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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Region of Peel Youth Volunteers Continue to Change The World

**April 23, 2009 – Mississauga, ON** – As National Volunteer Week nears its end, youth volunteers are continuing to be engaged in a provincial challenge to “change the world” across the Region of Peel this upcoming weekend. The events have been organized by Volunteer MBC, the Region of Peel’s new volunteer centre.

The *ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge*, which runs from April 18 through to April 25, has been co-ordinated by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) in partnership with the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN) and coincides with National Volunteer Week. Close to 700 youth across the Region of Peel have been registered to participate in the challenge through Volunteer MBC.

With 23 events held across the Region last weekend and 14 events planned this weekend, the centre has energetically organized a total of 37 events for youth to participate in. “We wanted youth to have a broad selection of activities to choose from,” stated Adriane Beaudry, Program Manager at Volunteer MBC. “It’s important to give youth a variety of opportunities so that they can choose something that they are really interested in doing and so they can find excitement and enjoyment in participating.”

The centre, in partnership with a number of organizations across the Region of Peel, themed their events around helping the environment in recognition of Earth Day. Events include preparing gardens and winter clean-up at long-term care homes, planting trees and park/trail clean-ups, assisting at thrift stores, helping out at a book sale, among a variety of other activities.

The challenge is a 2nd annual call to action for youth aged 14 to 18 years to volunteer individually or in groups through a wide variety of exciting community initiatives across the province of Ontario. The goal is to have 10,000 students volunteer across the entire province during a one week period.

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Last weekend's events brought out a number of supporters to include MPP Peter Fonseca, who attended the Forest Glen Park clean-up in Mississauga with his family, MP David Tilson, Regional Councillor Allan Thompson and Mayor Marolyn Morrison of the Town of Caledon who visited and spoke to youth volunteers helping out at a monster book sale at the Caledon-Bolton Library. Regional Councillor Allan Thompson also volunteered alongside a volunteer at the EcoCaledon tree seedling event.

"We are so very pleased with the results of last weekend's events," stated Carine Strong, Director, Volunteer MBC. "Although there were so many events taking place, we received amazing feedback from the youth who participated and from our contacts at the various locations where the events were held."

Ms. Strong further noted, "This weekend's events are sure to be a wonderful wrap-up to celebrate the end of a very successful National Volunteer Week and the Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge for our centre."

One of the centre's partners, Volunteering Peel - a youth-led volunteer organization, will continue to provide leadership support at select events over the weekend. Corporate partners include AstraZeneca, Entripy Custom Clothing, Loblaws, Metro, Pita Break, RONA and The Real Canadian Superstore.

A list of events is attached or can be found on-line at [www.volunteermbc.org](http://www.volunteermbc.org) (click on the *ChangeTheWorld* banner ad). The media is encouraged to attend the events that are taking place as there will be numerous photo opportunities of the youth engaged in the various activities. Invitations have also been sent out to local dignitaries across the Region. All youth participating will be wearing a *ChangeTheWorld*/Volunteer MBC t-shirt.

Volunteer MBC is a new volunteer centre that has been created to foster, develop and support volunteerism in the Region of Peel, serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon, by raising awareness of the power of service. The centre is located at 2601 Matheson Blvd. E., Unit #43 in Mississauga, with satellite locations planned in the future. More information on Volunteer MBC can be found shortly at [www.volunteermbc.org](http://www.volunteermbc.org) or by contacting the centre at 905.238.2622.

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