

Apply to Town's Community Green Fund by April 30

April 30 is the spring deadline for applications to the Town of Caledon's Community Green Fund. As part of the 2007 budget, council approved \$20,000 for this year's funding.

"Community groups carrying out key environmental work are encouraged to apply to the Town's Community Green Fund for funding support," said Mayor Marolyn Morrison.

Eligible projects have a clear environmental focus, engage the community, specify projected outcomes, include a monitoring and evaluation plan, provide

meaningful, measurable results, support the Town's environmental policies, and may demonstrate collaboration between groups.

The fund awards two types of grants: fast track or project funding. Fast track applications cannot exceed \$1,000 and will be for smaller projects or events with time constraints. A maximum of four fast-track applications will be accepted each year. Project funding applications cannot exceed \$5,000 and will be distributed as fee for service or in a program delivery manner. A letter of intent is the first step

in requesting project funding.

The letter of intent template for project funding and a copy of the Green Fund Framework containing the application criteria, project requirements, application form and other necessary information is available on

the Town's Web site under "Environment" within the "Town Hall" section on the home page.

If funds permit, a second round of applications will be solicited in fall 2007. However, groups are encouraged to apply for the first

round of funding as available funding dollars are limited.

The Community Green Fund was included as an immediate action in the Town of Caledon's Environmental Progress Action Plan. This plan was

endorsed by council in June 2005, and council initially approved the fund during the 2006 budget. For more information about the Community Green Fund, visit www.caledon.ca or contact Sara Peckford, environmental progress officer, 905-584-2272, ext. 4269.

Society looks to Caledon residents to help end MS

Bolton-Caledon will join the fight to end multiple sclerosis at the Zehrs Super Cities WALK for MS in Caledon Sunday, April 15. More than 300 people are expected to WALK for a cure, raising \$70,000, and providing hope to the estimated 55,000 to 75,000 Canadians who live with multiple sclerosis.

The event moves to a new venue, the Caledon Community Complex in Caledon East.

With Canadians facing one of the highest prevalence rates of MS in the world, the quest for a cure is important to communities all across the country. For Caledon residents who want to help end this unpredictable, often disabling disease, the WALK is a fun and meaningful way to get involved.

Beginning and finishing at the Caledon Community Complex, the Zehrs Super Cities WALK for MS in Caledon is a family-oriented event that combines fund-raising with food, entertainment, and prizes. Route lengths range from 5 to 10 kilometres; a wheelchair-accessible option is also available.

Terri Kernaghan, whose 10-year-old daughter Caitlin lives with multiple sclerosis, will be participating in her local WALK as part of an ever-growing 25-member team known as "Caitlin's Crusaders." Although the Kernaghan family deals with the challenge of MS on a daily basis, Terri is optimistic that, before too long, she will witness the discovery of a cure that will change Caitlin's life and the lives of all those who are affected by MS.

"The MS Society has come so far with research. It's truly amazing. There are also a number of treatments available for MS. And raising funds through events like the Super Cities WALK for MS is important because it keeps the momentum going. I truly believe that a cure is just around the corner."

Funds raised by the Zehrs Super Cities WALK for MS in Caledon help local people in several ways. The WALK helps to fund services for people with MS and their families, which might include providing information and referrals, supportive counseling, and mobility equipment. The Zehrs Super Cities WALK for MS in Bolton-Caledon also helps fund the MS Society's national research program, which is bringing researchers ever closer to finding the cause and cure of multiple sclerosis.

To register for the Zehrs Super Cities WALK for MS in Bolton-Caledon, visit www.supercitieswalk.com or call 1-888-822-8467.

Peel takes action for fair human services funding

Peel regional council will undertake a public information campaign to raise awareness and understanding of the impact of the provincial government's chronic under-funding of human services.

Regional councillor Annette Groves, chair of the Region's human services committee and member of the public information campaign ad hoc committee, called a growing funding gap in human services "deeply troubling for Peel."

In February, the 905/GTA Strong Communities Coalition, a partnership of United Way of Oakville, Peel, York and Durham and the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance presented regional council recent provincial data showing that 905/GTA residents receive between 50% to 60% less provincial funding, per capita, for key human services when compared to other Ontarians.

"The coalition's research shows that an already wide gap in social services funding is growing, despite the fact we contribute significantly to the growth, vibrancy and health of Ontario," said councillor Groves. "It is paramount that we also receive a fair share of resources to support residents who would benefit from access to child care, counselling and other human services that allow them to contribute to the health and

stability of their families and our communities."

In conjunction with the provincial election, council decided that the Region of Peel will:

- * Engage the Strong Communities Coalition and other interested parties in a public awareness campaign.

- * Request financial and political support throughout all the GTA municipalities.

- * Establish a joint public communication and public awareness campaign to advise our residents of these issues.

- * Target specific questions to all provincial candidates.

- * Support any other appropriate measures aimed at achieving these goals.

Regional council's actions come in part from The Strong Communities Coalition's request to support its efforts to have Ontario prepare a human ser-

vices plan to complement the provincial vision for managing growth described in Places to Grow - a document that called the GTA/905 "one of the fastest-growing regions in North America" and the economic engine of Ontario.

Growing Pains, prepared by the Coalition last fall, highlighted the audit findings of PricewaterhouseCoopers, which showed a large and growing per capita funding gap for health and social services in the GTA/905 regions. New information provided by the province shows that the gap has grown. GTA/905 regions receive \$213 less per capita

from the province for key social services.

For more information on the Region of Peel, please call 905-791-7800, or visit their Web site at peelregion.ca.

Volunteer committee appointments

Councillors Annette Groves and Allan Thompson were recently appointed by Caledon council to the volunteer recognition committee for the 2006-10 term of council.



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