



**Media Advisory
For immediate release
March 11, 2009**

Markham Exhibit Exploring Deafblindness Opens in the Presence of The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

MARKHAM, ON – Join Mayor Frank Scarpitti, The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and members of the arts community at the opening of a photo-based multimedia exhibition ***Legally Deafblind*** at the Varley Art Gallery of Markham this weekend.

What: Opening of exhibition ***Legally Deafblind***

When: Sunday March 15, 2009
Remarks at 2:15 p.m.

Where: Varley Art Gallery of Markham
216 Main Street, Unionville

Who: The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Michael Chan
Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Members of Markham Council
Members of the Varley-McKay Foundation
Exhibition Curator Natalie Schönfeld Howard

The exhibition, which runs from **March 15 to May 3, 2009**, features 45 international photo documentary images of individuals who are deafblind, at different stages of their lives. It's an exploration of the everyday realities of language and communication.

Curator Ms Schönfeld Howard has constructed an unique multimedia installation which allows the viewer to explore the 'reality' of being deafblind. This installation includes a Braille/animation/sound vibration room, an installation of light and a room of sensations.

The Varley Art Gallery acknowledges the support of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation, CNIB, Deafblind Ontario Services and Rotary Cheshire Homes. The artist acknowledges the support of the Ontario Arts Council for this project.

- 30 -

The Varley Art Gallery of Markham explores Canadian art themes with a particular focus on portraiture. It also operates the McKay Arts Centre for community artists and studio classes in Fred Varley's studio.

Markham, a municipality of close to 300,000 residents centrally located in the Greater Toronto area, is Canada's most diverse community and home to many of Canada's leading life science and technology businesses. It is renowned for a rich heritage, vibrant neighbourhoods, and leadership on the environment and urban design.

MEDIA CONTACT: Dennis Flaherty, Town of Markham Communications
905-415-7520, dflaherty@markham.ca