

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

October 21, 2003

# **Fontbonne Community Garden will benefit whole neighbourhood**

*'Jewel On Queen Street' in the works*

"My dream is that this combined garden and park will be a place of beauty and peace for residents, participants and neighbours," said Sister Gwen Smith CSJ, Director of Mustard Seed, Fontbonne Ministries.

Fontbonne Place, South Riverdale's new affordable apartments and community outreach centre, opened its doors last fall. It sits back from Queen Street, and will now welcome the neighbourhood with a park at its front door.

This "Jewel on Queen Street East," so called because of the rare green space it will provide, will feature a barrier free parkette with plants native to the area, interlocking brick pathways, a butterfly garden, benches and trees. This garden was made possible thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Toronto East Rotary Club has also committed to assist with a Centennial project grant and member participation in honour of Rotary's 100th anniversary.

Community support for the creation of this small park has been outstanding. A committee, the 'Gardening Angels,' made up of Community representatives, staff, Fontbonne Place residents, and the Rotary Club advised in the planning. Three community agencies supported the garden project with letters: the South Riverdale Revitalization Committee, the Business Improvement Association and the Ralph Thornton Centre. Volunteers including Rotary members and young people from Covenant House will be involved in the planting and care of annual plants and flowers.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative. The Foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social service sectors.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Fontbonne Ministries is a non-profit registered charitable organization that includes several ministries based on the mission and shared ministerial commitment of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto. These ministries nurture community by welcoming everyone without distinction; they include the Women's Drop-In Centre, Mustard Seed, In Good Company, and Fontbonne Place.

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