



For Immediate Release

Ottawa Community Housing and Partners Open the Heatherington Family Centre

(OTTAWA) June 14, 2011– A ribbon cutting event was deemed a success this morning after families from the community were astonished by the Heatherington Family Centre’s transformation. Area community residents and their children had the opportunity to meet the many partners involved in the initiative and tour the new facility where youth programming will resume in July.

John Fraser, assistant to Premier McGuinty, Mayor Watson, Councillor Diane Deans and the Chair of Ottawa Community Housing (OCH), Councillor Steve Desroches, all spoke of the efforts and the value of partners in realizing projects such as this renovation.

The Centre, which was formally known as the Club House, housed an OCH workshop and held some limited youth programming. OCH moved its workshop to another location in order to provide additional space. Still, the solution to creating a suitable space for youth programs was beyond OCH’s financial ability.

Fuelled by the passion and determination of the youth program directors and by OCH, the shaping of a diverse partnership began. The United Way/Centraide Ottawa secured funding from the Harold Crabtree Foundation and the Heatherington Tenant Association obtained a grant from the Home Depot Canada Foundation. The Province of Ontario, the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa and OCH also contributed some funds. More than a dozen construction contractors and suppliers donated materials and supplies. Everyone came together to provide better program space for the neighbourhood’s youth.

“The Heatherington Family Centre renovation was made possible through the commitment and generosity of a diverse group of community-minded partners”, said Councillor Steve Desroches, OCH Chair. “This facility is a testament to the cooperation and efforts that are required to deliver a successful project in these economic times”, he added.

Once the formalities of the ribbon cutting event were complete, the doors of the Centre were opened to everyone. Cake and balloons were distributed. A sense of pride was evident by everyone involved as “wonderful”, “beautiful”, “incredible”, were the words that were heard from the partners and community residents as they ended their tour of the new facility.

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About OCH

Ottawa Community Housing provides affordable rental housing to approximately 32,000 residents. The Corporation is the largest social housing provider in Ottawa, and the second largest in Ontario. It provides almost 15,000 units for seniors, parents, children, singles and persons with special needs in 164 communities.

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