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For Immediate Release

York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch announces annual fundraising dinner in support of the arts

Fundraiser will help promote York Region arts organizations and community groups

NEWMARKET – At a reception showcasing some of York Region’s up-and-coming stage performers and talent, York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch announced the establishment of a fundraising dinner in support of the arts in The Regional Municipality of York.

The inaugural *York Region Chairman’s Dinner for the Arts* will take place Thursday, May 7th, 2009 at Le Parc Conference and Banquet Centre in the Town of Markham.

“I am proud to help support the arts in York Region and establish what I hope will be a successful annual fundraising dinner,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “The arts benefit our economy by attracting visitors and cultural tourism. Arts and culture are also the foundation of liveable communities and play a vital role in the quality of life we enjoy across York Region.”

Chairman Fisch also announced the formation of the York Region Arts Council. This newly formed organization will help promote York Region as a premier arts and cultural centre by providing marketing and promotional support to the local municipal arts councils.

“There is no doubt that we need to foster arts and culture in York Region as well as assist talented young people reach their full potential,” said Ian Proudfoot, York Region Media Group Publisher and founder of the York Region Celebration of the Arts bursary awards program. “This dinner, as well as the new York Region Arts Council, will provide welcome support to York Region’s many arts organizations and community groups.”

“The arts also provide an important outlet for our ethno-cultural communities to share and express their rich and diverse heritage,” said Wendy Fairbairn, newly elected Chair of the York Region Arts Council. “I congratulate Chairman Fisch for his leadership and support of the arts.”

Chairman Fisch, Ian Proudfoot, along with Bill Crothers, Chair of the York Region District School Board and Bill Hogarth, York Region District School Board Director of Education, were each recognized for their roles in promoting the arts and were presented with commemorative awards by the York Region Arts Council at the reception.

Further details on the *York Region Chairman’s Dinner for the Arts*, including featured entertainment and tickets sales, will be available in early 2009.

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Photo from left: York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch, York Region Media Group Publisher Ian Proudfoot, York Region Arts Council Chair Wendy Fairbairn and York District School Board Director of Education Bill Hogarth.