



[United Centre]

Media Release

For Immediate Release

From: The United Way of Perth County
United Centre
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September 7, 2005

(Stratford, ON) – It is with great pleasure that the Board of Directors of the United Way announces the Grand Opening of the United Centre.

“That we now have such a terrific facility is thanks to many volunteers and donors who were dedicated to the vision of a shared facility for local not-for-profits”, remarked Ellen Balmain, Executive Director of Perth County United Way.

The Property Committee, chaired by John Fischer and comprised of members Robert Ritz, Nick Aroutzidis and Wayne McKenny. Not only did they donate countless hours in developing the project, administering the funds and overseeing the work, they contributed their professional expertise and that of their companies so that work could proceed.

Throughout the development, The United Way Board would not authorize work to proceed until resources, donations and grants were secured. The Property Committee responded with new solutions at every turn. To borrow from our United Way theme, Make a Difference, the donors to our capital campaign, are the ones who truly made the difference in this project. Without their generosity, there would be no Centre. They will be individually acknowledged at the Grand Opening. Their commitment to the Centre, and indeed to their community, is greatly appreciated.

Board President, Jane Kirkpatrick states, “The Centre reflects a visible embodiment of the United Way’s commitment to build the capacity of our community to assist our citizens to lead healthy, happy and productive lives.” That the United Centre exists is a testament to the vision, courage and dedication of the prior Boards, beginning in 2001.

The United Centre is a building dedicated to improving the quality of life in our community. We are happy to report that it is almost at capacity.

The event will commence Sept. 8th/05 at 4:30pm with the unveiling of the donor recognition wall at 5:15pm. With comments from John Wilkinson, M.P.P. and Mayor Dan Matheison.

At the United Centre 32, Erie Street, Stratford

For more information please call Ellen Balmain, Executive Director, at 271-7730.