



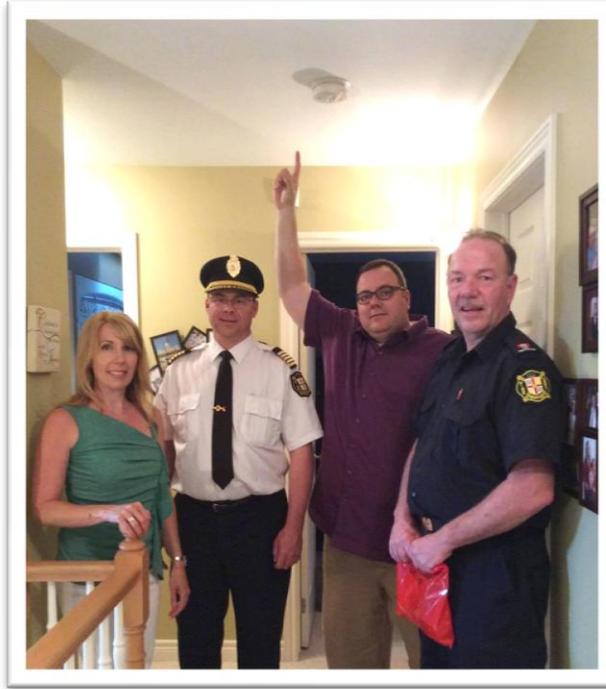
Township of Wainfleet

"Wainfleet - find your country side!"

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – June 13, 2017

Home Fire Safety Health Check Launched in Wainfleet



Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services inspects Dr. Remington's home for working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. From left: Wainfleet Mayor, April Jeffs, Wainfleet Fire Chief, Kevin Foster, Dr. Jeffrey Remington, and Wainfleet volunteer firefighter, Chuck Farkas. (Photo by H. Kendrick).

Wainfleet, ON – On June 12, Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services officially launched its door-to-door Home Fire Safety Health Check program at Dr. Jeffrey Remington's home in Wainfleet. Wainfleet Fire Chief, Kevin Foster, and volunteer firefighter, Chuck Farkas, visited Dr. Remington's home to ensure that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are installed and are working.

Firefighters also delivered an important safety message - smoke and carbon monoxide alarms save lives.

Dr. Remington says that, as a family doctor, he wants to promote fire and life safety among his patients. "I was saddened by the fire in Port Colborne last December that took four lives," he said at the launch on Monday evening, adding that he was shocked to learn that many people do not have working smoke alarms in their homes. "With coming back to South Niagara, I knew that I wanted to be involved in this program."

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Chief Foster says that previous home fire safety visits in Wainfleet found a 60% non-compliance rate with the Ontario Fire Code. "With a statistic that high, it is crucial that we ramp up our efforts to keep the community safe," he said. "We want to focus on preventing fires altogether, rather than suppressing them later."

Firefighter Farkas added that although most homes have smoke alarms, those alarms have often expired or do not have working batteries. "We want Wainfleet homes to be brought up to the minimum standards of the Fire Code so that families receive an early warning if there is a fire," he said. "As we visit homes, we will also provide helpful safety tips to homeowners."

Throughout the summer, Wainfleet firefighters will be visiting homes to check for working safety devices at no cost to homeowners. When conducting home visits, firefighters will be wearing their uniforms and driving fire department vehicles.

The voluntary program will initially target the Lakeshore Road area of the Township and will expand into other areas. Firefighters will be knocking on front doors on weeknights between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and on Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Firefighters will be happy to answer any questions that residents have regarding fire and life safety.

"Fire safety education is the first line of defence against fires," said Mayor Jeffs, "so we appreciate the enthusiastic support for this program from Dr. Remington and other Wainfleet homeowners who have signed up. We are excited to team up with the Wainfleet community to promote fire and life safety."

Residents can book a Home Fire Safety Health Check by contacting the Township of Wainfleet at 905-899-3463 ext. 277 or fpo@wainfleet.ca. Residents are also encouraged to visit www.wainfleet.ca to download a Home Self Inspection Checklist.

Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services reminds residents that, by law, smoke alarms must be installed on every storey of the home and outside all sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide detectors must be installed outside all sleeping areas if the home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace, or attached garage.

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For more information, please contact:

Wainfleet Fire Chief, Kevin Foster
905-899-3463 ext. 274

