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The future rests in our helping hands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Volunteer Centre in the Region of Peel is Planting the Seeds to Grow Communities

June 24, 2009 – Mississauga, ON – Volunteer MBC (Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon), a new volunteer centre serving the Region of Peel, held its Open House on Thursday, May 28. The event was attended by individuals and organizations within the community, non-profit agencies who serve the Region of Peel, and supporters to include MPP Sylvia Jones (Dufferin--Caledon), Debbie Irwin, Constituency Director for MP Bonnie Crombie (Mississauga--Streetsville), and Shelley White, CEO of the United Way of Peel Region.

The centre is located on Matheson Blvd. East, in the Eglinton Avenue West and Renforth Road area. Its goal is to be a voice for volunteers and agencies who are seeking volunteers, supporting local endeavours which engage volunteers, and providing leadership in the promotion of civic engagement and volunteerism in the Region of Peel. At the Open House, Carine Strong, Director of Volunteer MBC, announced the centres' plan to continue to 'plant the seeds to grow communities' as 'the future rests in our helping hands'.

"We are here to serve the needs of our community," stated Ms. Strong. "In the Region of Peel, there is an incredible need for volunteerism. Community service agencies are heavily reliant on volunteers to support their day-to-day operations. Newcomers can volunteer to assist them with social integration, the unemployed can volunteer to help with the transition and to fill the resume gap or to explore alternative career options, and our youth need guidance and support in finding meaningful opportunities to not only help them complete their 40 hours of community service, but also to continue to be of service within their community. In addition, we have found that newly retired individuals have incredible skills and experience that would be of great benefit to an agency – and that's where our volunteer centre can be of help."

Volunteer MBC's main service is to be a referral for volunteer placement with non-profit community service agencies. The centre supports volunteers of all ages to include youth, newly retired seniors, newcomers and family/group opportunities, as well as team building programs for the corporate/business sector. The centre is also developing a roster of programs and workshops to educate and support volunteerism, as well as to engage the community in supporting each other.

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At the Open House, MPP Sylvia Jones presented the centre with a congratulatory plaque and stated, “The volunteer centre is a much-needed service within our community. We are very much looking forward to the support it will provide and the impact it will make in promoting the power of service.”

MP Bonnie Crombie stated “Volunteer MBC needs to be commended for its dedication, commitment and vision in fostering volunteerism in Peel Region. As we know, volunteers in every capacity offer countless benefits to the well being of our society. Thank you for your initiative and I wish you tremendous success.”

“Connecting people who want to volunteer with the wide number of service agencies covering everything from social programs, the arts, sports, immigration, healthcare, education and others is a fantastic resource to have available in our community,” stated Shelley White, CEO of the United Way of Peel Region, “With Volunteer MBC’s assistance of providing access to a pool of great volunteers and building best practices, the power of service will expand to ensure a stronger community.”

The centre’s team includes Carine Strong, Director; Sharon Clark-Koufis, Marketing & Communications Manager; Adriane Beaudry, Program Manager; and Marina Campos, the centre’s Office Assistant. The centre has also employed a summer student as its Volunteer Program Co-ordinator, Saquib Mian.

Volunteer MBC 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 at www.volunteermbc.org or by contacting the centre at 905.238.2622 or info@volunteermbc.org.

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