



For immediate release

## **Kin Canada Celebrates 90-Year Legacy of Founder Hal Rogers**

Cambridge, Ont. (Feb. 19, 2010)-Hal Rogers had a dream. He wanted to recreate the camaraderie he had shared with the men he had served with in the First World War. Denied entry into a local Rotary Club, where his father was a member, because multiple family members could not belong to the same club, Rogers was undeterred in the pursuit of his dream. He decided if he couldn't join an existing organization, he would start his own all-Canadian service organization. On Feb. 20, 1920, he formed the first Kinsmen Club in Hamilton, Ont., with the vision of "serving the community's greatest need."

Ninety years later, Kin Canada is celebrating Rogers' legacy. With 508 Kinsmen, Kinette and Kin Clubs, his vision of enhancing the quality of life in communities has spread from coast to coast. Members have dedicated their time and talents to a wide range of projects from building parks to sponsoring sports teams to helping families in need. In total, over 1 billion dollars has been raised to fund community projects since Kin Canada was founded in 1920.

It was during the Second World War that one of the largest Kin projects, Milk-for-Britain, took place. Rogers rallied Kin members across Canada to raise funds for the purchase of powdered milk. By the end of the Milk-for-Britain campaign, Kinsmen and Kinettes had raised more than \$2 million and sent 50 million quarts of milk to Britain.

Another significant volunteer effort has been the adoption of cystic fibrosis as a National Service Project. When Kin members first became involved in supporting the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, children with CF were not expected to live long enough to attend kindergarten. Today, half of all Canadians with CF are expected to live into their late-thirties and beyond. In its 45-year partnership with the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Kin Canada has contributed over \$36 million for CF research and to raise awareness about the disease.

"Service. National pride. Fellowship. Positive values. It's no coincidence that 90-year values upon which Kin Canada was founded continue to have great meaning. The longevity of our commitment to service is a testament to how powerful service to others and the community really is," said Ric McDonald, Executive Director and CEO for Kin Canada.

Kinsmen, Kinette and Kin Clubs across Canada are marking Founder's Day with local events and celebrations. For more information about Kin Canada, visit [www.kincanada.ca](http://www.kincanada.ca).

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For more information, contact:  
Carla Reimer  
Communications Office  
[creimer@kincanada.ca](mailto:creimer@kincanada.ca)