



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fifth annual Peony Festival blooms in Oshawa

Canada's largest contemporary collection of peonies will be celebrated again this summer and on display for all to see in Oshawa.

Over 300 varieties of the beautiful and colorful flowering plants are part of the 2009 Peony Festival. The fifth annual festival will be held June 13 and 14 at the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens and Parkwood Estate.

The 2009 Peony Festival, presented by CKDO, will also feature various educational displays and activities, artists painting in the garden, a silent auction and drawings for peony roots, to help visitors to the festival get started on their own gardens. This year's festival will also showcase area artists and performers and feature presentations and demonstrations by various community groups. Joining this year's program is the third annual Stellar Literary Festival, which celebrates the "word" in all its published forms.

An important part of the 2009 festival is the Peony Show, a juried competition open to all gardeners. More information on the Peony Show is available under the Peony Festival section at the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens website (www.obvgoshawa.ca) and at the Canadian Peony Society website (www.peony.ca).

The 2009 Peony Festival is partially funded by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage and its "Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage" program.

The Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens (OVBG) is a project of the City of Oshawa which includes a series of modern feature gardens linking the parklands and natural terrain along the Oshawa Creek Trail system with the nationally-designated heritage gardens of Parkwood, the R.S. McLaughlin Estate.

The 2009 Peony Festival will be held Saturday, June 13, and Sunday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission charge and plenty of free parking. Light refreshments will be available in the "Peony Café".

The Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens is located at 155 Arena Street and Parkwood Estate is located at 270 Simcoe St. N. More information on the 2009 Peony Festival or location of the gardens is available at www.ovbgoshawa.ca

- 30 -

For more information, contact: Winnie Chapman
Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens
905.448.8094
winnie@duacom.ca