

News Release

County of Dufferin
55 Zina Street
Orangeville, Ontario
L9W 1E5



Dufferin County is Hosting an Emergency Management Forum

*For Immediate Release:
County of Dufferin
September 6th, 2012*

On Wednesday September 12th, 2012 Dufferin County is hosting a forum geared toward municipal emergency management at the Best Western Inn and Suites in Orangeville. The forum was specifically designed to address the unique challenges faced by Ontario's smaller municipalities when a disaster occurs.

A wide variety of topics are on the agenda and speakers in several areas of expertise will provide an insight into some of the lessons learned during recent disasters. The audience is comprised of elected officials from all of Dufferin's municipalities as well as staff who have a role during disasters. "We are thrilled to be hosting this event here in Dufferin County," said Walter Kolodziechuk, Dufferin County's Warden. In addition to the strong representation from the local municipalities we also have attendees coming from Wellington, Grey, Guelph, Simcoe, Peel, York, Lanark, Leeds Grenville and Hastings Counties.

Throughout the day the participants will hear presentations on a wide range of topics. The plenary speakers include Mike Morton, one of the first UN personnel to arrive in Haiti the morning after the devastating earthquake in January of 2010. Mr. Morton will share his experiences and examine the similarities between that catastrophic incident and the hazards that exist in Ontario.

Also slated to speak is the Chief of Emergency Management Ontario, Allison Stuart. Chief Stuart will discuss the forest fires in northern Ontario last year and the lessons learned from having to evacuate entire communities.

To round out the day Gary Wood of Huron County will be speaking about the impact and recovery from last year's deadly tornado in Goderich, Ontario.

In addition to these speakers there will be breakout sessions that will examine partnership agreements, disaster insurance, climate change, mass gatherings, mass casualty incidents, media relations and the use of social media during disasters.

"With such a wide range of attendees, presenters and topics this forum will be a success." said Kolodziechuk.

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For more information or to
arrange a photo opportunity contact:

Keith Palmer
Director
519-941-6991 ext 2020

-or-

Steve Murphy
CEMC
519-941-6991 ext 2401