

Town of East Gwillimbury supports family and community

East Gwillimbury (March 30, 2013) - In the aftermath of yesterday's tragic fire at the Dunsmuir home in Sharon, the Town of East Gwillimbury is making plans to provide what assistance and support they can to the family and the community.

"This community is in shock," said the Town's Mayor Virginia Hackson, speaking on behalf of Council. "We are a close-knit community and we share a great sense of loss and sorrow for the Dunsmuir family and friends."

The Town has lowered flags at all municipal buildings to demonstrate its support. "We plan to work personally with the family in the next few days to see what support we can provide that would be helpful to the family and the community in this time of grief," Hackson said. The Mayor went on to say the Town is also working to support its firefighters as they deal with the impact of being on the front line of this tragedy.

The Town's Emergency Services Department is a composite force employing six full-time firefighters and 81 part-time volunteers. "This makeup is typical for smaller communities in Ontario," said Deputy Fire Chief Phil Dawson. "Our firefighters are highly trained and very dedicated. They live here and they know the people here. They were on scene within 12 minutes of the call and they made a heroic effort to deal with this emergency."

All three East Gwillimbury fire stations responded to the call and worked with EMS and York Regional Police to bring the fire under control. Crews worked hard and fast under conditions of substantial fire, smoke and heat. No firefighters were injured.

The Town is cooperating with the Ontario Fire Marshall's office in the investigation they hope will lead to a full understanding of how this fire happened and why the family was unable to evacuate the home.

"We would like to thank the York Region police and EMS staff who worked tirelessly with our fire department," the Mayor said. "We will endeavor to keep the community informed about any opportunities to honour the Dunsmuir family."

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