



## Media Release

# Festival of Trees Goes Green Thanks to Guelph Hydro

*Guelph Hydro's donation of \$5,000 worth of LED holiday lights makes the season bright – and energy efficient*

**(GUELPH, ON) November 12, 2010** – St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation's Festival of Trees will sparkle "greener" this holiday season thanks to a donation of more than 200 strings of energy-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) holiday lights from Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.

LED holiday lights use up to 95 per cent less energy than traditional strings of lights. "That means your costs for holiday lighting can be as much as 95 per cent less than if you use those old lights you have been putting up for years," says Kazi Marouf, Chief Operating Officer, Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.

"For example, a typical strand of incandescent lights uses about 250 watts whereas an equivalent strand of LED lights uses only about three watts. If you decorate your home with six strands of the traditional lights and turn them on for six hours a day through the month of December, the cost for electricity will be about \$20. Lighting your home with six strands of LED lights, on the other hand, will only cost you about 25 cents," says Marouf.

"With 50 trees on display, each twinkling with a minimum of five or six strings of multi-coloured or white lights, I knew we were using a lot of electricity," says Mary DuQuesnay, Executive Director, St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation. "In fact, we had to be careful not to blow fuses."

The 50 trees on display from November 25 to December 28 at the River Run Centre in Downtown Guelph operate for six hours a day. With traditional lighting, the trees would consume about \$1,000 of electricity. With the new LED lights, the bill for lighting should drop to about \$12.50.

But the good news doesn't end there. LED light strings produce almost no heat, reducing the risk of fire, and, with no filaments or glass bulbs to break, they are also more durable, which will be a real plus for the volunteers who transport the trees in and out of storage every year.

Festival of Trees is an annual event that has been bringing the joy of Christmas to downtown Guelph for the past 18 years, thanks to the contributions of more than 40 volunteers each year. During its lifetime, it has raised more than \$400,000 to support equipment purchases and programs that benefit the residents and patients at St. Joseph’s Health Centre.

In addition to the donation of LED lights, as in years past, Guelph Hydro is sponsoring a tree. “We display the beautifully decorated tree in our lobby every year for the enjoyment of our customers,” says Marouf. “This year, our LED-lit tree will make the season bright – and energy efficient!”

### **About St. Joseph’s Health Centre**

St. Joseph's Health Centre has been providing health care to the Guelph Wellington community since 1861 following in the spirit and tradition of service for which the Sisters of St. Joseph are known throughout the world. The Centre’s Community Outreach Day Programs are recognized as being among the best in Canada. St. Joseph’s is also one of Guelph’s top choices for residential long-term care and is the city’s only specialty hospital offering continuing complex care, and rehabilitation. In addition, the Centre also provides outpatient clinics which include physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy, rheumatology, physiatry, and bone densitometry.

### **About Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.**

Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. delivers a safe and reliable supply of electricity to approximately 50,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Guelph and Rockwood. The company is owned by Guelph Hydro Inc. which is actively developing sustainable energy projects as a key implementer of the City of Guelph’s Community Energy Initiative. For more information, visit: [www.guelphhydro.com](http://www.guelphhydro.com) or [www.guelphhydroinc.com](http://www.guelphhydroinc.com)

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