

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Town of Ingersoll Responds to Fire at Homeless Encampment

**Ingersoll, ON June 12, 2024** — The Town of Ingersoll experienced a fire at a local homeless encampment on June 11. Thankfully, no injuries were reported. The fire was contained to one structure and was quickly extinguished thanks to the prompt response of the Ingersoll Fire Department.

At approximately 9:48 am, emergency services were notified of a fire at the encampment by the Thames River off Mutual St. Firefighters arrived promptly and worked efficiently to control and extinguish the blaze. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

As part of its ongoing commitment to community safety, the Ingersoll Fire Department has provided fire prevention tips to the residents of the remaining structure and is coordinating with local agencies to assist the affected individuals.

### Fire Prevention Tips:

In light of this incident, the Ingersoll Fire Department wishes to remind the community of important fire prevention tips:

- *Install Smoke Alarms:* Ensure smoke alarms are installed in every sleeping area and test them monthly.
- *Maintain Heating Equipment:* Keep heating equipment clean and ensure it is well-maintained.
- *Use Candles with Caution:* Never leave burning candles unattended, and keep them away from flammable materials.
- *Practice Safe Cooking:* Stay in the kitchen while cooking, and keep flammable objects away from stovetops.
- *Have an Escape Plan:* Develop and practice a fire escape plan with all household members.

Ingersoll is actively collaborating with our partners at Oxford County, UTRCA, and Emergency Services to address homelessness in our community. The Town facilitated meetings with multiple agencies and partners to educate and work on a comprehensive strategy. This strategy focuses on finding ways to assist those in need with the resources required to achieve a brighter future. The end goal is to get these individuals who are experiencing homelessness into housing and safe spaces.

Throughout Oxford County there are a range of services available to support individuals experiencing homelessness. These services include outreach to encampments, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and programs aimed at securing permanent housing. Additionally, mental health resources, employment assistance, and other support services are accessible to help individuals achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

This partnership underscores our commitment to finding effective, long-lasting solutions through a united effort and a coordinated approach.

The Town of Ingersoll remains committed to providing support and resources to those affected by the fire. We extend our gratitude to the Ingersoll Fire Department for their quick action and to all community members for their ongoing cooperation and vigilance.

## Quotes

“We are grateful that no one was injured in the fire. Our team's swift response ensured the safety of the encampment's residents and minimized damage. We urge everyone to take fire safety seriously and to follow preventive measures to avoid such incidents”

- Fire Chief/CMEC John Holmes, Ingersoll Emergency Services

“Our residents' safety is our top priority. While we are relieved that no one was hurt, this incident highlights the importance of fire safety and prevention as well as the work needed to ensure everyone has a safe space to call home. Thank you to our first responders for their excellent response time and thank you to the community who have shown a lot of compassion for those affected. We will continue to support our residents and work towards ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone in Ingersoll.

- Mayor Brian Petrie, Mayor of Ingersoll

## About the Town of Ingersoll

Nestled in the heart of southwestern Ontario, the Town of Ingersoll is a vibrant community with a population of over 13,000. As a forward-thinking municipal government, Ingersoll is a strong, diverse, green, and sustainable community that respects our people, honours our past and shapes our future. From cultural venues, such as museums, theatres, and art galleries, to outdoor adventures, such as hiking, cycling, and fishing, you'll find what you are looking for in Ingersoll. Ingersoll's Town Hall, centrally located in the heart of our community, serves as a hub for accessible and responsive municipal services. Stay connected with us online through our official website, [www.ingersoll.ca](http://www.ingersoll.ca), and follow our social media channels at @townofingersoll and @touringersoll. Explore our strategic vision for Ingersoll in our [Strategic Plan](#).

## Contacts

Chief John Holmes | Fire Chief/CMEC | Ingersoll Emergency Services  
519-485-3910 | [jholmes@ingersoll.ca](mailto:jholmes@ingersoll.ca) | [www.ingersoll.ca](http://www.ingersoll.ca)

Michael Graves | CAO | Town of Ingersoll  
519-485-0120 x 6222 | [michael.graves@ingersoll.ca](mailto:michael.graves@ingersoll.ca) | [www.ingersoll.ca](http://www.ingersoll.ca)