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For Immediate Release

Changing of the Guards at United Way of Quinte

At United Way of Quinte's Annual General Meeting held this evening at Bay of Quinte Golf & Country Club, traditional board business was held including the review of annual reports and audited financial statements along with the appointment of auditors for the upcoming fiscal year and the election of a new slate of directors.

Incoming Executive members include: Bruce Laughton, Chair; Scott Marshall, Vice Chair; Kim Egan, Treasurer; Carmela Ruberto, Secretary and Heather Candler, Past Chair. The remaining slate of directors elected include: Wendy Osborne, Peter Knudsen, Peter Ramsden, Paul Katien, Dr. Hal Wilson, Mark Richardson, Kim Smies, Brenda Pergantes, and Tammy Sokolowski. Outgoing Chair of the Board, Heather Candler had this to say in her annual report, "I have watched this organization evolve in some fascinating and inspiring ways. Through this period of growth, an efficient and highly effective funding agency and agency of change has emerged." Commenting on a staff team that is second to none she added, "Our small agency and lean team are setting the standard for service and funding delivery and program innovation in Canada." Both Candler and outgoing Past Chair, Jack Miller, were recognized for their years of service on the Board.

The 2008 United Way Campaign Chair was also announced and for the first time in the history of the organization, a husband and wife team were introduced as joint Co-Chairs. George and Betty Beer, long time residents of Quinte and supporters of United Way of Quinte since inception, will be the honorary chairs for the annual appeal in September. George Beer is best known for his service as a municipal councillor for 25 years in Belleville, Thurlow and Hastings County, and his many volunteer positions throughout the community such as Children's Aid Society, Moira River Conservation Authority and Thurlow Firefighters to name just a few. Betty, a 30 year veteran of Nortel Networks, is also well known for her outstanding volunteer commitment, having worked with Adopt a Child, Nortel Pioneers, and the Canadian Cancer Society among many, many others. "We believe strongly in what the United Way stands for, we always have", said the Beers in a brief statement to the crowd. "We were honoured to have been asked and look forward to serving our community in this new role."

United Way of Quinte Executive Director, Julia Gosson, indicated that "George & Betty Beer personify community values and embody the spirit of volunteerism. In this our 50th year, it seemed very appropriate to have Campaign Chairs who had been involved with our organization for a very, long time and we were delighted when they accepted our invitation." Referring to the festivities lined up for 2008/2009, Gosson invited those present to join them in a year long celebration as the local fundraiser marks its 50th Anniversary and many accomplishments over the half century. The launch will be held on Thursday, May 22nd at 6pm at Q Park, outside of Boston Pizza at the Quinte Mall.

For further information contact, Julia Gosson at 613-962-9531 or George & Betty Beer at 613-969-0994.