volunteer and truly exceptional service to the fire service personnel (and paramedics and Police and OFM staff) of the region at the next regular Mutual Aid meeting to be held at Cambridge City Hall - Atrium on Thursday November 27, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.

Box 690 has been offering service to the Waterloo Regional Fire Services for 20 years with the two main individuals – Gary Dinkel and Bill McIntyre - who started it in November of 1988 still serving in a very active and effective manner.

Box 690 Fire Department Canteen Association  
Unit: 6902 - 1982 International Chassis  
Retired Rescue Unit - converted to Field Kitchen

Box 690 - Fire Department Canteen Association was officially approved by the Council of the City of Cambridge in November 1988. Box 690 was modeled after Box 43 (Hamilton) and Box 12 (Toronto), Fire Canteen services which have been operating successfully for several decades. The name "Box 690" comes from reference to the early traditional street alarm box system used in larger cities, and the numerical part of the Cambridge Fire Department Radio System Identifier Code, "XJI 690." Initially, Box 690 only served the City of Cambridge.

The service expanded to serve Kitchener (1991), Waterloo (city)(1992), and now serves stations in North Dumfries, Wilmot, Wellesley, and Woolwich Townships. The City of Cambridge donated a 1978 GMC Panel Van (retired rescue unit) to Box 690 in 1995 which was retrofitted into a snack and drink wagon. This was replaced in November 2002 by a 1982 International Truck that was formerly in service as Kitchener Fire Departments' Rescue 8, which has now been overhauled into a mobile field kitchen.

Box 690 monitors fire dispatches in Waterloo Region 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is dispatched to reports of working fires. The Box automatically responds to all confirmed reports of working fires within Waterloo Region, prior to being dispatched. Box 690 responds to approximately 100 calls per year. All Box 690 members are volunteers who have a strong interest in the fire service. The truck (6902) is equipped to provide firefighter support and rehab at emergency scenes, including shelter (either warming or cooling as needed seasonally), lighting, clothing, and refreshments (which includes refrigerated bottled water,

juice, Gatorade™, coffee, hot chocolate, hot dogs, chili, soup, stew, and small snack items (granola bars, cookies, peanuts, chips, and the like.)

Box 690 is a registered charity and is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. They support their truck through a fundraising partnership with Doon Heritage Crossroads. Box 690 operates a refreshment booth at the Waterloo Regional Fire Muster in May of each year, the Canada Day Celebrations on July 1st of each year, and at the Fall Fair in September. Additional support from Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo Fire Departments as well as the Professional Firefighters' Associations of these cities, along with the North Dumfries (Ayr), Wilmot, Woolwich and Wellesley Township Fire Departments is greatly appreciated.

“The Cambridge Fire Department is proud of our relationship with Box 690 and will continue to support them in their service venture” says Doug Tennant, Cambridge Fire Department’s Deputy Chief.

Box 690 is an Associate Member of the Waterloo Regional Mutual Aid Fire Services Association.

Recognition and accolades will be presented to Box 690 personnel from Prime Minister Harper and Premier McGuinty through to local Mayors, other fire service organizations and the Office of the Fire Marshal.

More information can be garnered from Mutual Aid President Brad Otterbein and Master of Ceremonies District Chief Dennis Frey at the Mutual Aid meeting at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday November 27, 2008

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The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada’s Technology Triangle. In 2008, the population reached over 125,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement. Based on the 2007 BMA Management Consulting Inc Municipal Study, the City of Cambridge is one of only four municipalities in the province that is debt free.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit [www.cambridge.ca](http://www.cambridge.ca)  
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