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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteer MBC Plants the Seeds to Grow Communities At Inaugural Annual General Meeting

July 7, 2010 – Mississauga, ON – On Monday, June 28 at The Riverwood Conservancy in Mississauga, Volunteer MBC hosted its inaugural Annual General Meeting where the volunteer centre shared the many accomplishments and milestones that have been made to date, all of which are in-line with the centre's mission of promoting and supporting volunteerism in an effort to connect all people to meaningful opportunities.

Volunteer MBC commenced in September 2008 and serves the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon by offering a referral service for volunteer placement within the community for all ages to include youth, seniors, newcomers and groups. The centre also serves the corporate community with various programming services that engage team volunteering. Additionally, it provides education and support for volunteers and community service agencies and organizations through topic and issue related workshops, comprehensive and informative programs, and community outreach.

The meeting also provided the opportunity to thank and recognize the support and contributions of departing Board of Directors who are comprised of:

- Janet Menard, Commissioner of the Human Services Department, Region of Peel;
- Janey Piroli, Director of Organizational Development, PepsiCo Canada;
- Paula DeCoito, Executive Director, Social Planning Council of Peel; and
- Sharon Doherty, Manager of the Recreation Development, Recreation & Property Services in the Town of Caledon.

The following returning Board of Directors for 2010/2011 were also introduced:

- Bonnie Yagar LL.B.,LL.M., TEP, Associate, Pallett Valo LP;
- Geraldine Aguiar, Director of Volunteer Development, Heart House Hospice; and
- Shelley White, Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Peel Region.

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In addition, new Board of Directors that were welcomed were:

- Anna Olsen, Manager, Volunteer Programs, Peel Children's Aid;
- Gurpreet S. Malhotra, Director, Strategic Planning, Policy and Partnerships, Region of Peel - Human Services Department;
- Nitin Dhora, Program Coordinator, Dixie-Bloor Neighbourhood Centre; and
- Santiago Gomez, Retired Tax Accountant, Cineplex Odeon Corporation.

"This was a great first AGM and it was wonderful to share with our members and the community the incredible successes that the volunteer centre has made in the short time we've been in operation," said Bonnie Yagar, Board President of Volunteer MBC.

Attendees at the meeting included agency members of Volunteer MBC, supporters and funders.

"We also want to thank Regional Councillor Allan Thompson from the Town of Caledon for joining us at our AGM to celebrate our accomplishments with us," said Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC.

The centre also presented an award to John Huether in his honour to recognize his exemplary voluntary contributions. Mr. Huether has contributed his expertise, skill set, knowledge and an abundance of his time to support various organizations, causes and coalitions to include Success By 6 Peel, the Fair Share Task Force, the Peel Children and Youth Initiative, the United Way of Peel, and The Riverwood Conservancy. His 2007 report, *Review of Volunteerism*, laid the groundwork for the creation of Volunteer MBC.

"We were so very pleased to have been able to present the John Huether Award for Volunteering Excellence to John for his contributions to the community," said Ms. Yagar. "I honestly believe that John set the stage for Volunteer MBC to be the best volunteer centre in Canada," Ms. Strong further noted.

Volunteer MBC is located at 2601 Matheson Blvd. E., Unit #43 in Mississauga, with satellite locations planned for the future in Brampton and Caledon. For more information about Volunteer MBC visit www.volunteermbc.org, or call 905.238.2622.

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Bonnie Yagar, Volunteer MBC's Board President overlooking an assortment of flowers



Carine Strong, Volunteer MBC's Executive Director picking daisies, the flower which often symbolizes volunteerism

