

For Immediate Release

Canada Day Committee Urges Citizens to Volunteer Sign Up Slated for June 11th and 22nd

Cambridge, Ontario. May 14, 2009...Plans are underway for the 35th annual Canada Day community celebration and while the many details of the event are being fine tuned, the biggest challenge is getting enough volunteers to help make the day a success. Whether it's volunteering in the children's centre, helping with face painting, supporting the parade or taking up collections for fundraising, there's a job for everyone.

Chair of the Canada Day Committee Jacqueline Murray says it's a number one priority to bring together the quantity of volunteers needed to offer an event of this magnitude and quality to the community. The committee is hoping for some 100 dedicated community volunteers to take part in the event this year. "Those people who are planning to attend with their family might consider offering up an hour or so to assist with jobs at the gate or elsewhere for the day long activities. It's a great way to help out while still taking in the array of activities that the committee has worked hard to make available."

Students looking to achieve their community hours are also encouraged to participate. One of the areas that are most in need of support is at the event entrance in Riverside Park. Thousands of people attended the Canada Day celebration and volunteers are needed to help usher guests into the park.

Elaine Downton, a Recreation Coordinator with the City of Cambridge, encourages people to drop a loonie or toonie into the donation bin when they pass by the gates so that the Canada Day festivities at Riverside can continue to grow. "It's an expensive proposition to bring the fireworks to the community and this donation will help ensure the future of the event."

Downton says that the fireworks alone cost between \$15 - \$20,000, so community support is vital. The committee is currently looking for corporate sponsors to join the initiative. Last year, the generous corporate citizens included Toyota and Gore Mutual, along with other support from the Royal Canadian Legions, Navy Club, Kinsmen Club, Kinnette Club, and the City of Cambridge.

Volunteer sign up and orientation will be held on Thursday, June 11th & Monday, June 22nd at the Allan Reuter Centre, 507 King Street, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Any amount of time offered is appreciated and all volunteers must attend the training session approximately two weeks before July 1st event to participate.

New Mascot Showcased for 2009

In 2008, a special contest to name the new Canada Day mascot was a huge success and this year "Mapleton" will be a big focus of the festivities. Murray says Mapleton the beaver is symbolic of Canada and lends nicely to the theme of the popular event. Last year, the community came together to select one of five mascots: a bear, a moose, a wolf, and a raccoon. All were designed by Preston High School graduate Tyler Rutland. After choosing the mascot, a contest was held for children between six to 16 years old to come up with a name. Six year old Caleb Cormier the prestigious honour and Mapleton was later unveiled at the first annual St. Patrick's Day Parade this year.

"Besides the parade and fireworks on Canada Day, I know residents of Cambridge will take pride in our Mascot as he symbolizes Cambridge, Canada and the importance of the environment," said Murray. This year, the Canada Day event has a spectacular line up of activities from a fishing derby to kick off the day to face painting and fireworks. The traditional parade features marching bands, Shiners' groups, a Harvard Aircraft show and dozens of entertaining components. "Community donations will also go to support the costs of the parade which vary from year to year depending on the make up of the activities. We invest in marching bands, and other special performances that enhance the quality of the parade."

Last year, more than 40,000 people from Cambridge and area enjoyed the festivities and this year those numbers are expected to climb. Visit www.cambridgecanadaday.com for to learn more.

-30-

About events at the City of Cambridge

The City of Cambridge works with a number of volunteer committees to bring events to the community all year long. Staff liaisons in the Community Services Department include: Elaine Downton who works with the Santa Claus Parade and Canada Day; Colleen Lichti who helps with Christmas in Cambridge, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Riverfest, and the Highland Games; Susan Katumba who works with the Cambridge Arts Festival; Wanda Schaefer-Stilling who supports with the Mayor's Celebration of the Arts; Jennifer Horndl who works with the Cambridge Tour de Grand; Nancy Morvin who works with the Hespeler Santa Claus Parade and Forbes Park Festival; and Eric Bryan who helps with Rock the Mill, Youth Week, Youth Mountain Biking and Frankie's Song. To learn more about the calendar of events visit www.cambridge.ca and click on the community calendar listings.

Canada Day Event Contact:

Jacqueline Murray, Chair of the Canada Day Committee
jmurray@295.ca

The committee consists of the following dedicated volunteers:

Chair: Jacqueline Murray

Secretary: Position Open

Treasurer: Craig Hyde

Fishing Derby Coordinators: Hugh Spencer

Children's Activity Coordinator: Ceri Rutland

Volunteer Coordinator: Position Open

Sponsorship & Fundraising Co-ordinator: Nicole Fogarty

Media/Web Designer: Nick Bastian

Entertainment Coordinator: Dave Angus

Beer Tent & Food Vendor Coordinator: Dave Weber

Key Parade Marshals: Jerry Whetham & Jim Walker

Mapleton Mascot/Trainer: Kevin Burnett

Parks/Fireworks: Chris Ziemski

Recreation Coordinator: Elaine Downton

Special Events Liaison: Scott O'Donnell

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2008, the population reached over 125,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement. Based on the 2007 BMA Management Consulting Inc Municipal Study, the City of Cambridge is one of only four municipalities in the province that is debt free.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca

The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>

To opt out of the news release distribution, please send an email to [Linda Fegan feganl@cambridge.ca](mailto:Linda.Fegan@cambridge.ca)