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Leadership Program Now Accepting Participants for 2010

Guelph, Ontario. Leadership Guelph & Wellington is now accepting applications for its second class.

Leadership Guelph & Wellington offers leadership skills training to 25-30 participants annually. Over the course of a year (September 2010-June 2011), participants will learn about the local community, leadership skills and opportunities, and how they can impact our community.

The Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington is spearheading the program. Cathy Taylor, Executive Director, notes, "We have been absolutely delighted with the results of the first year of the program. Our current 22 participants, who represent a mix of emerging leaders in the private, public and non profit sectors, have enjoyed every aspect of the curriculum. We know that the interactive, hands-on learning we are delivering will make a difference in our community."

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 will learn about different leadership styles, change management, organizational governance, time management, sustainability and more. They will take back to their workplaces and community networks knowledge of the opportunities facing Guelph and Wellington County, an awareness of their own leadership style, and skills to engage their community.

The program is one of twenty-two running across the country. Leadership Guelph & Wellington is uniquely local, having been developed and being delivered in partnership with the University of Guelph and a team of experienced leaders from the area. Facilitators and presenters in this program, almost entirely drawn from our local community, have extensive experience in community leadership and bring the curriculum to life for the participants.

Geoffrey Abreu, program participant and employee of the Meridian Credit Union comments that, "This program has had a direct impact on my leadership skills in my workplace. I have learned so much about our community of Guelph and Wellington and how I can use my skills to make a difference."

Mr. Abreu's comments are echoed by Claire Alexander, program participant and Special Projects and Event Manager at the University of Guelph. "This program has been absolutely transformational. It has increased my confidence and abilities to continue to take on leadership roles at work and in my community."

Applications are being accepted until **Friday, May 28, 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,

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“Community leaders and their impact can be seen and felt in all corners of our community,” says Ms Taylor. “We hope to see people with a wide variety of backgrounds apply for the Leadership Guelph & Wellington program — creating a network of leaders in all sectors throughout our community. We encourage applications from those who are currently involved in the community, as well as those who have not yet had the opportunity to become involved; as well as those that are interested in all types of community initiatives, be they large or small.”

The 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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Leadership Guelph & Wellington is the first program of its kind in the community. 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.