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ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION 2007 GREAT GRANTS AWARD WINNERS: DURHAM, HALIBURTON, KAWARTHA, PINE RIDGE

Buckhorn, November 27th, 2007 – Six remarkable Ontario not-for-profit organizations will be honoured for the difference they have made in their communities at the Ontario Trillium Foundation's 25th Anniversary celebration in **Buckhorn, November 27, 2007**. The evening will be hosted by **Megan Murphy** of **STAR 93.3** Radio Cobourg.

"The Great Grants Awards recognize the vision, commitment and energy of Ontario's volunteers and community organizations," said Lloyd White, Grant Review Team Chair for Durham, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge region. "This is our 25th year of strengthening communities and we've been celebrating by holding 16 award events across the province. We look forward to meeting community members in the Durham, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge area who help make Ontario a great place to live."

The Foundation presents the Great Grants Awards every two years. The award winners were selected by volunteers who serve on the local Grant Review Team. In the Durham, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge region, six organizations were chosen for their outstanding achievements in the Arts and Culture, Sports and Recreation, Environment and Human and Social Services sectors.

2007 Great Grants Award Winners:

- Arts and Culture: **Durham West Arts Centre c/o Rotary Club of Pickering**. In 2003, OTF granted the collaborative, led by the Rotary Club of Pickering, \$150,000 over two years to help establish the Durham West Arts Centre organization. The funds helped an executive director and support staff to recruit business partners, volunteers and artists to implement new programs. In 2006, OTF made another grant to the Centre to help support its goal of a permanent arts centre in Durham Region.
- Sports and Recreation: **Fenelon Falls Tennis Club**. In 2003, OTF granted the Fenelon Falls Tennis Club \$60,000 to improve the quality of its tennis courts. The tennis surfaces were 25 years old at the time and had deteriorated beyond repair. As a small rural community, Fenelon Falls relies on the tennis club to provide recreational opportunities for its residents. Without OTF funding, the Club believes it would have seen its membership drop.
- Environment: **Community Stream Steward Pilot Project c/o Ontario Wildlife Foundation**. In 2003, the Foundation granted the Ontario Wildlife Foundation, the lead in a collaborative with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Durham Land Stewardship Council and the Victoria Land and Water Stewardship Council, \$225,000 over three years to implement a community stream program. Over 900 volunteers helped restore and protect 75 sections of coldwater streams.

- Human and Social Services: **Wraparound Northumberland**. In 2004, the Foundation granted the Children's Case Coordination Services for Northumberland County \$112,000 over two years to launch Wraparound Northumberland. A program coordinator was hired to build a network of trained Wraparound facilitators and community teams to provide a seamless circle of support for families with complex needs. Over the grant period, 50 families and 112 children were helped.
- Grant Review Team Chair's Award - for exemplary volunteerism: **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peterborough**. In 2005, OTF granted Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peterborough \$20,200 to increase volunteer opportunities and skills for teens who were once BBBS participants. The "Big Middle Little" pilot program helped youth aged 16 to 18 who were about to leave the BBBS program transition into becoming mentors to younger kids.
- 25th Anniversary Award - for remaining a leader in the not-for profit or charitable sector by consistently delivering on the Foundation's granting priorities: **Encouraging Young Readers Collaborative c/o Learning Disabilities Association of Peterborough**. In 1999, OTF granted the Association \$257,100 over five years to develop and implement "Encouraging Young Readers", a tutoring service geared toward primary school children who were identified as having significant reading problems. This innovative program linked children with Trent University students training to become teachers.

The 2007 Great Grants Awards will be held **Tuesday November 27th**, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the **Buckhorn Community Centre** in Buckhorn. The award presentation begins at 5:30 p.m. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. To learn more about OTF, visit www.trilliumfoundation.org

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For more information, contact:
 Carolyn Bennett,
 Writer/Communications Officer 1. 800. 263. 2887 ext. 293
cbennett@trilliumfoundation.org

Durham West Arts Centre c/o Rotary Club of Pickering: John Sabeau: 905-250-9891

Fenelon Falls Tennis Club: Peter Wenzel: 705-887-2917

Community Stream Steward Pilot Project c/o Ontario Wildlife Foundation: Tara Borwick:
 705-748-6324 ext. 244

Wraparound Northumberland: Jane Ashmore: 905-885-2320

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peterborough: Darlene Evans: 705-743-6100

Encouraging Young Readers Collaborative c/o Learning Disabilities Association of Peterborough: Shari Davis: 705-748-9455