
For Immediate Release**Community Emergency Operations Plan Updates include
Cambridge City Hall as Primary Emergency Operations Centre**

Cambridge, Ontario. March 19, 2010...The City of Cambridge will present the latest version of the Emergency Management Plan to council on Monday night which includes listing Cambridge City Hall as the primary Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for the community. As part of the City's continued commitment to emergency management, the document establishes the framework for a systematic, coordinated and effective emergency response for the community.

The emergency management plan is a comprehensive document that has been refined over several decades.

"The earliest mention of the development of a local emergency plan was city bylaw 1683 dated July 7, 1980 that was set up to adopt an 'Emergency Plan'. The stated aim of the bylaw was 'to lay down the framework for a plan of action for the most efficient employment of all services' to respond to any type of emergency," says Cambridge Archivist Jim Quantrell. The bylaw authorized the creation of a "Disaster Control Group". Planning for the local emergency plan started in January 1974 which stemmed from the Grand River Conservation Authority's initiative to undertake a revision to the Flood Warning Systems. Plans to develop a local emergency response plan were overtaken and given a greater urgency by the flood of May 17, 1974.

Today, the plan engages every facet of the community from Fire emergency personnel to social services support. Cambridge City Hall is now the primary EOC which means it would be the operations hub for community organizations in the event of an emergency. The Cambridge Fire Department HQ is the secondary centre.

The Emergency Response Plan includes details on: Declaration/Termination of Emergency Guidelines; Members of the Emergency Control Group and their Roles and Responsibilities; Recovery Strategies for after an Emergency; and, Emergency Operation Centre Information.

The Emergency Management Program Committee is managed by Deputy Fire Chief Bill Chesney. As part of Chesney's role as Deputy of Administration for the Cambridge Fire Department, he is also the primary Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) responsible for maintaining the Emergency Response Plan.

“The City continues to refine the plan and work to ensure an effective response to any emergency or disaster we might face. Part of the plan involves research into the likelihood of various occurrences so we can plan for them,” says Deputy Chesney. This is known as the HIRA and things like flooding might be higher on the list than an explosion, for example.

The City’s Emergency Control Group runs yearly exercises testing the plan and in May, the City will be test driving the Safe Drinking Water Plan with the Emergency Control Group and partners from the Region of Waterloo. The Emergency Response Plan is available on line at www.cambridge.ca

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About Cambridge

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 2009, the population reached over 126,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in advanced manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a progressive work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

About the Corporation of the City of Cambridge

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is a dynamic organization filled with dedicated people who deliver vital municipal services to you. Services that residents, businesses, visitors and people like your family and friends enjoy. We’re a comprehensive team of professionals: engineers, financial specialists, skilled trades, administrative experts, customer service, communications - and the list goes on.

We’re proud to be part of the systems that bring you the array of services that citizens in Cambridge need:

- Parks and recreation
- Activities and programs like pools, seniors’ centres, community centres, arenas and other facilities
- Sports programs and all the needs related to playing fields, like indoor soccer, baseball diamonds and other amenities
- Events
- Farmers’ Market
- Cemetery services
- Road programs
- Leaf pick up services
- Winter maintenance services
- Water and sewer services
- Fire, emergency and related services
- By-laws and enforcement
- Tax administration
- Licensing for businesses, lotteries, marriage, dogs, and other services like applications for birth, death and marriage certificates, notarizing or commissioning of documents
- Archival research
- Economic Development and business support programs
- Tourism support to share opportunities to showcase the festivals and help bring visitors in to support retail and other elements of the economy
- Administration of committees, steering groups and advisory groups
- Planning and development services
- Traffic and parking services
- Ensuring the best security, police, transit, garbage, water processing service, utilities, animal control are in place.
- Libraries and galleries
- Centre for the arts
- Accessibility matters
- Council services including things like supporting the up coming needs of our residents for the Oct 2010 municipal elections

It’s a multitude of services and we continue to refine and review them to ensure we deliver the services in the most effective, efficient, and proactive ways.

In 2010 we are undergoing a corporate service review. This is a further check and balance system to seeking improvements - like better technologies to simplify processes or realigning how we operate. The comprehensive

review is happening this year with a view to providing a report to Council for consideration. The report will be available by year end and will be addressed by the newly elected council for the 2011 budget.

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/the_office_of_the_chief_administrative_officer/corporate_communications_marketing

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