

For Release June 16, 2010.

Leadership Graduates Make an Impact

Guelph, Ontario. Leadership Guelph & Wellington will be celebrating the graduation of its' first class of participants on Friday, June 18, 2010. It has been an exciting year for the participants in this program – a year of discovery, learning, networking and community building.

Media are invited to attend:

Friday, June 18, 2010
4:30pm – 6:00pm
Loyola Hall, Ignatius Jesuit Centre
5420 Highway 6 North, R.R. #5 Guelph

Lynn Broughton, Leadership 2010 Graduate and responsible for Communications, Marketing & Events with the Downtown Guelph Business Association comments that *“I feel incredibly fortunate to have been involved in the inaugural class of Leadership Guelph-Wellington. Such great care and dedication has been applied not only to the creation, but the facilitation of this course. We've been offered invaluable insight and information, opportunity for idea-sharing, space for debate and ultimately, cause for celebration. These are very real tools for impacting our region, each in our own distinctive way.”*

Leadership Guelph & Wellington offers leadership skills training to 25-30 participants annually. Over the course of the past year (October 2009-June 2010), participants learned about the local community, leadership skills and opportunities, and how they can impact our communities.

Leadership 2010 Graduate Kate Crozier, Rural Support Worker for Women in Crisis explains her experience with the program: *“I have been so impressed with the care and thoughtfulness that has clearly gone into the creation of this amazing program. The adult education model used to grow participants' leadership skills has felt engaging and respectful. The Volunteer Centre should be proud that they have created this innovative program that explores the heart and soul of this diverse and caring community that we live in.”*

The Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington is spearheading the program. Cathy Taylor, Executive Director, notes, “Our first class has been a truly exceptional group of individuals. We know that they will, in their own way, contribute to strengthening our communities and help Guelph & Wellington County prepare for their future.”

Taylor further states that “Our current participants, who represent a mix of emerging leaders in the private, public and community benefit sectors, have enjoyed every aspect of the curriculum and have provided us with great insight to continue to improve the program for our 2011 class. We know that the interactive, hands-on learning we are delivering is making a difference in our communities.”

The aim of Leadership Guelph & Wellington is to train emerging leaders, whether they are in a staff or volunteer capacity, so they will have the confidence to take leadership roles in their community and the workplace. Participants learned about different leadership styles, change management, organizational governance, time management, sustainability and more. They had opportunities to participate in case studies, learn from local leaders, and reinforce their training back in their workplaces and community networks. Their knowledge of the opportunities facing Guelph and Wellington County, an awareness of their own leadership style, and skills to engage their community will help them play a leadership role in our community in the future.

Jordan Jocius, another Leadership Graduate 2010 and Client Services Director with GJA Communications asks *“Is leadership innate or learned? It's learned and if a self-proclaimed 'natural leader' tells you otherwise then ask if they're a fast learner. With the Leadership Guelph & Wellington program, you will learn leadership secrets from leaders who have spent a lifetime developing their skills. You will then be instructed on how to use these skills to excel in your job and improve your community. Best of all it requires only one day a month of your time.”*

Late applications for our 2011 class are being accepted until the end of June 2010, from those 18 years of age or over who work or live in Guelph or Wellington County. The ideal candidate is committed to taking a leadership role in the community, either at work or as a volunteer. This is a program for future leaders from all walks of life,

The 2011 program begins in September 2010 and runs until June 2011. Tuition for the program is \$2,750. This includes all learning materials, meals and retreat costs. There are a limited number of tuition subsidies available.

To find out more or to apply for the program, visit www.leadershipgw.ca or call the Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington at 519-822-0912.

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For further information contact:

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Leadership Guelph & Wellington is the first program of its kind in our communities. With a made-in-Wellington curriculum to be instructed by a broad range of community experts, the program will provide 20 to 30 participants annually with the skills they need to take leadership roles at work and as volunteers. The program was developed in partnership between the Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington and the University of Guelph, with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.