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For Immediate Release

Fire Department Flags Public Safety Concern Urges Snow Removal Around Fire Hydrants

Cambridge, Ontario. January 28, 2009... The Cambridge Fire Department (CFD) is reporting more incidents of fire hydrant obstructions as heavy volumes of snow continue to make it hard to locate hydrants, according to the Department's Chief Public Education Officer. There are more than 3,000 hydrants in the City. The CFD team has been out in force shoveling area hydrants, but are asking citizens to assist in making sure the hydrants are clear in case of an emergency. Residents and businesses are reminded to clear snow away from fire hydrants on their property and not to deposit snow in a way that would obstruct fire hydrants.

"Taking a few minutes to remove snow from around your hydrants could save the fire department precious seconds if there is a fire," says Chief Terry Allen. Chief Allen is encouraging citizens who are unable to keep fire hydrants clear of snow to contact the fire department at 519.621.6001.

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Contact:

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Background:

By-Law 168-08 references the required elements of snow and ice removal from sidewalks and roofs - and includes a mention of the need to avoid depositing snow and ice in a way that would obstruct access to any fire hydrants. This by-law repeals by-law 273-05.

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

The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>

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