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For Immediate Release

## York Region Emergency Medical Services paramedics recognized for providing highest standard of pre-hospital patient care

*Seven paramedics receive 2009 Governor General Exemplary Service Medal; one paramedic receives prestigious N.H. McNally Award for Bravery*

**NEWMARKET** – Seven York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) paramedics have received a 2009 Governor General EMS Exemplary Service medal. One paramedic also received the N.H. McNally Award for Bravery. These awards are presented during the annual general meeting of the Association of Municipal Emergency Medical Services of Ontario.

“The Governor General EMS Exemplary award recognizes EMS professionals across the country that have performed their duties in an exemplary manner, characterized by the highest standards of good conduct, industry and efficiency,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “Professional designations such as this further demonstrate our commitment to improving the health and safety of all residents.”

The York Region 2009 Award Recipients for the Exemplary Service Medal are: Tim Balsdon, Linda Bond, Lorne Cowx, Bradley Hickman, Timothy McMullin, Iain Park and David Whitley.

As part of the Canadian Honours Programme, the Governor General makes available Exemplary Service Medals for EMS professionals. Created in 1994, the award is available to eligible members of the pre-hospital emergency medical service who have served at least 20 years in a commendable manner. To qualify, at least 10 of these years of service must have been street-level duty involving potential risk to the individual.

In 2009, 104 paramedics from across Ontario were award recipients of the Exemplary Service medal.

“We are very proud that one of our own paramedics was the recent recipient of the prestigious N.H. McNally Award for Bravery”, said Town of Markham Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Chair of the Region’s Community and Health Services Committee. “This award recognizes acts of obvious bravery by pre-hospital professionals in the performance of their duties.”

York Region EMS paramedic Jamie Luz was on his last shift with City of Toronto EMS when he and his partner came across a fire in the nurses’ lounge at Scarborough Grace Hospital. Their actions in putting out the fire were instrumental in preventing harm to the dozens of patients and staff in the department at the time.

The N.H. McNally Award for Bravery was established in 1976 to honour Dr. Norman McNally, the father of Ontario’s ambulance system. The award in his name has a rich history of acknowledging individuals who risked their lives to rescue or protect others from harm. It is not an annual award, and only presented when deserved.

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



(Top photo) 2009 Exemplary Service Medal recipients bolded: Back row from left to right: Steve Darling, **Tim Balsdon**, **Bradley Hickman**, **Timothy McMullin**, Norm Barrette, Susan Wood, Blair Croker. Front row from left to right: Brian Hall, **Iain Park**, Major General Richard Rohmer (serving as Governor General Michaëlle Jean’s official representative), **Linda Bond** and **Lorne Cowx**