



## Media Release

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

For Immediate Release

### **City of Vaughan and York Region officially open new gold certified Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) station**

**NEWMARKET** – The City of Vaughan and The Regional Municipality of York officially celebrated the opening of a joint emergency response station for Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service and York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) at 9601 Islington Avenue, Vaughan today.

City of Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson and York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch were joined by City of Vaughan Councillor Tony Carella, Ward 2.

“Vaughan is committed to being a green city and Station 7-9 is one example of this commitment,” said City of Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson. “This new building is a first for emergency services in Canada with its Gold LEED certification and shows Vaughan to be a leader when it comes to innovative environmental initiatives.”

“This station provides access to the major transportation corridors of Highway 407 and 400 and is strategically located to meet the growing demand for emergency response,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “With this new facility, York Region has 19 strategically placed stations serving residents across the Region, including 12 that we share with fire partners and one with York Regional Police.”

Named The Scott Somerville Fire and Rescue Service Station No. 7-9 and York Region Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Response Station, it is the fourth co-shared facility between Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service and York Region EMS. The 13,714-square foot state-of-the-art facility can house two full-size fire trucks and up to six ambulances at the same time.

“Over the past two years, the City of Vaughan has experienced emergency response time pressures that are related to a 10-per cent increase in emergency call volumes,” said City of Vaughan Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, Chair of the Region’s Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee. “This new facility will provide better access to service, while at the same time confirming our commitment to protecting the environment.”

“To have a municipal building dedicated in my name, most notably a fire and rescue services station, is in my humble opinion, the epitome of recognition for a municipal servant,” said former City of Vaughan Chief Administrative Officer and City Manager Scott Somerville.

The station is the first building in York Region to achieve a gold-rating in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, run by the Canadian Green Building Council. LEED certified buildings are recognized for striving towards environmental responsibility in design and building. Gold certification is the second highest achievement.

Green features of this facility include reducing water use by 56 per cent by using low-flow toilets, waterless urinals, ultra low-flow lavatory and showerheads, and reducing energy use by using natural day-lighting in 100 per cent of the regularly occupied space.

A green housekeeping program has also been implemented to ensure products used improved building air quality and reduce environmental impact.

... Continued on Page 2

Buildings are certified with the Canadian Green Building Council using a scorecard rating system. Points are awarded based upon performance in five key areas of human and environmental health:

- sustainable site development
- water savings
- energy efficiency
- materials selection
- indoor environmental quality

The total number of points determines if the project is certified as silver, gold or platinum level.

In addition to its gold LEED rating, the Scott Somerville Fire and Rescue Service Station No. 7-9 is also the proud recipient of a 2007 Canadian Project Excellence (CPEX) award under the Vision category. The annual CPEX awards recognize project achievements demonstrating the highest degree of merit and ingenuity.

For more information on this or any other health-related topic, please contact York Region Health Services *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653.

For more information on The City of Vaughan, please visit [www.vaughan.ca](http://www.vaughan.ca)

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

- 30 -

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