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*The future rests in our helping hands*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Postcard Project Inspire Young Students to Volunteer**

**January 12, 2011 – Brampton, ON** – In early December, the opening of Winter Wonderland at Donald M. Gordon Chinguacousy Park also unveiled the artistic creations by a number of young students from all across Brampton. Featured at the park is a display of “Signs of Winter” Postcards, which demonstrate a wide array of designs illustrating the winter season. Forty-one schools across Brampton were invited to submit their artistic creations, a postcard measuring 4 feet by 8 feet, which remains on display at the park until mid-January.

One school which embraced the challenge with an abundance of enthusiasm and imagination was Copeland Public School. “What we’re trying to promote [through this project] is a greater sensitivity for the needs of the school community and the greater community at large,” said Lynn Dirks, Principal at Copeland Public School. “Our school character traits stress the need to demonstrate a positive attitude toward any challenges that come our way, self-belief that we can accomplish great things and acting responsibly in the choices we make.”

A small group of dedicated grade 4 and 5 artists from Copeland worked tirelessly to complete their art project with the on-going support and encouragement of their teachers Leslie Bethune-Webb, Jenn Goodhand and Lindsey Strong. The group gathered together after school for a number of weeks to complete the design of their “Snowflake” Postcard.

“It is tremendous the efforts that these young students put forward to contribute to this community initiative,” said Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC. “This demonstrates the true sense of how, even at such a young age, you can use your unique talents to truly make a difference. These young volunteers, along with their teachers, have come together and created an impactful, memorable contribution which has directly benefited their local community park.”

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An assembly was held at Copeland Public School in mid-December to recognize the voluntary efforts of the students and teachers of this project. Each was presented with certificates of recognition from Volunteer MBC.

Volunteer MBC is a volunteer centre serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon. The centre offers a referral service for volunteer placement within the community for all ages. They also provide education and support for volunteers and community service agencies and organizations, and serve the corporate community with various programming services that engage team volunteering. Additionally, the centre strives to be a strong voice to support and promote volunteerism.

Volunteer MBC is currently located at 2601 Matheson Blvd. E., Unit #43 in Mississauga, with satellite locations planned for Brampton and Caledon in the near future. For more information about the volunteer centre, and to access their on-line volunteer opportunities database, visit [www.volunteermbc.org](http://www.volunteermbc.org).

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**Photo Caption:**

“Snowflake” Postcard, on display at Donald M. Gordon Chinguacousy Park, created and designed by Grade 4 and 5 students from Copeland Public School, Brampton, ON.

Photo credit: Lindsey Strong

