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For Immediate Release

York Region paramedics place first in national competition

Advanced care skills surpass all others at National Paramedic Competition

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York is pleased to announce two York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) paramedics have placed first in the Annual National Paramedic Competition - Advanced Care Paramedic Division.

“Local paramedics receive ongoing training and support throughout their career with the Region,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “This commitment to skill enhancement is recognized by our peers at competitions such as this and reinforces how fortunate York Region residents are to have professionally trained and qualified paramedics just minutes away.”

The annual competition is a one-day event that consists of academic tests and challenges, as well as practical scenarios using human actors and patient simulators.

“Our paramedics provide advanced life support, emergency and non-emergency medical care as well as transport for the ill and injured,” said Town of Markham Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Chair of York Region’s Community and Health Services Committee. “Paramedics are a much-needed and critical component of our health care system.”

The National Paramedic competition began in 2003 with paramedics from Durham Region competing against each other. By 2008, the competition had grown to include paramedics from across Canada. There are three competition divisions: Advanced Care Paramedic, Primary Care Paramedic and the Paramedic Student.

In York Region, approximately 440 paramedics and York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) support staff operate out of 20 stations. In 2010, York Region paramedics responded to more than 90,000 calls for emergency response. York Region EMS also includes specialized units such as the bike and the Special Response Unit (SRU) that enables paramedics to respond to different types of calls.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca



York Region Advanced Care Paramedics Chris Wenzel and Justin Whitman and place first in the annual National Paramedic Competition held recently in Oshawa.

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