



## Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

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### Pickering Kicks off Pickering Blooms

Pickering, ON, May 6, 2010 - Yesterday Mayor Dave Ryan and Members of Council were greeted by students and staff of Highbush Public School at the Pickering Blooms Kick-off. Students demonstrated their enthusiasm for the environment and the Pickering Blooms program with a display of nature inspired murals, prose and song. The mural featured seed paper animals, insects, birds and flowers; which were handmade by the students and will go home for planting.

Highbush Public School was chosen as the launch site in honour of its Garden of Distinction award in the 2009 program. In recognition of their achievement, Mayor Ryan and Members of Council attended the event to plant a tree in their new outdoor garden.

During the event, Mayor Ryan announced a new component: a Youth and Family Garden Showcase, and invited all of the students to get involved. He encouraged their continued accomplishments by saying, "Your achievements truly illustrate what Pickering Blooms is all about: the community working together to make Pickering a more beautiful, caring, and sustainable place to live. Schools are a very important part of Pickering Blooms, because they put into action the ideas and philosophy that will create a better tomorrow."

Program co-chair, Councillor Bill McLean, presented the school with a certificate of achievement and took the opportunity to read the judges comments to the student body. Comments were made by the expert panel from the Pickering Horticultural Society, who run the mentorship program. Councillor McLean said "I hope that you are all very proud of this garden and the students and staff who made it a reality. There is much effort and care required to make a beautiful garden, just like there is to maintain our community and our environment. What you have done here is a small but critical piece of the puzzle and I am proud to be able to name your work as a part of what makes this community a great place to live."

The event wrapped up with thanks given to TD Friends of the Environment, Metro Green Apple Grant, and Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds from Principal John Briggs on behalf of the entire school. These organizations provided funding that made the rest of the new grove possible.

For more information about Pickering Blooms or the Garden Mentorship program visit [cityofpickering.com/pickeringblooms](http://cityofpickering.com/pickeringblooms) or call 905.683.7575.



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As the gateway city to the east GTA, Pickering (population 94,000) is strategically located where Toronto, York and Durham Regions meet. Pickering is an affluent community that is steeped in history, natural beauty and small town charm with all the amenities and services that a big city has to offer. The City of Pickering is considered a municipal leader in fiscal management, service delivery, sustainability and the environment; and offers a wealth of sports, leisure and recreation opportunities to its residents. Pickering has been recognized by Profit magazine as one of the ten best cities in Canada for growth companies and received the 2008 FCM-CH2M Hill Sustainable Community Planning Award.

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