



## Media Release

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

For Immediate Release

### **Vaughan and York Region officially open new joint Fire and EMS station on Racco Parkway**

**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 111 Racco Parkway, Vaughan, this afternoon.

Joining City of Vaughan Mayor Michael Di Biase and Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch were Thornhill MPP Mario Racco; Vaughan Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco, Ward 4; Vaughan Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, Chair of the Region's Health and EMS Committee; Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service Acting Fire Chief Greg Senay; and York Region EMS General Manager Brad Meekin.

"This is a very proud day for the residents of the City of Vaughan," said Mayor Michael Di Biase. "The opening of this joint facility has saved the taxpayers money while ensuring the best in safety. Station 7-8 is the new model for fire rescue and emergency services for our city."

"With this new joint emergency response station, York Region EMS will now operate out of eighteen strategically located stations across this Region, one which we share with York Regional Police and eleven of which we have partnered with our friends within the fire community," said Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. "Most importantly, this new location will help to ensure that the current and future emergency medical needs of our residents are met."

The Racco Parkway station is the third co-shared facility between Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service and York Region EMS, but the first one designed to accommodate both emergency services.

Known both as the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service Station #7-8 and the Vaughan-Racco Parkway EMS Paramedic Response Station, the shared facility offers benefits to both partners, including an optimum working environment for staff and reduced capital and construction costs. The site is strategically located to best serve Vaughan and the surrounding community, and it has the capacity to house two full-size fire trucks and up to six ambulances.

"Not only was this facility designed specifically to meet the unique space and technical needs of an EMS response station," commented City of Vaughan Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, Chair of the Region's Health and EMS Committee. "Working side by side encourages stronger working relationships between our emergency services."

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“The mission of the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service is to provide programs to protect lives, property and the environment from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies and other dangerous conditions,” commented Acting Fire Chief Greg Senay, Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service. “The opening of this new station will enhance our capabilities in honouring our mission to the citizens of Vaughan.”

“Partnering with Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service in a joint facility will mean our emergency services will be located together, providing residents with optimum service,” added Brad Meekin, General Manager for York Region EMS. “This new facility will also accommodate future growth for additional EMS resources, as calls are expected to increase in the southern portion of York Region.”

The 14,000 square foot, one-story masonry and wood-framed building has been aesthetically designed to echo the original building on the site. Of particular interest is the projecting, gable roof vestibule displaying an antique fire truck under a cathedral ceiling lit by a four-pane arcade window. This window was removed from the 2-storey sun porch of the former farmhouse built on the property in 1875.

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

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

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