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The future rests in our helping hands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brampton Youth Were Tops at Changing the World

June 9, 2009 – Mississauga, ON – In late April, youth from across the entire Region of Peel were encouraged to participate in a provincial challenge to “change the world” by volunteering at various events throughout the community during National Volunteer Week. The final statistics have been calculated and Volunteer MBC is pleased to announce that Bramalea Secondary School and Central Peel Secondary School in the City of Brampton tied for fourth place with the most students volunteering during this initiative.

“Our centre worked very hard at co-ordinating meaningful and rewarding volunteer opportunities for the youth challenge”, noted Carine Strong, Director of Volunteer MBC. “We’re very proud of the students at Bramalea and Central Peel Secondary Schools on this accomplishment and congratulate them for making a difference in their community and for doing their part to help change the world.” She further noted, “We encourage all youth to continue to serve their communities through volunteering for you truly can make a difference as the future rests in your helping hands.”

The *ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge*, ran from April 18 through to April 25 and was an initiative put forward by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) in partnership with the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN). Volunteer MBC was one of 19 volunteer centres across the province to participate and the centre co-ordinated 33 events across the Region of Peel, with 6 events held specifically in the City of Brampton.

Two of the events were park clean-ups held at Gage Park and Donald M. Gordon Chinguacousy Park and were done in partnership with Brampton Clean City. Park clean-ups also took place in the City of Mississauga and in total between the two cities there were 122 bags of garbage, 17 bags of recycling and a large amount of other waste material collected as a direct result.

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Youth also volunteered at Peel Manor by doing a clean-up of the garden area and were joined by the residents and their families at the event. At Brampton Caledon Community Living, youth conducted a clean-up of the property and were joined by BCCL's Youth Quest group which resulted in new friendships formed between local area students and the youth of this group who have varying degrees of developmental challenges. Lastly, youth also assisted Habitat for Humanity at their annual sale and B.B.Q. event.

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 provides the service of 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 available.

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 (launching in Mid-June) or by contacting the centre at 905.238.2622.

- 30 -

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