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Corporation of the Town of LaSalle
Department of Council Services
5950 Malden Road,
LaSalle, ON N9H 1S4

Dear Ms. Jean,

I am writing to you in response to your inquiry about receiving notification of weather alerts, such as the Severe Thunderstorm Watch and Severe Thunderstorm Warning that were issued for Essex County on August 6, 2018.

Environment and Climate Change Canada continues to disseminate weather warnings, watches, advisories, and special weather statements through traditional methods, such as media, internet, and the Weatheradio network. Those methods, however, require the public to tune in to a channel or a station or to check our website (<https://weather.gc.ca>). Weather radios are special radios that broadcast weather information 24 hours a day. Many Weather radios have a tone alert system whereby a loud tone will sound when a short-fuse warning is issued. More information on the Weatheradio network can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/weatheradio.html>.

Another very effective way to get our weather messages is by installing weather apps on smartphones. Many apps have the ability to push notifications so that cellphone users can be alerted when we issue weather messages for a chosen area. Some very popular examples are the Weather Network, Météo, Canada Weather & Radar, etc.

Twitter is also a very convenient way to stay up to date on weather information. One could subscribe to the handle @ECAAlertON94; a tweet will appear when we issue messages for Essex County. Of course, when we issue weather messages, they are often tweeted or re-tweeted and they can be found by searching the hashtag #ONStorm.

Currently, the most powerful tool that is available to Environment and Climate Change Canada to disseminate Tornado Warnings is through the Alert Ready system. This system allows Tornado Warnings to be sent directly to cellphones in the affected area as long as the cellphones are compatible with the system. Keep in mind that currently the only type of weather warning that is sent through Alert Ready is Tornado warnings. For more information, you can visit www.alertready.ca or contact your cellphone service provider.

Environment and Climate Change Canada is committed to protecting the safety of all Canadians from the dangers of weather. We strongly encourage the public to stay informed of weather information. I hope the methods that I provided above will help all residents of LaSalle to stay safe.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerald Cheng', with a stylized, flowing script.

Gerald Cheng