



# Media Release

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## New Local Program Trains Future Community Leaders

For Release September 11, 2009. Guelph, Ontario.

A new training program aimed at developing community leaders will accept its first class this fall.

Leadership Guelph & Wellington will offer leadership skills training to 25 participants. Over the course of a year, participants will learn about the local community, leadership, and how they can strengthen both.

The Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington is spearheading the program. Cathy Taylor, Executive Director of the Volunteer Center is passionate about the change this will bring to the community and participants. "I'm very excited about the possibilities for Leadership Guelph & Wellington. This program will ensure we have the skilled leaders we need in the nonprofit, public and private sectors." said Ms Taylor.

The hope is to train emerging leaders, be they staff or volunteers, so that they will have the confidence to take leadership roles in meeting the challenges faced by Guelph and Wellington.

Participants will learn practical leadership skills including project management, organizational governance and effective communication. They will take back to their workplaces knowledge of the opportunities facing Guelph and Wellington County, a personal community leadership style and skills to engage their community.

The program was developed and will be delivered in partnership with the University of Guelph and other experienced professionals from the area.

"We have been very pleased to be involved," commented Julia Christensen Hughes, Dean of the College of Management and Economics (CME) at the University of Guelph. "CME offers a number of leadership programs and is committed to community engagement, so this program was a natural fit for us. What makes it unique, is that it was developed in conjunction between the University and our community partners. We are confident that participants will find the curriculum highly relevant and engaging."

Applications are being accepted from those 18 years of age or over that 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 managers, volunteers and future leaders from all walks of life.

*Building community.  
Developing leaders.*

**Leadership  
Guelph &  
Wellington**

c/o Volunteer Centre of  
Guelph/Wellington

46 Cork St. E., Unit 1  
Guelph, ON N1H 2W8

519.822.0912  
1.866.693.3318

[www.leadershipgw.ca](http://www.leadershipgw.ca)  
[info@leadershipgw.ca](mailto:info@leadershipgw.ca)



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"Community leaders and their impact can be seen and felt in all corners of our community. Leaders come from the manufacturing and business sectors, from service clubs and sports groups, and all sorts of areas," said Ms Taylor. "We hope to see people with a wide variety of backgrounds apply for the Leadership Guelph & Wellington program, creating a network of trained leaders in fields throughout our community."

The program begins October 2009 and runs until June 2010. Tuition for the year is \$2,750. This includes all learning materials, meals and retreat costs. Financial aid is available.

To find out more or to apply for the program, visit [www.leadershipgw.ca](http://www.leadershipgw.ca) or call the Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington.

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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, this program will provide 20 to 30 participants annually with the skills they need to take leadership roles at work and as volunteers. A partnership of the Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington and the University of Guelph with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Leadership Guelph & Wellington is one of twenty-two community leadership programs running across the country.*

## For further information contact

Cathy Taylor, Executive Director  
Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington  
46 Cork Street East, Unit 1, Guelph, ON N1H 2W8

Tel: 519-822-0912 or Toll free: 1-866-693-3318  
Fax: 519-822-1389

[ctaylor@volunteerguelphwellington.on.ca](mailto:ctaylor@volunteerguelphwellington.on.ca)  
[leadershipgw.ca](http://leadershipgw.ca)