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BRAMPTON WINS GOODWILL CRITERIA AWARD FOR WINTERLIGHTS CELEBRATION

BRAMPTON, ON: The City of Brampton was recognized twice this past weekend for its WinterLights celebration program. The City was honoured by receiving the notable Goodwill Criteria Award, which recognizes the generosity of the community and its impact on improving the lives of residents.

"We are so honoured to have been recognized with this award," says Communities in Bloom Co-Chair Councillor Gael Miles. "The generosity that our community has shown for this event speaks to the incredible community spirit that lives in Brampton."

The City also received a five-star rating for its program, with special recognition for "Winter Wonderland at Chinguacousy Park". During the holiday season, Chinguacousy Park was magically transformed with thousands of lights and a host of festive displays, including a live nativity. The annual event is becoming a regional attraction as families come to participate in the holiday festivities that include musical performances, horse-drawn hay rides children's activities and Santa Claus parade floats.

"Recognition of the Winter Wonderland in Chinguacousy Park is special for the City," says Brampton WinterLights Co-Chair Carole Spraggett. "Chinguacousy Park is a Brampton landmark, and to see it aglow over the holiday season makes it a truly special place for the community to visit."

The honours were handed out at the Annual Communities in Bloom conference, which was held this past weekend in Charlottetown, PEI. WinterLights is the winter edition of Communities in Bloom, in which municipalities across the country compete in a variety of categories focused on urban beautification through community involvement and environmental responsibility. In 2008, Brampton was awarded five stars in the WinterLights competition, but the Goodwill Criteria Award is a first for the City.

About WinterLights

WinterLights Celebrations is the winter edition of the popular Communities in Bloom program and encourages all Canadians to join in their local community events and activities, and to experience the beauty and thrill of winter.

On December 2 and 3, judges from Communities in Bloom/WinterLights toured the city to evaluate Brampton in five key areas: visual presentation, winter pleasures, festive season celebrations, goodwill programs, and tourism and promotion.

About Brampton: The 11th largest city in Canada, Brampton has a successful, well-diversified economy and is home to more than 8,000 businesses. The City continues to retain a Triple „A“ credit rating by Standard & Poor for the third consecutive year, reflecting its debt-free position, exceptional liquidity levels and excellent economy. The City’s 2009 operating budget is \$400.8 million and approved funding for its overall capital program stands at \$700 million. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak over 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being the Flower City of Canada and won the 2008 International Communities in Bloom competition. It is also the first city in the GTA and one of only 10 in North America to have been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit www.brampton.ca

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