



MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 Bassett Award Winner – ECSpeRT

March 31, 2010 (Mississauga, ON) – St. John Ambulance’s, ECSpeRT (Erindale College Special Response Team) located at the University of Toronto – Mississauga Campus (UTM), has received the 2009 John F. Bassett Award. This award is given to the Community Service Division that has demonstrated outstanding performance in all aspects of its operations. The criteria that is used to evaluate the nominations is leadership development, training, membership development, diversity/uniqueness of service, total hours of volunteer service and recruitment and retention. There are over 150 St. John Ambulance community service divisions operating in Ontario but ECSpeRT was chosen above all of them.

As a campus emergency response team, ECSpeRT is in the unique position of being able to volunteer first aid services for a large variety of community events as well as provide on-call coverage. When an emergency occurs on campus, members are available to provide emergency response to a variety of calls including seizures, diabetic emergencies, unconscious casualties, cardiac emergencies, breathing difficulty emergencies, asthma and a variety of musculoskeletal injuries – to name a few. The population at UTM is composed of students ranging in age from 18 – 25 years of age but there is also a large proportion of older professors, a children’s daycare and a gym that is open to the public. ECSpeRT also provides community service coverage for numerous events held off campus including the Mississauga Marathon and UTM’s First Year Orientation or “Frosh” Week during the first week of September.

“What an incredible group of student volunteers who have managed to surpass all expectations in training and commitment. They are a very impressive group and we are very proud of their commitment to the safety of the Erindale Campus community.” says Dianne Rende, Executive Director of St. John Ambulance – Mississauga.

The Mississauga Branch of St. John Ambulance supports the ECSpeRT team with training, fundraising, equipment and other needs to assist them to serve the UTM community effectively and professionally. St. John Ambulance, Mississauga won the 2009 Mississauga Board of Trade award for Nurturing Success: Business and Education Working Together, partly for their contribution to developing young adults’ careers through their support of campus medical response teams.

For 125 years, St. John Ambulance has been training over 140,000 Ontarians annually in first aid and other health care related courses and remains dedicated to saving lives at work, home and play. With over 4,000 volunteers contributing over half a million hours of community service a year, St. John Ambulance is an integral part of the community offering such unique and innovative programs as; medical first response, disaster response, car seat clinics, health and safety related youth programs and therapy dog services. As a charitable, non-denominational, humanitarian organization, proceeds from St. John Ambulance’s first aid training and first aid product sales directly support these vital community services programs. For more information on St. John Ambulance training courses and volunteer opportunities or to contact your local branch, visit www.sja-mississauga.ca.

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For additional information

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