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For Immediate Release

First Responders' Group Shares Local Developments During National Rail Safety Week

Cambridge, Ontario. May 2, 2011...As National Rail Safety Week and construction on a new rail/roadway grade separation begins at the Delta intersection (at Hespeler Road) in Cambridge, the emergency responders' group reports new developments that will enhance the response system and also benefit the general public.

The group began meeting in mid-2010, to discuss road and rail intersections and work on enhanced systems of communications and interface with emergency responders. Partners from the Cambridge Central Ambulance Communications Centre, Cambridge Fire Department, Canadian Pacific (CP), City of Cambridge Corporate Communications, Region of Waterloo EMS, Region of Waterloo Design and Construction, Region of Waterloo Transportation & Engineering, Waterloo Regional Police Services and Transport Canada began by evaluating the current system and looking at ways to create enhancements through new technology developments.

"These changes can positively impact response times and enhance the information for fire, police and ambulance. As well, there's a great element that supports public education and awareness," says Doug Tennant, Deputy Fire Chief in Cambridge.

The group has built various layers of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data that will be delivered to all emergency vehicles either through electronic means or by physical maps that better identify each rail crossing that intersects with a road way, the exact location on the rail line and the emergency number to the rail communications centre responsible for the track. The information was first completed for the Cambridge area and will be available for the entire Waterloo Region when the project concludes. The maps will colour code the railways that operate within the region (Canadian Pacific, Canadian National, Via Rail, Goderich-Exeter Railway and Waterloo-St. Jacobs) for quick visual identification. It will also integrate the numerous systems that currently are in use to identify the mileage markers for rail locations.

In Ontario there are some 2,500 railway crossings; Waterloo Region has a total of 186 crossings and 143 of those are at ground level.

"We are also making one form of the map available to the general public so they may have an idea of the rail crossings near their home and who to call at

the railway in the event of an emergency," says John Prno, Director, Emergency Medical Services for the Region of Waterloo. "This doesn't take the place of a 9-1-1 call for emergency service, rather it's a way to show our citizens the infrastructure near their home and specific contact should they witness an emergency pertaining to rail." The map can be found online at: <http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca/web/region.nsf/DocID/FECA6D4A4BAD5B588525760E004BD650?OpenDocument>

Other advantages of the meetings include discussion around CCTV camera surveillance for visual confirmations, new training programs and continued collaboration. Citizens are encouraged to visit the Operation Lifesaver www.operationlifesaver.ca website and share the information with their family. For example, did you know that it takes the average freight train traveling at 55 mph more than a mile—the length of 18 football fields—to stop? Sharing the message with youngsters that train tracks are off limits and trains cannot stop quickly enough to avoid a collision is an important take home message. Operation Lifesaver Public Rail Safety Week in association with the Railway Association of Canada (<http://www.railcan.ca/>) runs May 2 - 8, 2011.

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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 2010, the population was over 130,000 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. It's about choice, options and value when you become part of the community.

You meet the nicest people in Cambridge. It's a place that understands all about coming together. There is so much more to Cambridge than the beautiful lands created at the

convergence of two rivers or its logistically perfect location in the heart of Ontario's economic corridor. Cambridge is the coming together of people from diverse, close-knit and proud communities. The people of Cambridge 'do the right thing' by respecting history, family values, a sound work ethic, the arts, environment and advancement. A young city, Cambridge is a master of balancing the excitement and promise of the new with the historical significance and stability of the old. A place where coming together is just the start. Uniting together is what sets Cambridge apart. Undiscovered-Cambridge families and entrepreneurs get more for less, and sacrifice nothing.

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 potential for career growth and advancement. 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/pressroom>. To opt out of the news release distribution, please send an email to Linda Fegan feganl@cambridge.ca.