



For Immediate Release
 Thursday, March 19, 2009

YMCA says ‘Thanks’ to Les Chater Family YMCA donors

Hamilton, ON – Before Hamilton Mountain resident and philanthropist, Les Chater, passed away in 2006, he made his second \$1 million donation to the YMCA, an organization he credits with his survival as a POW in Japan during WWII. He hoped that children in our community could have the same opportunity that he did growing up to learn about health, exercise and values.

On March 24, 2009, the Les Chater Family YMCA, named for his inspirational commitment to the organization, will honour his legacy and the support of more than 460 donors who contributed financially to the construction of the \$19 million YMCA, slated to open early April.

The sneak preview event for donors will also welcome provincial, municipal and YMCA program partners, including: The Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion for the Province of Ontario; City of Hamilton’s Mayor Fred Eisenberger; and President & CEO of Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS), Murray Martin, who have come together as partners of this project to build an important community resource.

Donors will be recognized permanently within the new facility in a special donor recognition display created by highly acclaimed steel sculptor, Gregory Robins. The display located prominently within the new lobby honours donors who helped build the new YMCA.

Located at Turner Park on Rymal Road East, the Les Chater Family YMCA is part of a multi-centre complex that includes a police station and a library. The new facility will provide for the health enhancement and recreation needs of thousands of children, youth and families across the Hamilton Mountain and will include a licensed child care centre, an aquatic centre, gymnasium, conditioning and wellness centre, five change rooms and community meeting space. In addition, the YMCA is committed to a program partnership with Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation, to help people take a proactive approach to their health through targeted programs for diabetics, cardiac patients, obesity and bone and joint health.

The Les Chater Family YMCA is scheduled to open early April.

What:	Les Chater Family YMCA Donor Recognition & Wall Unveiling
When:	Tuesday, March 24, 2009 – 4:00 – 6:00 pm 4:00 pm: Social 4:45 pm: Remarks (The Honourable Margaret Best, Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Murray Martin, President & CEO, HHS) 5:00 pm: Donor Wall Unveiling 5:15 pm: Reception and Facility Tours
Where:	Les Chater Family YMCA (356 Rymal Road East, Hamilton)

As a values-based charity dedicated to health promotion and healthy living, the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford serves 117,000 women, men, children and families of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, in all stages of life. The YMCA’s mission is to help people achieve personal growth in spirit, mind and body through participation and service to the community. The YMCA offers a wide variety of programs including: Health, Fitness & Recreation, Child Care, Day and Resident Camping, Outdoor Education, Employment Training, Academic Assistance, Newcomer Services, Community Outreach, Leadership Development, Volunteerism, and Residence for men.

For more information, contact:

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