

## OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY HONORS ITS FOUNDERS

### *July 16 Gala, Sponsored by M&T Bank, Returns to Delaware Park Meadow*

The 8<sup>th</sup> Frederick Law Olmsted Gala – the Olmsted Conservancy’s signature summer garden party that annually takes place at one of the City of Buffalo’s renowned parks – returns to Delaware Park on Friday, July 16, 2010 with a *Canopy of Green* theme. For the second year, M&T Bank is the title sponsor. Several individuals who were instrumental in building the foundation for the Olmsted Conservancy, stewards of the parks, will be honored during the evening. Delaware North – the Buffalo-headquartered company that manages a collection of the world’s most prestigious parks and resorts - has assembled six “one-of-a kind” experiences for the evening’s live auction.

The Olmsted Parks Conservancy is one of the nation’s premier public/private partnerships, founded in the 1970s by a cross section of citizens who believed that Buffalo’s 1200-acre treasured Olmsted Park System would benefit from community stewardship. The Conservancy recently signed a landmark agreement with the City of Buffalo to continue full management of the park system. Olmsted Parks serve virtually every city neighborhood and are enjoyed by a million people annually.

“The Olmsted Parks had existed for a century when an extraordinary group of citizens – seeking to ensure the second 100 years – led the effort to create a permanent stewardship organization. Buffalo’s Olmsted Parks thrive today because of their vision for a public-private partnership,” says Thomas Herrera-Mishler, president and CEO of the Conservancy.

The evening’s honorees, all strong park advocates are:

Stanton Broderick, Clyde Harris Eller, Ruth Hientz, Joanne R. Kahn, Frank Kowsky, Mary Jane Mills, Mark Mistretta, Claire Ross, Cynthia Schwartz and Susan West Montgomery.

The *Canopy of Green* theme was selected as tribute to the historic trees that surround this beautiful 350-acre park. More than 400 guests will enjoy the classy, outdoors evening with cocktails, a gourmet dinner catered by Rich’s Catering, horse and carriage rides, live musical entertainment by the Buffalo Chamber Players and the Soul Providers Band and, a live auction.

M&T Bank is Platinum sponsor. BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York, Kaleida Health and Wegmans are Silver Sponsors. Barefoot Wine, Delaware North Companies, NOCO, North American Breweries, Buffalo, Unilock Inc., United Graphics, Inc. and White Bicycle are Patron Sponsors.

The Gala’s Planning Committee chair is Anne Harding Joyce. Co-Chairs include Mary Ross and Ginna Kelly. Committee members are Deborah Barbeau, Elizabeth D. Carlson, Nickole Garrison, Rita E. Gay, Jane Kaskie, Theresa Kazmierczak, Niscah Koessler, Lisa Pierce, Linda Soltis, Thomas Herrera-Mishler and Joy Testa Cinquino.

Gala tickets are \$175 per person and \$1500 for a table of eight. Proceeds go back into caring for the 140 year-old park system. For more information, contact the Olmsted Parks Conservancy at (716) 838-1249 ext. 17, or [joy@bfloparks.org](mailto:joy@bfloparks.org) or visit the Olmsted website at [www.BfloParks.org](http://www.BfloParks.org).

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