



## **PARTNERS IN BUILDING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

*Pickering Soccer Club receives \$136,000 OTF Grant*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 (Pickering, ON)** The Pickering Soccer Club (PSC) is thrilled to be a recipient of a \$136,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant that will benefit soccer in the Pickering Community.

OTF, one of Canada's leading grant making foundations, is an agency of the Government of Ontario. The Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations that are innovative in their grant proposals and their partnerships.

"I am please that the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Trillium Foundation has provided these much needed funds for the expansion of the Pickering Soccer Club facilities. Pickering has had a vibrant soccer community for many years and has provided a much needed recreational outlet for its young and old athletes alike. This grant recognizes the contribution soccer has and continues to make to Pickering," said Wayne Arthurs, MPP for Pickering-Scarborough East.

Funding will support the re-development of an existing soccer field in partnership with the City of Pickering. The strategic goal of re-developing an existing outdoor field into a year-round artificial turf field will soon be realized. The new field will help to address the capacity needs that Pickering Soccer Club is struggling with; will raise the image of the Pickering Soccer Club with respect to community success and soccer excellence; and will help Pickering Soccer Club to organize tournaments and schedule additional games for all levels of play. But most importantly, it will provide the Pickering community with a much needed field to enjoy, extending the soccer season and allowing PSC to increase membership base and programs.

"The City of Pickering is a recognized *True Sport Community* and is actively working with strong community partners, like the Pickering Soccer Club, to provide meaningful sports and recreation opportunities for residents," said Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan. "I personally thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for its ongoing support of Pickering. Together, we are making our community a much healthier and vibrant place to live, work and play."

"We are very thankful to OTF for providing the funding to support this project," states Carl Pearce, President Pickering Soccer Club. "This support from OTF and the City of Pickering provides a new outlet for growth and opportunity for soccer in the Pickering Community. As a non-profit organization, we look to develop partnerships that allow us to meet the growing needs of today's youth and the City of Pickering while balancing the costs associated with running first-rate soccer programs."

Playing fields are PSC main obstacle. Taking one of two main fields out of commission for the season would be detrimental to the soccer season. In an effort to ensure consistent soccer program for the Pickering youth, the Artificial Turf Project is targeted to start late August and be completed by the end of September. This will allow PSC players a longer time to play in Pickering before heading out of the City for the indoor season.

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Pickering Soccer Club is striving to be a leader in soccer excellence. Boasting a membership of 4500+, PSC runs Recreational, All-Star, Competitive, Clinics and Adult programs year-round. Embedded in the community for over 30 years, PSC continues to improve its programs and create new ones, catering to the needs of our growing community.

**For more information contact:**

Shelly Augustin, Business Manager, Pickering Soccer Club  
(416) 835-6782 Cell