

## **Lanark County promoting emergency preparedness**

May 4 to 10 is Emergency Preparedness Week, and Lanark County is working to raise awareness of how to be ready in an emergency.

Since 2008, Lanark County has proclaimed Emergency Preparedness Week as a show of support and to raise public awareness of the local municipal activities. Municipalities are responsible for providing a plan of prevention, mitigation, response and recovery for their residents.

"Lanark County's emergency plan has several elements," explains Rick Hannah, emergency services coordinator. "It aims to protect the health, safety, welfare and property of residents; to support local municipalities and their emergency plans in the event of a local or county emergency; and to provide available resources to help local municipalities."

Examples of emergency preparedness include encouraging residents to have 72-hour kits ready, which helps people to sustain them during the early hours of an emergency in order to reduce strain for emergency response services.

Mr. Hannah notes the local municipalities and the county strive to meet six components in its preparedness program, including having emergency plans, an emergency operations centre that is ready to respond, annual training, annual emergency plan exercises, a plan to provide information to the public during an emergency and ongoing public awareness and education.

Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) adds that education and awareness about emergency preparedness helps to lessen the intensity of an emergency situation. "When residents use the information provided, then they are informed and it helps in the event an emergency in our communities. Emergency preparedness is vital."

This year the county will provide emergency preparedness information through print advertisements and interviews about what to do in an emergency. "We will also be distributing a booklet this summer containing information to help with various aspects of emergencies," Mr. Hannah said.

Emergency preparedness information can be found on each of the local municipal websites and in newspaper notifications throughout the year. For more information, check the "Emergency Services" tab at [www.lanarkcounty.ca](http://www.lanarkcounty.ca).

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