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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZORRA TOWNSHIP BOOSTS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WITH PROVINCIAL GRANT

NEWS

Zorra, Ontario – July 10, 2026

Zorra Township has strengthened its emergency preparedness through a \$47,000 Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) from the Government of Ontario.

The grant, through the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response, supports communities in improving their ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

With this funding, Zorra Township has acquired key emergency response equipment, including:

- An emergency response trailer
- 125 cots for evacuation and reception centres
- Deployment carts
- Pillows, blankets, and hygiene kits, portable chargers
- Electrical upgrades enabling the EV charger at the Zorra Municipal Centre to operate on the backup generator during power outages

These additions significantly enhance the Township's ability to quickly establish emergency evacuation and reception centres and support residents during critical events.

Zorra Township also thanks Perth County Paramedic Services for donating surplus linens to complement the new shelter equipment. Appreciation is extended to Deputy Chief Tristan Barter and Acting Commander/Zorra Fire Training Officer Brian Stoesser for coordinating the donation.

To recognize the investment, Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg, Deputy Chief of Ops Perth Paramedic Services Tristan Barter, Perth Paramedic Services Acting Commander/Zorra Fire Training Officer Brian Stoesser, MPP Ernie Hardeman, CAO Diane Larder, Fire Chief & Community Emergency Management Coordinator Shane Caskanette, and Captain Chris Betzner gathered for a photo highlighting Zorra's commitment to community resilience.

"Through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant, our government is helping the Township of Zorra and area strengthen its emergency response capabilities," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "This investment will help to equip the new Emergency Operations

Centre with the essential supplies needed to support extended emergency operations, helping ensure rural Oxford is better prepared to respond when it matters most.”

“This funding strengthens the ability of small and rural municipalities to support residents during emergencies,” said Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg. “These resources help us establish evacuation and reception centres quickly when our community needs them most.”

Zorra Township extends its sincere appreciation to the Government of Ontario, Minister Jill Dunlop, Emergency Management Ontario, and MPP Ernie Hardeman for their support through the CEPG program.



Pictured with Zorra’s new Emergency Response Trailer (left-right): Zorra Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg; Deputy Chief of Ops Perth Paramedic Services Tristan Barter; Perth Paramedic Services Acting Commander/Zorra Fire Training Officer Brian Stoesser; Zorra Fire Chief & CEMC Shane Caskanette; Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman; Zorra CAO Diane Larder; Zorra Fire Captain Chris Betzner.

BACKGROUND

Located in the heart of southwestern Ontario, Zorra Township has a population of approximately 9,000 people in a rural/urban setting. The Township comprises several rural clusters and two serviced villages. Zorra’s vision is for a vibrant, prosperous, engaged and environmentally conscious community that evokes pride in residents for its accomplishments and continuing resilience as it forges the future.

MEDIA CONTACT

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