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Media Release

Friday, October 2, 2009

For Immediate Release

City of Ottawa receives Excellence in Planning and Healthy Communities awards

Ontario Professional Planners Institute recognizes Ottawa Escarpment Area District Plan

OTTAWA – The City of Ottawa has received special recognition from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute in the form of a 2009 Excellence in Planning Award and Healthy Communities Award for its Escarpment Area District Plan.

The Escarpment Area District Plan, which was approved by Ottawa City Council in November 2008, is a community development proposal that covers an area of Ottawa's downtown bordered by LeBreton Flats on the west, the Garden of the Provinces on the east and north, Bay Street on the east and Laurier Avenue on the south.

"The Escarpment Area District Plan embodies the principles of sustainability and healthy urban design," said Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien. "I am very proud that both the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario have recognized our City's innovative and creative approach to community building."

The Excellence in Planning Awards recognize innovation, creativity, professionalism, problem-solving and communications in four categories: urban and community design, planning studies or reports, research/new directions and public education. This year's winners were chosen from approximately 30 entries.

The City of Ottawa is also the recipient of the Healthy Communities Award. Established jointly by OPPI and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the award was created to recognize excellence in creating healthy communities. This special award was given because the plan emphasizes the importance of sustainability, urban design, transit, active transportation, and green infrastructure in creating healthy communities. The Ottawa Escarpment Area District Plan will create and foster a community that is healthier and more sustainable.

"We are committed to promoting the creation of livable, active, healthy communities," said Sharon Brodovsky, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. "OPPI is an important partner in the Foundation's *Spark Together For Healthy Kids*™ initiative. This award truly demonstrates their contribution to the health of Ontarians."

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The awards ceremony will take place on the evening of Friday, October 2, 2000 at the Sheraton on the Falls Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

OPPI is the recognized voice of Ontario's planning profession. Its more than 3,000 members work in government, private practice, universities and non-profit agencies in the fields of urban and rural development, urban design, environmental planning, transportation, health and social services, heritage conservation, housing and economic development.

For further information, including OPPI's Healthy Communities initiative, please go to www.ontarioplanners.on.ca

For more information on the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario's *Spark Together For Healthy Kids*™ initiative, visit www.heartandstroke.ca/spark.

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