

Stratford and area community groups get boost from Benjamin Moore

Long-standing program goes national in 2008 with \$100,000 donation

(STRATFORD, Ont.) Sept. 12, 2007 – The Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation and Benjamin Moore today announced five community restoration grants for non-profit groups in the Stratford and Perth region.

“We’re absolutely thrilled that five out of eleven grants awarded in Ontario this year as part of the Benjamin Moore Community Restoration Program went to organizations in Perth County, said Elizabeth Hachborn, Executive Director of the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation. “All five are very worthy recipients and vital organizations in our community. It has been a pleasure working with Benjamin Moore on this project. Their concern for communities and their generosity are appreciated.”

The announcement includes \$8,600 in grants and \$2,550 of Benjamin Moore paint for the following community groups:

- [Perth County Historical Foundation](#)
- [Gallery Stratford](#)
- YMCA of Stratford-Perth, Youth Centre
- [The St. Marys Museum](#)
- [Knollcrest Lodge](#)

“It is very appropriate that Gallery Stratford should be awarded a grant by the Benjamin Moore Community Restoration Program this year - our 40th anniversary as Stratford and the region's public gallery,” said Jennifer Rudder, Executive Director, Gallery Stratford. “The residents of Stratford look forward to the fresh new look provided by Benjamin Moore's expertise in historic colours and high quality paint.”

“We’re excited about this grant because it provides us with the means to improve our Youth Centre to make it look new and fresh,” said Rachel Stableford, of the YMCA Stratford-Perth, Youth Centre. “Young people need a place to go. The improvements will help us to attract more youth to the centre. We really appreciate this program and Benjamin Moore’s commitment to helping communities.”

A total of eleven grants, totalling \$22,500 with an additional \$6,200 in free paint, were announced in communities across Ontario today, including several in and around North Bay, Brampton, and Oakville.

Extended scope in 2008

“Following this very successful year in Ontario, I am happy to announce that in 2008 the program will be extended to targeted communities in all regions of Canada” said Helen Mullett, Brand Marketing Manager for Benjamin Moore in Canada.

“Our association with Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) dates back to 1998. Since then the Benjamin Moore Community Restoration Program has made over 100 grants in 67 communities – a total of \$375,000 in financial assistance and over \$86,000 in free paint and materials,” Mullett said.

In presenting the grants for 2007, Vincenza Travale, Chair of the Board of CFC, thanked Benjamin Moore for its ongoing commitment to the community foundation movement.

“The Benjamin Moore Community Restoration Program provides community groups with the materials and the expertise necessary to refurbish buildings and facilities of historical and human interest” she said. “The expansion of the program in 2008 is great news for communities across the country.”

Travale also thanked Benjamin Moore for its ongoing commitment to the community foundation movement. Today’s announcement includes \$25,000 to support the work of CFC, which administers the granting program.

Community Foundations of Canada is the membership organization for Canada’s 157 community foundations. CFC works with community foundations in targeted communities to identify local organizations that would benefit from the program and encourage them to apply.

Applications for 2008 program

The application process for the 2008 Benjamin Moore Community Restoration Program will begin in October 2007. For information regarding the communities that will be targeted next year and details of the application process please visit the CFC website at www.cfc-fcc.ca/newsroom.

“This program is enthusiastically supported by our retailers,” said Doug Funston, Customer Segments Group Manager, Central Market of Benjamin Moore. “It enables them to make a positive difference in their communities by sharing something that we are passionate about – our expertise and our product – with people who are equally passionate about the community and its heritage.”

Benjamin Moore & Co., a Berkshire Hathaway company, was founded in 1883 and established its Canadian operations in 1906. One of North America's leading manufacturers of premium quality residential, commercial and industrial maintenance coatings, its products are distributed through a network of independent paint and decorating retailers. Be sure to visit www.benjaminmoore.ca to locate a Benjamin Moore retailer.

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Note to editors: A list and description of grants announced in Ontario today is attached.

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