



Mississauga • Brampton • Caledon

*The future rests in our helping hands*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mississauga 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 John Fraser Secondary School ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Glenforest Secondary School ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 John Fraser and Glenforest 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 12 events held specifically in the City of Mississauga.

A number of the events held were park clean-ups, which also took place in the City of Brampton. 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. At Forest Glen Park, MPP Peter Fonseca (Mississauga East-Cooksville) and his family lent their support by also volunteering alongside the youth at the event.

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Youth also volunteered at long-term care homes across the City of Mississauga by doing garden area clean-ups and were joined by the residents and their families at each of the locations. Two tree planting events were also held, one of which took place at Shelby Woods Park, in partnership with Evergreen, and was attended by Mayor Hazel McCallion (City of Mississauga) who praised the community for their participation.

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](http://www.volunteermbc.org) (launching in Mid-June) or by contacting the centre at 905.238.2622.

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