



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Committee of the Whole

FROM: Adelina Urbanski,
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: April 9, 2015

RE: **National Paramedic Services Week – May 24 to 30, 2015**

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.

For 2015, the theme of National Paramedic Services Week is *Paramedics: Expanding Care*.

Paramedics are moving forward and developing strong working relationships with other health disciplines, regulators and government officials. *Paramedics: Expanding Care* reflects the changing role that paramedics have in the evolution of the health care system in Canada.

Initiatives aimed at reducing emergency department visits and wait times and improving community health are major priorities in Canada, and support the theme of Paramedic Services week. York Region Paramedic Services is committed to pursuing opportunities to work with public policy makers, primary healthcare providers, social service agencies, and public safety groups to develop initiatives which will help create enhanced, community-based paramedic services. York Region Paramedic Services' pilot projects with respect to expanding paramedicine in the community are currently underway, introducing a community-based paramedicine approach with the intention of better using paramedic resources and enhancing efficiency in the system.

In 2014, 487 full-time and casual York Region paramedics resuscitated 172 patients in sudden cardiac arrest; took 496 heart attack patients directly to the Cardiac Centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre; delivered 42 babies; and assessed 199 patients at emergency social service shelters. York Region Paramedic Services has been successful in meeting the response time performance plan targets of 2014.

Two York Region paramedics recognized for providing 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. Once a paramedic has performed his/her duties in an exemplary manner for over 30 years of service, they are awarded a First Bar. First Bars were presented to two York Region Paramedic Services staff in 2014. The recipients were:

- Saul Almeida
- Tom Winter

Commander (Retired) Thomas Ball received his Second Bar recognizing over 40 years of exemplary service.

Proposed schedule of events celebrating National Paramedic Services Week

The proposed events include:

Tour for School Groups

On Tuesday, May 19, there will be a half-day tour for school groups to showcase facility, career info, and participate in a CPR/AED workshop as part of Public Works week as a lead in to Paramedic Services Week.

Family Fun Day

In partnership with Public Works, a kick-off event called *Family Fun Day* will be held at the EMS headquarters at 80 Bales Drive East in the Town of East Gwillimbury on Saturday, May 23, 2014.

Media Day

On Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at EMS Headquarters, we will be hosting a local media day showcasing what we do, equipment, vehicles, staff and promoting our live Tweet Event focusing on the community paramedicine work by Paramedic Services in York Region.

Live Tweet Event

On Thursday, May 28, we will be showcasing the work of EPIC (Expanding Paramedicine in the Community pilot project) with our first live Tweet Event.

Paramedic Services staff will volunteer their time in order to attend the week's events. All costs associated with the planned activities will be accommodated within the Region's approved 2015 Operating Budget for the Paramedic and Seniors Services Branch.

Recognizing National Paramedic Services Week 2015 provides an opportunity to increase public awareness regarding the contribution of services paramedics provide in our community.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner, Community and Health Services

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