

**FINAL Draft: Woolwich Presentation April 5, 2016,**

-AV SLIDES SUBMITTED [ ] SHIRT/HAT [ ] USB [ ] RADIO CHARGED

-John Scherringa – GO box and 1 min demo [ ] 5:30 PM DEMO JXX

-Judd- handheld foreign contact [ ] 6:00 PM MTG/TAPE

Handout to councillors: 6 brochure, QSL cards [X] pre Observer article, reports

**[SLIDE 1—Brochure] ve3ERC brochure**

My name is Richard Clausi, International CALL SIGN, ve3DCC .I am here as President of ve3ERC, the Elmira Radio Club Inc. , a not for profit corporation, that supports the Amateur “Ham” Radio hobby within Woolwich. We are part of a larger following that includes hams in Kitchener, Guelph, Fergus, Waterloo and beyond..... The club is also formally affiliated with RAC, Radio Amateurs of Canada, our national organization. ...We have a global presence and Council, You have an info brochure as well as a QSL contact confirm card advertising the Maple Syrup Festival, globally ...however, Chief Kieran Kelly likes to refer to us as the “hamsters” ... and ,so...we

**Thank You for this opportunity. Although, the Elmira Amateur Ham Radio Club has been around since the 1960’s, this is the first time we have briefed council on the nature of the club. Our members felt that it would be valuable to inform you of what we do and can do in times of crisis esp. with World Radio day coming on April 18<sup>th</sup>.**

The hobby attracts many people who have high levels of skill in radio communications, and, as far back as the world wars, the contributions and value have been recognized by federal governments the world over. As a result, hams are given access to radio spectrum that is very expensive and valuable—you may recall, the price tags associated with the recent auction of radio spectrum by the Canadian government. This access provides for experimentation and development of equipment... Hams build and work satellites--there are several in orbit-- do moon bounce, build antennae , design equipment ... refine digital modes.... **This screen display is the Canadian band plan...** it may vary by country..

and it permits global communication... colours show frequency bands and modes.. code, fm, satellite,digital

[ SLIDE 2—spectrum allocations ] up on screen...

Because of the exams and licensing procedure, Ham operators are quite different from Citizen Band licensees. Hams typically affiliate with service organizations such as the fire service, the Red Cross or St. John ambulance as opposed to say REACT which works in conjunction with the Police service. Elmira hams are pleased with the warm support and encouragement from the EFD. Our plan keeps our members out of your way and esp. out of harm's way ; that is, away from the front lines of a disaster.

We ,in fact, assume that government services communications equipment WILL NOT fail. This means that the role of the Amateur Radio community can focus on the traditional function of providing Health and Safety communications with the intent of reducing the load on cell phone towers, the telephone system and the official response services radio pool. For example, If residents are evacuated to a safe location, perhaps on short notice, ham radio operators will be able to provide communications so evacuees can inform family elsewhere of their locations and safety status; . specifically, if a little old lady is evacuated at 2 in the morning, and she would like to make sure that her son in British Columbia knows that she is safe, we can do it.

Messages are intended to be of public service only... that is, personal, short, factual and informative with the sole intent of relieving stress and confusion among those directly affected by the disaster evacuation. Federal regulations require the licensed operators to be in direct care and control of equipment licensed to them; hence, the operators must physically be with their equipment at all times, and obviously in a state of READINESS

The local club engages in daily radio nets each morning where check-ins from anywhere in the world are taken..

We support two radio repeater networks, with 2 backup repeaters, with the ability to link world wide. The capability is checked daily via nets that operate at 8:15 each morning, and on Wed. evenings. We also participate in international field day exercises designed to test the robustness of our systems physically in the field running emergency power over a non-stop 24 hour period, making contacts like this...

[ ve3WXU JUDD demo]

A catastrophe means that all bets are off, so in a worse case scenario, the ad hoc nature of what we do.... That is, the ability to hang a piece of spaghetti and be “on the air” .. is often a final solution to a communications nightmare. We and you sincerely hope that our services are never necessary, but it is important that you are aware of this option. You never know **what a HAM will pull out of the trunk...**

[ ve3JXX JOHN demo – GO box ]

VE3ERC is a documented part of the Township of Woolwich Emergency Plan as specified in section 4.6 and 16.9 of The Plan.

=====

You have , by email, ALREADY received **our 2011 and 2015 reports** outlining areas of need, discovered during emerg exercises. Concerns are mainly in the antenna and transmission categories. This room for example, has metal in the windows, forming a faraday shield that makes use of radios in this room, difficult... an external antenna would help...

We also mention that storage space in the firehall – perhaps a space in your **planned new fire hall as is done** in Norfolk County..with antenna locations at the

hall and ,perhaps, on the water tower would be beneficial in ensuring that communications are reliable and ABLE TO FULFILL the ITEMS LISTED IN....

[ SLIDE 3—Woolwich Emergency Plan]

BRIEFLY, Your current official plan includes the following highlights:

## 4.6 Amateur Radio (HAM Operators)

**The EOC coordinator may request Amateur Radio to provide back-up communications at key locations.** Police, Fire, Ambulance and Public Works are responsible for their radio systems. **Should the phone and/or radio systems become inoperable, the Radio Group may be requested** to report to the operating EOC and or the Duty Officer/Communications Manager and await further instructions regarding the emergency response

## 16.9 Elmira Amateur Radio Club

The role and responsibilities of the Elmira Amateur Radio club during an emergency are as follows:

- (a) **To provide volunteers and mobile radio equipment to enable a radio communication net** to be established between the reception/evacuation centres, the Message Centre (located with the Social Services Support Group), the Red Cross Headquarters, and other locations as required (ie Public Health and Treasury Services). \*\*\*\*\* DONE
- (b) To ensure that **radio club volunteers report to designated sites** at the direction of the Duty Officer/Communications Manager. \*\*\*\*\* DONE
- (c) To provide direction to the Duty Officer/Communications Manager regarding communication equipment requirements/needs, ability to transmit data and other areas of concern regarding the communication net.  
\*\*\*\*\* OUR REPORT
- (d) To maintain a list of volunteers and contact numbers. \*\*\*\*\* YES
- (e) To **ensure that radio club volunteers are registered using the Township of Woolwich Volunteer Registration Form (Appendix 7) a** and that such forms

are forwarded to the Duty Officer/Communications Manager who is responsible to forward these forms to the Director of Recreation and Facilities Services. \*\*\*\*\* YES AND UP-TO-DATE

-----

**IN CONCLUSION,** Our goal is to provide immediate assurance of family status in the after-math of a disaster so victims of a tragedy are not subjected to more stress and unhappiness.

The essence of this plan is to establish a radio link to a non-local site that is unaffected by the local disaster so messages can be handled using uncorrupted services ( electricity, internet etc. ) to service mobiles/portables at evacuation centres at the bulls-eye of the disaster.

We hope we can count on your continued warm support.

**ANY QUESTIONS:**