



Toronto, February 9, 2006– For immediate release

David Crombie Announces the Champions of Canada's Civic Public Realm

Civic awards honour winners from Vancouver, Montreal, Hamilton, Waterloo, Ajax, Woodstock and Toronto at the Canadian Urban Institute's 2006 Urban Leadership Awards Ceremony at Fairmont Royal York on Monday, June 5, 2006

Michael Harcourt (Vancouver), Mike "Pinball" Clemons and the Toronto Argos, Montreal's Benny Farm Task Force, Dr. Peter Simon (Royal Conservatory of Music) and Robert Sirman of Canada's National Ballet School are among the winners of the Urban Leadership Awards for 2006 announced today by David Crombie, President and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI).

Each year, the CUI presents the awards to individuals and organizations who through their leadership, activism, tenacity and vision change lives and transform communities. "These are the champions of Canada's civic public realm," said Crombie. "Their activism inspires us to build better cities."

Reflecting Canada's growing awareness that the quality of urban life is deeply rooted in the quality and strength of its public realm, the CUI's awards honour environmental initiatives like Steven Peck's Green Roofs for Healthy Cities and Waterloo's 10,000 Trees Project, cultural renewal initiatives (Simon and Sirman), human rights youth activist Subria Lapps and social programs that address poverty and youth at risk like Toronto's Friends in Trouble Youth Initiative -Jamal Clarke, the PACT Youth Crime Reduction Program (Founders David Lockett and Dan Cornacchia) and Pinball Clemons and the Toronto Argos' Stop the Violence initiative.

Included in the "Local Heroes" category are a number of winners from communities around Ontario – veteran Edwin Bennett – "Mr. Woodstock", Reverend Don Meredith of the Greater Toronto Area Christian Alliance, Joe Lobko, past chair of the Toronto Society of Architects, Mary M. Pocius of downtown Hamilton's International Village BIA, the internationally renowned Diane Dupuy of Famous People Players and Staff Inspector James Sneep of the Toronto Police Service who manages outstanding programs like ESP and TROOP made possible by ProAction Cops and Kids.

In all, the Canadian Urban Institute announced 16 awards in seven categories, including the Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award that will be presented to urban activist, former Vancouver Mayor and B.C. Premier and spinal cord injury survivor, Michael Harcourt.

The CUI Awards Luncheon will be held on June 5, 2006 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

Winners were selected by a jury comprising CUI CEO David Crombie; urban affairs columnist Christopher Hume; Goodwill Industries VP Mitzie Hunter; lawyers Bohdan Onyschuk and Jane Pepino; social activist and physician Dr. Joseph Wong; and Leslie Woo, an advisor in the Toronto mayor's office.



Canadian Urban Institute Urban Leadership Awards 2006 Award Recipients

The Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award for 2006 is awarded to **Michael Harcourt** (Vancouver). For the individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to the public realm over many years and in more than one field, thereby gaining reputation and acclaim for their vision, passion and impact.

City Renewal – Benny Farm Task Force (Montreal)

Activities that renew revitalize and restore our cities through advocacy that shapes policy on major urban issues, thereby promoting attitudinal change, encouraging public participation and transforming our urban landscape for future generations.

City Soul – Dr. Peter Simon, Royal Conservatory of Music; **Robert Sirman**, Canada's National Ballet School

Pursuits that inspire, inform, enrich and engage our collective spirits whether through the arts, entertainment, heritage programs, sport and recreation, cultural exchange, or other initiatives.

City Livability – Steven Peck, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, **10,000 Trees Project** (Waterloo).

Actions that make our cities more livable from finding new ways and means to improve our healthcare, education and the environment to enhancing public places and spaces and instilling confidence about our personal safety and security.

City Initiatives – Michael “Pinball” Clemons and the Toronto Argonauts; PACT Youth Crime Reduction Program Innovative initiatives that should make a significant impact on the public realm.

City Youth – Jamal Clarke, Friends in Trouble Youth Initiative; **Subria Lapps**, (Ajax)

Outstanding contributions to any aspect of the public realm by individuals under the age of 30.

Local Heroes

Individuals who have had a profound and lasting impact on the quality of life in their neighbourhood.
Award Recipients: **“Mr. Woodstock” Edwin Bennett; internationally renowned Diane Dupuy; architect Joe Lobko; GTA Christian Alliance’s Reverend Don Meredith; International Village BIA’s Mary M. Pocius (Hamilton); youth crime prevention crusader Staff Inspector James Sneep of the Toronto Police Service’s Community Mobilization Unit.**

The CUI gratefully acknowledges the following participants who have helped make this event possible:

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