



Backgrounder:

Pothole Blitz Underway

New Hotline To Be Implemented Down The Road

Cambridge, Ontario. February 15, 2008...The City of Cambridge Transportation and Public Works' team are ramping up the communications systems for the public to report potholes to the maintenance team. Development of a new "pothole hotline" is underway that enhance the system to schedule priority locations within the municipality. It is expected to be ready in the coming months as phone system enhancements are made in keeping with New City Hall VoIP.

BIG REPAIR BLITZ UNDERWAY

Over the next two days, the Works' team will be undergoing a "blitz" of repairs throughout the City of Cambridge. Phil Dechene, Director of Public Works, says this is a particularly bad year for potholes as compared to last year's relatively mild winter. "The continuous temperature swings that have caused thawing and refreezing conditions have been extremely hard on the road infrastructure," Dechene says.

The City of Cambridge applies cold patch product between December and mid-April which is a temporary repair material that allows on-going maintenance all winter long. The balance of the year these repairs are made with hot mix asphalt which achieves a more permanent solution. The annual tender of environmentally-friendly winter cold patch is approximately 400 tonnes.

The City deploys no less than two work crews of two or three people every day to address potholes. They work in geographical territories throughout the City. These crews are equipped with transporters, vibratory compactors and other vital equipment to get the job done. Scheduling repairs for the night shift also allows for minimal disruption in high traffic areas. As well, additional crews will be deployed when the situation requires added resources.

There is a dedicated Road Patrol staffer that takes an inventory of locations and logs these into the scheduling system to determine priority repairs. In addition to the staff detection, the general public may call the Public Works Department at 519-740-4684 to submit a concern that will then be added to the maintenance locations. A new dedicated, "hotline" will be offered in the near future to enhance communications with the public and offer a more direct way of connecting with maintenance staff.

This year, the City plans to take delivery of a new asphalt recycler which is hoped to enhance repair capabilities and offer more permanent solutions to the winter time fixes.

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 2007, the population reached over 124,000 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.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca