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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WOOLWICH, WILMOT PARTNER ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS *Townships Collaborate on Use of Woolwich's Community Alert Network System*

The Township's of Woolwich and Wilmot have entered into an agreement that will allow Wilmot to provide Emergency Alerting services to the residents of Wilmot Township. The agreement, which was brought before Woolwich Council for endorsement at the Tuesday August 11th Committee of the Whole Meeting, will see Wilmot have access to the Township's subscription to the AIZAN Community Alert Network (CAN) System that has been operational since 2010.

Woolwich has long been a leader in providing a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness program to residents, having established the need for a program in the 1980's. In conjunction with the Township's Emergency Siren Program, which was recently expanded beyond Elmira to include St. Jacobs and Breslau, the Township has been using the CAN system for many years to provide residents with a specific warning and basic instructions, by telephone, in the event of severe weather events, major fires, explosions or chemical releases.

A 2012 system update by Aizan Technologies allowed for the creation of program identifiers that made it possible for other users to share the system. The Township of Woolwich has long championed for a Region-wide CAN system with area municipalities as a means to provide valuable emergency alerting services to residents throughout Waterloo Region.

As a result of these efforts, the Township entered into discussions with Wilmot Township officials. In early 2015, Wilmot representatives expressed interest in partnering with Woolwich and establishing their own unique program ID as part of Woolwich's active subscription.

The Township of Woolwich currently pays approximately \$6,000 annually to Aizan to access the Community Alert Network. In 2015 the cost of the program subscription was sponsored by several notable industries within the Township including, Canada Colours (CCC), Chemtura, Safety-Kleen and UPI Energy. Moving forward, Woolwich Township will invoice Wilmot Township for half the cost of the annual subscription.

The Township has also had preliminary conversations with the Township's of North Dumfries and Wellesley about further partnerships on the program.

"The Township of Woolwich has been a leader for many years in providing emergency information to the community using the Community Alert Network (CAN) system as part of our Emergency Preparedness Program." said Sandy Shantz, Mayor, Township of Woolwich. "We are very pleased to share our expertise and to be able to partner with the Township of Wilmot to bring this important, potentially lifesaving service to their residents as well."

"We are always looking for opportunities to improve communications during a crisis or emergency situation." said Les Armstrong, Mayor, Township of Wilmot. "The Community Alert Network (CAN) program fits this criteria."

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