

**Updated May 30, 2008**

**Press Release - May 22, 2008**

For Immediate Release

**United Way of Quinte Celebrates 50 Year Milestone!**

United Way of Quinte launched a year of celebrations on Thursday night at Q Park, Quinte Mall, with more than 150 past and present supporters in attendance. Julia Gosson, Executive Director, invited guests "to enjoy a trip down memory lane as they commemorated 50 years of building campaigns, community and capacity."

Over the last 50 years United Way of Quinte has rallied the support of donors in the amount of \$23.5 million which has been invested in organizations and programs throughout Hastings and Prince Edward Counties. In 1958, without any paid staff, the campaign raised \$63,371 under Campaign Chair A.S. Lewis with 11 agencies funded; the \$1 million dollar mark was reached in 1999 under the leadership of Campaign Chair Judge Robert Scott and this year, United Way of Quinte raised \$1.6 million with the help of Chair Rev. Hal Wilson funding 50 not for profit, charitable organizations.

Greetings and congratulations were brought from a variety of supporters including Belleville City Councillor, Garnet Thompson, Quinte West Councillor, Ron Hamilton, United Way of Quinte Board Chair, Bruce Laughton and numerous other partners, funded agencies and past volunteers and staff.

Grace Mullin, widow of Gord Mullin (past Executive Director 1974-1990) attended as did past Executive Director (1990-2000) Lillian Duffy to show their ongoing support of the organization and were able to take a step back in time through various newspaper articles, photos and memorabilia that were on exhibit throughout the event.

A distinctive logo designed by United Way staffer Sara Marlin, was introduced which will be used throughout this upcoming campaign. It pays tribute to 50 years of building campaigns, community and capacity and is proudly displayed on a monument that was unveiled at the festivities. Permanently erected in Q Park just opposite the Starbucks entrance, the monument, donated by Campbell's Monuments and landscaped through a donation from Scotland Yards, will stand tall and proud demonstrating to all Quinte Mall visitors the stability, commitment to the community and the longevity of this organization.

Gosson paid respect to the past half century of service and announced numerous activities that will invite the community to celebrate this milestone "we encourage anyone in the community who has old pictures, articles or United Way memorabilia that they'd like to share, to contact us. We'd love to enhance our archives and have a traveling road show for the year."

The local fundraiser will cap off the year's worth of celebrations at a 50th Anniversary Gala on March 28th, 2009 at the Quinte Mall.

For more information on United Way of Quinte programs and services or how to support their 50th campaign please call 613-962-9531.