



MEDIA RELEASE

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SUPERIOR TANKER SHUTTLE ACCREDITATION FOR TOWN'S FIRE SERVICE

On Saturday, May 6, the Town of Caledon's Fire & Emergency Services Department undertook the largest training and emergency response exercise in the Town's history. Each of the three two-hour tests required the participation of 50 firefighters utilizing a total of 16 pieces of fire apparatus (e.g. pumpers and tankers). The Town is proud to announce the achievement of the Fire Underwriters Survey upgraded rating, achieving accreditation from the Insurers' Advisory Organization.

"The successful completion of these tests indicates that our Fire & Emergency Services Department can effectively transport water to fire incidents throughout our community," said Brad Bigrigg, Fire Chief for the Town of Caledon.

The Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation reflects a significant return on the investment made by the Town and the community in terms of fire apparatus and firefighter training. The residential portion of accreditation requires the fire service to have water flowing at a minimum of 900 litres per minute within five minutes of the first apparatus arriving at the scene and maintain an uninterrupted flow for two hours. The commercial/industrial portion has the same requirements, with the additional ability to increase the water flow to 2,000 litres per minute.

The concept of fire service accreditation provides fire service agencies with a process to evaluate their educational programs using an established set of professional criteria. Accreditation is a voluntarily sought status given to a program that has been found to meet or exceed stated criteria of educational quality. Candidates are measured against valid criteria that meet international standards.

Over the past year, several ratepayers approached members of Council concerning the insurance industry's fire protection rating for the rural areas of Caledon – primarily related to rural properties not serviced by fire hydrants. The Town's Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation achievement is also recognized by many insurance companies. Rural residents within 8 km (by road) of a fire station, and rural businesses located within 5 km (by road) of a fire station may receive a reduction in insurance premiums. Residents and businesses are encouraged to contact their insurance company to inquire if they qualify for a rate reduction.

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