



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

GRAND OPENING OF THE WEST ISLAND CANCER WELLNESS CENTRE A place to turn when cancer affects your life: a dream come true for the well-being of the community

Beaconsfield, October 15, 2009 – This afternoon, over a hundred and fifty people gathered to celebrate the official grand opening of the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre, along with some of the West Island's municipal authorities.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony, Mrs. Debby Magwood and Mrs. Jill Boileau, proud co-founders of the Centre, were surrounded by the staff members and volunteers who contributed to fulfilling their dream of offering a haven to people encountering cancer to help empower them mind, body and spirit.

Finding inner strength

For the Board President, psychologist Debbie Magwood, and her team, protecting the integrity of the person encountering cancer is accomplished by providing compassionate support and comprehensive information. "For 15 years, I'd had this vision in my mind of what I wanted the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre to be. I wanted to create a place where cancer patients and their families could feel safe, and where we could provide the right resources, the most complete information possible, and receive support from diagnosis to one year post-treatment", said Mrs. Magwood. Therefore, the Centre acts as a home-away-from-home, a warm environment staffed by caring people who help patients experiencing cancer and their support circle lead productive lives.

According to Mrs. Jill Boileau, co-founder, the West Island community should be really proud of this accomplishment. "The opening of the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre is a stunning example of a community coming together to answer a crucial need. It is the result of great effort from our amazing staff, our incredible number of volunteers and some very generous foundations, organizations and companies."

Innovative programs and services

The West Island Cancer Wellness Centre provides patients with benefits of a whole-care approach to wellness while they encounter cancer. All services are free and are

provided at the Centre. Services can be personalized or offered to groups. If needed, the Centre can connect patients to a great support network (psychologists, medical personnel, pharmacists, educators, etc.). All programs and services are listed and explained on the Centre's website at www.wicwc.org.

Cancer: an illness that affects us all

Cancer was the leading cause of death in Quebec in 2008. More than one person out of three – 40% of Canadian women and 45% of Canadian men – will be diagnosed with cancer during their life. In a few years, this proportion is estimated to grow to one person out of two¹. Sadly, it is likely that those who will be spared from the disease will, however, be affected by a friend or a family member's cancer diagnosis. Therefore, the entire West Island community and surrounding areas may benefit from the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre.

About the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre

The West Island Cancer Wellness Centre (WICWC) helps people encountering cancer and their families. Through professional resources, educational programs and many services, it offers free compassionate support and comprehensive information for mind, body, and spirit.

About the bodhi tree (WICWC logo)

The bodhi tree is believed to be the longest living tree in existence, and is the oldest continually documented tree in the world. Its leaves are lively, helping it to exude a high, bright, fine energy. The Bodhi is said to rain blossoms—which is why many say it is the mythical World Tree. In addition, the Bodhi tree is a source of energy and inspiration, a symbol of peace, enlightenment, and a reminder of the ultimate potential that lies within us all.

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¹ Source: Canadian Cancer Society, *Canadian Cancer Statistics 2009*.