

Media Release  
For Immediate Release

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### **Southlake Regional Health Centre is awarded for their environmental efforts**

**Newmarket, Ontario** – On November 17, Southlake Regional Health Centre received the 2009 Smart Commute Central York (SCCY) Employer of the Year Award. Hosted at Toronto's Historic Distillery District, the third annual Smart Commute Awards acknowledges organizations that show environmental leadership and innovation within their communities. Nominees were selected by their local Smart Commute and were assessed by an independent panel of community members.

With over 2300 staff, Southlake is one of Newmarket's largest employers and a valued member of the Smart Commute program. The health centre is active in promoting cleaner ways of commuting by providing staff with incentives that include preferred parking for registered carpools, shared parking passes, and a safe and secure bike-parking area. Southlake also comprises one fifth of registered carpools on Smart Commute's ride-matching program, [www.carpoolzone.ca](http://www.carpoolzone.ca).

"We are thrilled to have received this award," says Southlake's SCCY Champion Michael Koolhaas. "Southlake is a growing health centre and because of that, we realize that promoting a cleaner commute for our staff not only aids in reducing our carbon footprint, but is also an effective way of managing the organization's multiplying numbers."

"Southlake is dedicated to providing their employees with alternative means of commuting to work, other than driving alone," explains Doug Peters, Chair of the SCCY Advisory Board. "Their commitment to Smart Commute is a great example for the organizations in the community that are interested in promoting employee initiatives that will develop more efficient and active ways of commuting."

SCCY is a program of the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce with funding and support from Metrolinx, York Region and the Town of Newmarket. SCCY has helped commuters prevent 198,000 kg of greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating over 14,000 car trips since 2006. Thirteen organizations with more than 11,000 employees have signed on to Smart Commute Central York.

To learn more about the Smart Commute Program please visit [www.smartcommutecentralyork.ca](http://www.smartcommutecentralyork.ca). For more information please contact:

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