



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Orangeville, July 23, 2018 – A group of community stakeholders – representatives from several collaborating not-for-profit local agencies – installed a memorial plaque at Dods & McNair Funeral Home.**

The plaque was installed in front of a tree located at Dods & McNair with the intention of memorializing those who have lost their lives to overdose. The plaque reads, “This tree has been planted in memory of those we’ve loved and lost to addiction.” It is a beautiful spot and the committee hopes that family members and friends of those lost to overdose addiction will find some comfort when visiting the tree.

In Dufferin and Caledon, we are not immune to this epidemic. Local emergency responders have noticed a significant increase in overdose cases within the community in the last two years. As a result, collaborating agencies in Dufferin and Caledon want to raise awareness and educate to help prevent future tragedies.

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August 31<sup>st</sup> each year with the goal of raising awareness of overdose and reducing the stigma of a drug-related death. This event also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends who remember those who have met with death or permanent injury as a result of drug overdose.

The community is invited to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Overdose Awareness barbecue and health fair**, which will be held on **Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>** at the Edelbrock Centre, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The event will also include thoughtful words spoken by community partners and a survivor’s story.

This event wouldn’t be possible without the support of generous community members: Broadway Pharmasave, the Rotary Club of Orangeville, the Optimist Club of Orangeville, and Dods & McNair Funeral Home. Thanks also go out to Angcam Metals, Edenwood Furniture and Broadway Engraving – local businesses kindly donating their time and resources to create a beautiful plaque.

For more information on the event, please visit [www.familytransitionplace.ca](http://www.familytransitionplace.ca).

### **About Family Transition Place**

Family Transition Place (FTP) provides a continuum of services to help women and children escape violence and unhealthy relationships and to help them rebuild their lives. Inside our doors, we offer a warm and welcoming place where their safety and well-being is the most important thing in the world. Whether it’s a safe place to live, or the services of a professional, skilled counselor to assist them on their journey, FTP is there to help. FTP relies on community support through donations and sponsorships to ensure its programs maintain their high standard of excellence, and that our Youth Education programs continue to be available to the youth and communities of Caledon and Dufferin.

### **Contact:**

Stacey Tarrant

Family Transition Place

[stacey@familytransitionplace.ca](mailto:stacey@familytransitionplace.ca)

519-942-4122 #

## Safety. Support. Hope.

Building healthier communities – one relationship at a time.