THE CANADIAN HEARING SOCIETY
LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE L'OUÏE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Niagara Region hosts first-ever Communication Devices & Accessibility Centre in Ontario

St. Catharines, ON – On Friday, June 2 The Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) in partnership with the Lions Homes for Deaf People, and the Lion and Lioness clubs of Multiple District "A" Ontario will officially open the province's first Communication Devices & Accessibility Centre at the CHS Niagara area office.

A generous grant from the Lions Homes for Deaf People will enable CHS to provide demonstration, sales, and educational seminars on various communication devices. Amplified phones/ringers, TTYs (Teletypewriters), assistive listening devices and more will be available to community members who are deaf, deafened and hard of hearing, their families, hospitals, churches, and other interested groups.

The first of their kind in Canada, the Communication Devices & Accessibility centres will be rolled out over two years to 18 CHS offices across the province. Each location will supply a walk-up display where staff will demonstrate devices, make recommendations based on individual needs and consumers will have a trial period to assess if the equipment is meeting their needs.

Beginning at 10:30 AM on Friday, June 2, 2006, Fred Enzel, CHS Chief Financial Officer, will be joined by Terry Graham, Director of The International Association of Lions Clubs, Multiple District "A": Hearing Chair, Lion Carl Young PCC, and Lion Jack Graydon, Chair of the Lions Homes for Deaf People in celebrating the opening of the inaugural Communication Devices & Accessibility Centre.

"The Lions Homes for Deaf People and the Lion and Lioness clubs have been extraordinarily generous," says Enzel. "Their gift has given CHS the opportunity to expand our reach of service to Canadians who have hearing loss and we look forward to celebrating with them."

The Canadian Hearing Society has been dedicated to eradicating communication barriers for people who are deaf, deafened and hard of hearing since 1940. It is the largest agency of its kind in Canada, employing approximately 440 people who deliver 17 programs, from employment counselling to interpreting services through 28 regional and area offices.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is the largest service organization in the world with over 1.4 million members in more than 43,300 clubs in 714 Districts covering 182 countries and geographic areas. Lions Club members give their time, skills and resources to raise funds for charitable giving both in their communities and internationally.

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For more information on The Canadian Hearing Society and our mission, please visit our website at www.chs.ca

For more information on the Lions Homes for Deaf People and the Lion and Lioness Clubs, please visit www.lionsclubs.org