



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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\$67,500 OTF Grant Helps Shine a Spotlight on Markham's Arts Scene **MPPs Helena Jaczek and Michael Chan Announce Grant**

Unionville – On Friday, the spotlight shone bright on the area's vibrant art and music scene when it was announced that a collaborative made up of the Markham Arts Council, the Markham Jazz Festival and the Markham Village Music Festival has received a \$67,500 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Michael Chan, MPP for Markham-Unionville, Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP for Oak Ridges-Markham and Mervat Rashwan from the Foundation, formally congratulated the collaborative, known as the Markham Music and Arts Group.

"This grant will promote and develop art and cultural efforts within our community," said Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP. "This grant reaffirms the Markham Music and Arts Group's continued contribution to the development of the cultural, artistic and social fabric of the area."

MPP Michael Chan said, "I am delighted that the wealth of talent, creativity and volunteerism in our community is being acknowledged. This Ontario Trillium Foundation grant will help the Markham Music and Arts Group continue to enrich the lives of residents and visitors for years to come."

The three group collaborative received their two year grant in March so that it can hire a fundraiser to help each of the three organizations develop and implement new sponsorship programs to help sustain each initiative over the years to come. Each group has put their stamp on the area with their different festivals, workshops and seminars, attracting not only local residents to their events, but people from across the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.

"This grant will go a long way to helping each of our organizations become more sustainable in the future," said Judi McIntyre. "We look forward to working with our professional fundraiser to secure our future growth and development. Each of us is very appreciative of the support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation."

The Markham Village Music Festival will be celebrating their 30th anniversary this year. Held June 20-21, on Main Street Markham, the Festival features five stages of entertainment, more than 100 craft and food booths, Children's Village in Morgan Park, Farmers' Market and new this year, 'Barkham' - all things for dogs with contests, demonstrations and vendors. A complete schedule is available on-line at www.markham-festival.org.

Now going into its eleventh year, the Markham Jazz Festival will be held August 14-17. The opening evening features Up Close & Personal with David Braid & Phil Nimmons at the Varley Art Gallery. The Festival is held on Unionville Main Street, Toogood Pond Parkette, Main Street Markham and at Hot Spots throughout Markham. Information is available at www.markhamjazzfestival.com

The Markham Arts Council is a support organization for all the arts in Markham including Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Heritage, Literary and Festivals. They produce a quarterly newsletter, annual Artists Directory, hold seminars, Art Shows, Photo Contest, Poetry Contest, Arts Mixers and more. For a complete listing of Members and What's On, visit www.markhamartscouncil.com

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For over 25 years, the Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province. OTF continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit www.trilliumfoundation.org.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Judi McIntyre, Executive Director
Markham Arts Council
905-947-9054