

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APRIL 20, 2009

PROCLAMATION REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK (EP WEEK)

Recommendation

The Manager of Emergency Planning and Fire Chief recommend:

- 1) That the week of May 3 - 9 2009, be proclaimed as “**Emergency Preparedness Week**”; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City’s Website under “Events – Proclamations”. Publishing proclamations on the City Page depends on space availability.

Purpose

To recognize the importance of the need for all citizens to be prepared for an emergency and to build a disaster resilient community.

Background - Analysis and Options

The concept of Emergency Preparedness Week was adopted by all levels of government in Canada in 1995. The first official Emergency Preparedness Week occurred in 1996.

The purpose of EP Week is to promote public awareness of being prepared to survive an emergency. The key message is “72 hours – is your family prepared”. It is every person’s responsibility to be prepared to survive an emergency situation for 72 hours. Individuals can do this by putting together a 72-hour emergency kit, learning about the City’s Emergency Response Plan, planning an escape route, identifying a meeting place, knowing what types of emergencies can happen and how to react. If a disaster happens in the City, it may take rescuers up to 72 hours to get to everyone in need of help.

The Emergency Planning Program initiated a personal preparedness campaign in 2005 by distributing items that should be in a 72-hour kit and emergency preparedness guides at various community events. These items and guides have been provided to City personnel so that they may lead by example. The Emergency Planning Program provides workshops to the public, community groups and industry on personal emergency preparedness.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is in keeping with the Vaughan Vision specifically

Strategic Goal: Service Excellence

Strategic Objective: Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated.

Regional Implications

Public awareness and education is a mandatory element for an essential level emergency management program and as such, the York Region will also be recognizing Emergency Preparedness Week.

Conclusion

The Manager of Emergency Planning and Fire Chief are recommending that the week of May 3, 2009, be proclaimed as "**Emergency Preparedness Week**" and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

Attachments

Proclamation

Report prepared by:

Sharon Walker
Manager of Emergency Planning

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Walker,
Manager of Emergency Planning
Extension 6322

Greg Senay
Fire Chief
Extension 6301

Proclamation

WHEREAS the City of Vaughan Does recognize the importance of Emergency Management; and

WHEREAS the goal of Emergency Preparedness Week is to raise the community awareness and the need to prepare for the possibility of an emergency; and

WHEREAS the safety of our community is the responsibility of each and every one of us, we must prepare now and learn how to secure a strong and healthy tomorrow.

THEREFORE I, Mayor Linda D. Jackson, do hereby proclaim the week of May 3 to 9, 2009, to be EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK IN THE CITY OF VAUGHAN, and encourage all citizens to be 72 hour prepared by learning how to plan for emergencies.

Linda D. Jackson

Mayor