



Office of the Commissioner
Community and Health Services

Memorandum

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Date: March 23, 2018

Re: **National Paramedic Services Week – May 27 – June 2, 2018**

National Paramedic Services Week brings together local communities and paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers to recognize the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line". It also helps raise public awareness about safety issues, including how to prevent injuries and what to do in the event of a medical emergency. Council proclaimed this national week for the first time in 2003 and has done so annually since then.

In 2017, York Region Paramedic Services responded to over 77,969 medical calls. The growing size of our community and the important role that paramedics play in the circle of care makes this week an important part of our yearly planned outreach to the community.

In 2017, three York Region paramedics were recognized for providing the highest standard of pre-hospital care to patients.

The Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal recognizes professionals in the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical services who performed their duties in an exemplary manner, and are characterized by good conduct, industry, and efficiency. Recipients must have completed 20 years of exemplary service, including at least 10 years in the performance of duties involving potential risk.

The recipients were:

- Vick Bisnath
- Brett Penfold
- Paul McPhail

For 2018, the theme of National Paramedic Services Week is:
“Paramedics: Health. Community. You.”

This year’s theme aims to unite the profession and the community to recognize the contribution of paramedics to healthcare. The week also serves the important purpose of bringing public safety messages to the forefront, by uniting the theme of the week with various outreach opportunities to inform the public about the impact of paramedicine.

The theme recognizes the paramedics role to:

- Care for a healthy you
- Care for a healthy community
- The integration of Paramedics in a total community care approach
- The integral role of paramedics to everyone health and well being

The theme recognizes the important roles that paramedics play in the health of all individuals. Paramedics are the first line care professional when you require emergent care. But paramedics are more than the caring professional when 9-1-1 is called. Paramedics are involved in your health through many innovative and dynamic community paramedic programs. Paramedics work with or lead health care teams to keep you at home and out of the hospital emergency room. The paramedics key involvement in a healthier community means you are safer because of a paramedic.

York Region Paramedic Services’ objectives for the week are:

- To bring greater awareness to the evolving title of paramedic – who we are and what we do in the community through integration into healthcare
- To bring awareness to the public that paramedics are highly trained and skilled professionals with clinical skills that can save lives
- To give the community a chance to interact with paramedics though engagement at events and on social media

- To publically recognize the work our paramedics and to thank them for their contribution to our community's healthcare model

Planned Events for Paramedic Services Week

1. Paramedic Station #28 - Open House event

- Saturday May 26th, in the Town of Richmond Hill from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- The event will allow the public to interact with paramedics through skills demonstration and ambulance tours and will have entertainment for children. The event will also be promoted internally to staff as an opportunity to bring families together to celebrate their own work and that of their colleagues.

2. Seniors 911 Awareness Community Chat

- Saturday May 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the City of Markham
- Provides an opportunity for seniors in our community to learn about preparing for medical emergencies and how paramedics play a key role in their care. As part of this planning, we are looking at ways to encourage seniors from the Tamil, Cantonese and Mandarin speaking communities to attend to increase knowledge of the service for those in our diverse community.

3. Paramedic Recognition Lunch Event

- Tuesday, May 29th in the Town of East Gwillimbury
- Celebrates the accomplishments of newly graduated Community Paramedics, Special Response Unit Paramedics and the new members of the Peer Support Unit who have completed their training. This event recognizes the value of training associated with innovative practice, specialization and safety, and staff support for mental health and wellbeing.

4. Social Video Campaign

- A series of 5 videos showcasing the key objectives of Paramedic Services Week, such as discussing who paramedics are, what they do and why we celebrate Paramedic Services Week will be released. All videos will be shared on York Region's YouTube platform and on our service Twitter account. Select videos will be shared on York Region's Facebook page.

5. Front line engagement with Operations leadership

- Recognizing that the key subjects of Paramedic Services Week are the paramedics, Division Chief David Eeles and the Operations leadership team will

be in the field to engage with the frontline. This will offer a chance to personally thank the staff for their contribution to service excellence and for their dedication to the community.

All costs associated with the planned activities will be accommodated within the Region's approved 2018 Operating Budget for the Paramedic and Seniors Services Branch.

Recognizing National Paramedic Services Week 2018 provides an opportunity to increase public awareness regarding the contribution of services paramedics provide in our community, and to promote public safety and community health through engaging stakeholders and community partners.

Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health
Services

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