



MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This St. John Day, Let's Go Out to the Ball Game! St. John Ambulance celebrates St. John Day with the Toronto Blue Jays

Mississauga, Ontario (June 22, 2010) – For volunteers, instructors and employees of St. John Ambulance, June 24th, St. John Day, is a day to celebrate an organization that has served Ontario for over 125 years.

Since its modest beginnings at the Kingston Royal Military College in 1884, St. John Ambulance has flourished to offer first aid training and health care related community services across the province, such as:

Medical First Response: Well trained and well equipped volunteers provide first aid in times of disaster and emergency, and at countless community events across the province.

Therapy Dog Programs: Bringing love and companionship to patients and residents in hospitals, long term care, and assisted living facilities throughout Ontario.

Car Seat Clinics: Ensuring parents and guardians are properly trained to install carseats to protect our youngest citizens.

Youth Programs: Providing leadership and healthcare skills to youth today, to encourage confident community leaders tomorrow.

To mark this year's celebration, over 350 St. John Ambulance staff and volunteers will be attending the Toronto Blue Jays Game, June 24, 2010 at 7pm. There will be a special on-field presentation highlighting all the community service offerings, and the opening pitch will be thrown out by Orangeville volunteer, Erin Fitzpatrick, who recently saved a life using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

"We're very excited to spend our day with the Jays", said Rob White, Chairman of St. John Council for Ontario. "This is an excellent way for us to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our members, while celebrating the comradery that comes with being a part of St. John Ambulance."

Across Ontario, individual branch locations will be marking the day in their own unique way. Some branches will have the St. John flag flown at their local city hall, while others host volunteer appreciation events. For more information about local celebrations, or how St. John Ambulance makes a difference in your community contact your local branch, or visit www.sja.ca/on.

Two Mississauga Youth volunteers from the Mississauga Branch of St. John Ambulance have been chosen to be part of the opening activities: Hunter Terry of the Youth Group and Sherry Liu of the Youth Leadership Team will participate in the centre field celebrations.

For more than 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 more than 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, visit www.sja.ca or contact the mississauga branch at www.sja-mississauga.ca.

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