



DURHAM WEST ARTS CENTRE



For Immediate Release

Contact: Angie Littlefield, Executive Director
Durham West Arts Centre
416-282-0646

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Durham West Arts Centre Foundation Pledges to Build!

[Pickering] The Durham West Arts Centre Foundation Board, recently introduced at the Annual General Meeting of the Durham West Arts Centre (DWAC), came onto the arts scene running full speed ahead. They pledged to build an arts centre, or at least have construction underway, for the 200th anniversary of Pickering Township in 2011.

In an AGM speech filled with passion for the arts, The Hon. Justice David Stone outlined the construction, fundraising, business, legal and community-building expertise of the group DWAC Executive Director Angie Littlefield has dubbed, "the dream team". The powerhouse group includes, John Wiersma of Veridian, Allan Gibbins of Hubbell Canada, Joan Wideman of Lenbrook Industries, Patrick McNeil of Ontario Power Generation, Ron Halliday of Coughlan Homes, David Green, CGA, of IBM, Scott Magder, lawyer, Justice Stone and Honourary Chair Mayor Ryan. "These individuals are known for their years of public service; they are people who get things done—important things such as building a much needed performing and visual arts centre in west Durham," says Ms Littlefield. "DWAC is very fortunate to have these champions for the Capital Campaign." The DWAC Foundation will kick off its Capital Campaign early in 2007.

Mayor David Ryan of Pickering has already pledged \$50,000 from the 2006 Mayor's Gala and DWAC received its first public donation of over \$5,000 from the "Arts Without Borders Committee" on Oct 19 at its AGM. The ball is rolling!

The construction of the new facility for 2011 will be a first for Durham Region as this will be the only larger scale venue dedicated to the performing arts. "We're going to bring back those \$15 million plus arts dollars that leave Durham annually and serve as a huge economic attractor for the Region," says DWAC Chair John Sabean."

According to Justice Stone's speech, DWAC's infrastructure work allowed the Foundation to start with full charitable status, legal documentation, a feasibility case and some blocking and stacking based on preliminary studies. While the Foundation Board held its first 3 team-building meetings quietly, it has already identified and visited one prime building site. Said Justice Stone, "We are going to build an Arts Centre. We have moved from a dream to a belief that is as strong as knowledge. It is going to happen!"

-30-