



For immediate release

**PEEL'S COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE: SHARE-IT
FINALIST FOR GREAT GRANTS AWARD**

**Ontario Trillium Foundation Great Grants Awards honour organizations
with most impact in Ontario communities**

Brampton, October 13, 2005 – Helen Burstyn, Chair of the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), today announced the Great Grants Awards finalists. The awards recognize OTF grants that make a significant difference in communities. Community Environment Alliance, a not-for-profit organization, has been selected as one of four finalists from across the province in the Environment category.

Low-income families and individuals must often do without the technological tools that have become essential for school work or job searching. Share-IT, a project by the Community Environment Alliance, is reducing the digital divide in Peel Region. With materials from computer firm, Share-IT's volunteers recycle computers, printers, scanners and cell phones and distribute them locally.

"Ontario is home to many outstanding volunteer organizations," said Helen Burstyn. "OTF grants help them achieve great results. Great Grants Awards pay tribute to organizations whose work help Ontarians achieve their potential and improve the quality of their lives."

"The impact generated by Share-IT clearly stands out," said Ed Upenieks, Grant Review Team Chair in Halton-Peel. "When you think that OTF makes on average 1,500 grants a year across Ontario, it's quite an endorsement for Community Environment Alliance to be a finalist. I congratulate its staff and its many volunteers for their commitment and their vision."

Since 2003, the organization has also raised public awareness of hazardous e-waste. Share-IT not only "connects" low-income families, it improves life prospects at the same rate it reduces hazardous e-waste in landfill sites. The success of the recycling program has raised interest across Ontario and abroad. OTF's \$219,000 grant over three years has been used to hire staff and volunteer support and cover administrative costs.

"Since the beginning of the program, 10 tonnes of e-waste have been diverted," said Ranjana Mitra, Executive Director and co-Founder, Community Environment Alliance. "Our volunteers have been able to refurbish up to 90% of equipment for reuse and our aim is to place 1,500 PCs in community homes within the next year. But our biggest motivation and accomplishment is seeing the smile on a child's face when she receives a computer."