

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT
COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Alan DeVillaer
Coordinator, Emergency Management

DATE: February 15, 2008

SUBJECT: St. John Ambulance Service in Chatham-Kent

This report is for the information of Council.

BACKGROUND

St. John Ambulance Community First Aid Volunteers are a group of uniformed individuals, trained to a minimum of Standard First Aid. They volunteer their time to provide Community First Aid services at a wide variety of public events (ie. sporting, cultural, musical).

There had been a St. John Ambulance presence in Chatham-Kent since the 1940's but this service was discontinued in the Municipality after a letter was received in June 2007 from Mr. Brian Reynolds, Manager of the St. John Ambulance Southwestern Ontario Administration Centre. The letter informed The Municipality that the Medical First Responder divisions in Chatham and Wallaceburg would be closed due to poor performance in the 2006 year end operational review.

In July 2007 Council authorized the Emergency Management Coordinator to participate with the local Ad Hoc Committee attempting to reestablish a St. John's Ambulance First Aid Service in Chatham-Kent.

COMMENTS

The Committee has been meeting at the United Way office in the Community of Chatham approximately every other month.

A detailed Business Plan has been developed, including a training plan and projected budget. This business plan has been submitted to the Provincial St. John Ambulance office in Toronto.

Acceptance of the business plan and authorization to begin training the new volunteers is expected from the Provincial St. John's Ambulance office in the near future. Recruitment for new volunteers has been successful with approximately 15 individuals expressing interest in becoming a Certified First Aid Responder. A refurbished defibrillator has been obtained from the Provincial St. John's ambulance office for use by the local volunteers.

An application for on going funding has been submitted to the United Way of Chatham-Kent. A response to the request is anticipated by late February.

The Committee is hopeful the brigade will be operational by the end of April 2008. The Emergency Management Coordinator will inform Council, through email, once the brigade is fully operational.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The information in this report supports the following objectives and strategic directions:

A: Health – We are a healthy community

A4: Foster a safe and caring community

E: Civic Engagement – We are an engaged community

E1: Encourage opportunities for voluntary action and encourage, train and recognize volunteers.

Expected Results

- Increase civic engagement in Chatham-Kent through volunteer activity.
- Create opportunities for event organizers to obtain the required first aid services in Chatham-Kent.

The information in this report will not adversely impact on the remainder of the Community Strategic Plan.

CONSULTATION

Mr. Richard Sewell, Ad Hoc Committee member for St. John's Ambulance in Chatham-Kent was contacted to provide information relevant to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

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