



# News Release

January 13, 2011

## OPIC Unveils Cause & Honourary Chair for 6th Annual Hog Jog

January 13, 2011 – (STRATFORD, ON) The Ontario Pork Industry Council (OPIC) is pleased to announce that all pledges from the 2011 Hog Jog will be going to National Service Dogs Training Center – to be used specifically for the training of Certified Service Dogs for children & families living with autism. The 6<sup>th</sup> annual charity run/walk will be held the evening of Tuesday, June 21st at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

This contribution to National Service Dogs will be made in honour of Wanda Spruyt. “We hope many community members will feel a personal connection to the cause and do their part by participating or volunteering, in the 2011 Hog Jog”, said Wanda, a pork producer in Strathroy, Ontario and a long time puppy raiser, event volunteer and supporter of NSD.

The prevalence rate of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Canada is 1 in 110. Since 1996, National Service Dogs (NSD) has been training Labrador and Golden Retrievers to assist children and families living with Autism. Certified Autism Service Dogs improve socialization, suppress behavioural outbursts and increase safety levels by alleviating the bolting behaviours common in children with autism. For more information on NSD, visit [www.ns.on.ca](http://www.ns.on.ca).

The Hog Jog has raised a combined total of \$122,500 for five very worthy local causes over the past five years. Past causes were the Parkinson Society of Southwestern Ontario, The Heart and Stroke Foundation’s AED program, The Alzheimer Society of Perth County, The Lung Association Asthma Awareness program and the Emergency Department of the Stratford General Hospital.

OPIC’s Pork for a Cause Hog Jog is a 5km run/walk and 10km run held each year during the Ontario Pork Congress. The goal of the Hog Jog is to raise awareness about an important local cause, give back to the community, and celebrate the people of the pork industry. It is also about having fun! Participation has increased each year with 450 walkers and runners in 2010.

For more information about Hog Jog 2011, including registration, sponsorship opportunities or volunteering at Hog Jog please go to [www.hogjog.ca](http://www.hogjog.ca).