



Simply Halton

Your Halton
Connection
May '05

Quick Tips to Prepare for an Emergency

Is your family ready?

Make an emergency survival kit that includes flashlight, batteries, candles, and matches in a waterproof container, first aid kit, battery operated radio, extra car keys and cash, a whistle, and personal toiletries and infant care items.

Make a plan that outlines potential risks in your home, your workplace, your community and your region. Have a family evacuation plan and practice it at least once a year.

Be informed of the risk in your area and what do in case of floods, tornados, and technological or environmental accidents such as chemical spills and power failures.

For more information on planning for an emergency, obtain a copy of a Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide, available through Halton Region at www.region.halton.on.ca.

Floods – what to do

- **Before:** Prepare an emergency survival kit.
- Have a battery-powered radio on hand and listen to instructions from your local station.
- Assuming there is enough time, shut off all power in your home or business, move furniture, electrical appliances and chemicals to higher ground.
- Disconnect eaves troughs.
- Evacuate your home when instructed by local emergency authorities. Don't forget to bring your emergency survival kit!
- **After:** Make sure your house is structurally safe before entering.
- Avoid electrical shock by wearing rubber boots in any area flooded with more than five centimetres of standing water.
- Remember flood waters can be contaminated with sewage and other hazards.
- Assemble a clean up kit that includes gloves, masks, pails, mops, plastic garbage bags, bleach and non-ammonia dishwashing detergent.

Halton Meetings & Events

May Meetings at Regional Headquarters

Tuesday, May 3

9:30 a.m. Health & Social Services Committee

Wednesday, May 4

9:30 a.m. Planning & Public Works Committee

1:30 p.m. Administration & Finance Committee

Wednesday, May 11

9:30 a.m. Regional Council Meeting

Monday, May 23

Offices closed for Victoria Day

Wednesday, May 25

9:30 a.m. Planning & Public Works Committee

1:30 p.m. Administration & Finance Committee

Thursday, May 26

9:30 a.m. Health & Social Services Committee

Building a Disaster Resilient Community



Joyce Savoline
Regional Chairman

One of my highest priorities as Chairman is the continued health and safety of our community. In Halton, natural occurrences such as floods, snowstorms, tornados and earthquakes are all potential threats to our safety and welfare. But, with careful planning and preparation, Halton residents can minimize the impact to families and property. We call it "building a disaster resilient

community" and we do that by encouraging each and every one of you to do your part in planning for emergencies at home, just as the Region engages in emergency planning for the entire community.

The first week of May is Emergency Preparedness Week. In May, we also recognize our paramedics through Emergency Medical Services Week, Health and Safety Week, our public health nurses through Nurses Week and our public works and planning staff through National Public Works Week. All of these professionals contribute to our safety and well-being and while we direct public attention to emergency preparedness at this time of year, our planning at the Region never stops. The Region works year round with our partners to ensure a coordinated response to potential, imminent or actual emergencies. These partners include our local municipalities, Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville, the Halton Regional Police Service, Halton's two school boards, conservation authorities, local health care organizations, local chemical associations and numerous volunteer agencies such as the Canadian Red Cross, Salvation Army and St. John Ambulance.

But our most important partner in building a disaster resilient community is you. That is why the Region, in partnership with

our local municipalities, has prepared a Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide that is full of practical suggestions to help you and your family prepare for an emergency. Our emergency management page on our web site is being updated to provide parents with hands-on, interactive activities to engage your children – ranging from how and when to call 911 to preparing an emergency survival kit from items you have readily available in your home.

We are all partners in emergency preparedness. Halton Region will continue to find innovative and efficient ways to help you make Halton a disaster resilient community.

Halton in History

Did you know that floods were almost an annual event in Glen Williams? The picture shown here is of St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, a beautiful stone church, erected in 1903 in Glen Williams. Audrey Robinson is pictured in front of the church in this 1964 photo.

The church is definitely a well-built structure, to have withstood all the flooding it has seen over the years. Floods occurred in 1950, 1954, 1960, 1961, 1965, 1974 and 1980. Residents, expecting the spring flood, started preparing by lifting up their furniture and opening the front and back doors to let the waters flow through! To learn more about these historical floods, please consult "Glen Williams on the Credit River", by historian Mark Rowe.



photo courtesy of the Esqueving Historical Society

Communications and Training Critical in Emergency Planning



A. Brent Marshall
Chief Administrative Officer

As we go about our everyday lives, disasters may seem like a distant possibility. Emergencies, however, can happen anytime and anywhere. Being prepared and having an emergency plan in place is crucial to minimizing the impact of a disaster. That is why Halton Region has a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan in place, ready to be activated as needed.

Halton's emergency management program has four distinct pillars: mitigation, those actions we can take to prevent the impact of an emergency; preparedness, developing plans, conducting training and exercises and raising public awareness; response, managing the emergency situation and providing information; and recovery, the actions taken to return to normal.

Communications is critical in any emergency. In the event of a threatening, actual or imminent emergency situation, Halton will provide appropriate and factual information to the public and the media. We have developed an Emergency Public Information Plan to complement our Emergency Response Plan that outlines how the Region will communicate, issue directives to the public



Exercise Charlie was the largest emergency exercise undertaken in Canada last year.

and respond to information requests on any aspect of the emergency. If the situation warrants, in addition to news releases and media conferences, Halton will establish a Citizen Inquiry Centre to open the lines of communication and answer telephone queries from the public. We have established partnerships with local media and we are also making connections with media outlets that can provide emergency information to the diverse communities in Halton.

In addition to communications, Halton regularly conducts emergency exercises to enhance its level of preparedness. Just last fall, we completed Exercise Charlie, a live field exercise involving our local municipal partners, Halton Region Police Services, the local hospitals and school boards. As you can see from the attached photo, it was an extensive undertaking. In fact, Exercise Charlie was the largest emergency exercise undertaken in Canada last year. Partial funding for this initiative was received from Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada as well as the Oakville-Mississauga Community Awareness and Emergency Response Group.

Emergency management is an integral part of our business – and another way that we are committed to serving you, the people of Halton.

We welcome your feedback. Contact Access Halton at accesshalton@region.halton.on.ca
905-825-6000 • Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON • TTY: 905-827-9833 • www.region.halton.on.ca
Regional Municipality of Halton • 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1