



The Home Depot Redefines Home Improvement Shopping In Pickering - New LEED®-Registered Project Store Opens Today-

Pickering, ON; (September 4, 2008) – The Home Depot Canada is changing the way its Pickering customers shop for home improvement projects with the opening of its first LEED®-registered project store. The store is The Home Depot's third project store and third LEED®-registered store in Canada. The new 115,000-square-foot store, located at 1105 Kingston Road, was designed to be more environmentally friendly and project focused, based on customer feedback.

The LEED®-registered (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) store includes features to reduce electricity, water and gas consumption, while also reducing waste and pollution. Features include: a reflector roof that bounces back the sun's heat to lower air-conditioning demands; special light fixtures that work on occupancy and timing and photocell sensors that turn lights on or off depending on the time of day; and sensor-operated faucets and toilets to conserve water. The building was constructed with mostly local materials and all waste was responsibly disposed of. The building is also designed to help employees become more environmentally aware with bicycle racks and employee showers, as well as waste-reduction training.

In addition to the environmental benefits, the new design of the store allows customers to shop by project, a new concept in home improvement retailing, while taking full advantage of the store's redesigned layout, inspirational showrooms, new workshop area, online services and enhanced customer service features. New features include:

- Five Central service desks- The Home Depot Central, Décor Central, Building Central, Outdoor Central and Contractor Central
- Project trained associates at each Central service desk to assist customers with their entire project and any installation services they require
- Six new showrooms that change with every season to inspire customers
- A new seminar area to enhance the learning experience
- Radio call boxes to address immediate customer service needs
- "We Can Help" stations to provide customers with access to a call box, tape measure and promotional information
- New Electronic (E) Kiosks to provide customers and associates with the opportunity to access homedepot.ca, complete special order transactions, book installations and complete credit card applications
- New signage to inspire customers and simplify their shopping experience

"Our new store in Pickering really brings together two of the areas where The Home Depot is most committed; taking care of the environment and helping customers complete their entire home renovation project," said Annette Verschuren, president of The Home Depot Canada and Asia. "We hope this new store will encourage our customers to adopt environmentally friendly products and practices into their own homes, while also inspiring them to make their home the very best it can be."

The Grand Opening Ceremony included The Home Depot's twist on a traditional ribbon cutting. Picking up a saw and taking part in the board cutting ceremony to officially inaugurate the new project store were special guests: Mayor Dave Ryan, City of Pickering; Bonnie Harkness, Executive Director, Big Brothers & Sisters of Ajax-Pickering; Annette Verschuren, President, The Home Depot Canada & Asia; Jeff Kinnaird, Regional VP of Operations, Canada East; and Matthew Evans, Store Manager, The Home Depot Pickering.

"The Home Depot is a great organization, and I am pleased that it has recognized the growth potential of Pickering," said Mayor Dave Ryan. "The City of Pickering has embarked on a journey to become the most sustainable municipality in North America, and I am pleased that The Home Depot Pickering will be a LEED® registered store."

In keeping with the company's commitment to build better communities, the store donated \$2500 to Big Brothers & Sisters of Ajax-Pickering. The donation is part of the Team Depot program, which supports local initiatives in the communities The Home Depot serves.

"Big Brothers and Sisters of Ajax-Pickering is a not-for-profit charitable organization offering a variety of mentoring programs to children, youth and families in the community," said Bonnie Harkness, Executive Director. "We know the importance of a role model in the life of a child and strive to create magic in the lives of many children in need. Our programs have supported families in this community for 35 years with the generous support of United Way, individuals and local businesses like The Home Depot. Big Brothers and Sisters of Ajax-Pickering is grateful to be a part of the Grand Opening of the new Home Depot in Pickering."

About The Home Depot

Founded in 1978, in Atlanta, Georgia, The Home Depot is the world's largest home improvement retailer, currently operating 2,257 stores, including 168 The Home Depot stores across Canada. In fiscal 2007, The Home Depot had sales of \$77.3 billion and earnings from continuing operations of \$4.2 billion. The Company employs more than 300,000 people, including more than 30,000 Canadians.

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