

September 30, 2009

09-039

## **Brampton Council supports Marikina relief effort**

BRAMPTON: At a Special Council Meeting today, Brampton City Council expressed its sympathy and concern for the residents of its Twin City, Marikina, Philippines, who have been impacted by the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana. Council also passed a resolution of support detailing an action plan in which Brampton can play a role in serving the relief effort.

This past weekend, a tropical storm hit Metro Manila, including Brampton's Twin City, Marikina City, producing the worst flooding in more than 42 years. Close to 500,000 inhabitants have been reportedly displaced and 115,000 people forced into temporary shelters. Tragically, numerous deaths have also been confirmed.

The action plan is focused on assisting the City's community partner, the Federation of Canadian Filipinos in Brampton, which is the primary conduit for the local relief efforts being planned. Steps being taken include:

- Requesting support from the Embassy of Canada in Manila for Bramptonians stranded as a result of the flooding
- Raising awareness of this issue and the work of agencies engaged in the relief effort
- Providing City facilities, including recreation centres and City Hall, to act as relief agency donation points. Coin cans have been placed at the information kiosk at City Hall and at:
  - Brampton Soccer Centre
  - Cassie Campbell
  - Century Gardens
  - Chinguacousy Wellness Centre
  - Flower City Seniors Recreation Centre
  - Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre
  - South Fletchers Complex
  - Terry Miller Recreation Centre
- Donating, through the City's Minor Charitable Donations program, up to \$1000 to help support costs associated with the Federation's planned fundraiser
- Encouraging support from senior levels of government for the relief effort through existing international development programs managed by the Canadian government

"As a caring municipality, Council extends its heartfelt condolences to the residents of Marikina," says Mayor Susan Fennell. "This action plan seeks to provide support and assistance that can be offered by a local government to an international municipality in its relief efforts."

For further information on the relief effort, visit: [www.bramptonfederation.ca](http://www.bramptonfederation.ca)

The City of Brampton is involved in a number of activities in international municipal cooperation. Marikina, Philippines is one of seven cities with which the City has established official Sister/Friendship City relations, including: Gapyeong, Republic of Korea; Benxi, China; Plano, Texas, USA; Miami Beach, Florida, USA; Amritsar, Punjab, India; and Brampton, Cumbria, England.

**About Brampton:** The 11th largest city in Canada, Brampton has a successful, well-diversified economy and is home to more than 8,000 businesses. The City continues to retain a Triple 'A' credit rating by Standard & Poor for the third consecutive year, reflecting its debt-free position, exceptional liquidity levels and excellent economy. The City's 2009 operating budget is \$400.8 million and approved funding for its overall capital program stands at \$700 million. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak over 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being the Flower City of Canada and won the 2008 International Communities in Bloom competition. It is also the first city in the GTA and one of only 10 in North America to have been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit [www.brampton.ca](http://www.brampton.ca)

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