



## **Ethiopian Association in GTA & Surrounding Regions**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **Ethiopian Millennium Day in Toronto (Saturday, September 8, 2007 at Christie Pitts Park)**

In September, Ethiopians around the world will ring in the new year. This year is particularly special, as it marks the 2000<sup>th</sup> year in the Ethiopian calendar, the millennium.

The African Union recognized the Ethiopian Millennium as a “unique African occasion”. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution recognizing the year from September 12, 2007 to September 11, 2008 as the year commemorating the Ethiopian Millennium. Cities such as Washington DC and Denver, Colorado have officially declared September 12, 2007 as Ethiopian Millennium Day.

To mark Ethiopia's entry into the third millennium and to celebrate Ethiopian New Year, the Ethiopian Association in the Greater Toronto Area and Surrounding Regions will host a day-long event to be held on Saturday, September 8th, 2007, from 10 am until 11 pm at Christie Pitts Park in Downtown Toronto. Key events will include music and performances by Ethiopian, other African, Caribbean artists; cultural exhibits, fashion shows and sport events. This celebration of our Canadian diversity and art will also include a reading by Camilla Gibb, the award winning author of “Sweetness in the Belly”, a story mostly set in Ethiopia. This event is also an opportunity to sample Ethiopian cuisine and participate in the world-renowned Ethiopian coffee ceremony.

The Ethiopian calendar is one of the most ancient calendars and probably the oldest still in use officially. According to the Ethiopian calendar, the Common Era began two thousand years ago as opposed to two thousand seven. This is the reason for Ethiopia's jubilant entry into the third millennium seven years and eight months after most countries in the world did. For history, culture and people of Ethiopia and further details of Ethiopian Millennium Day in Toronto please visit <http://www.ethiocommun.org/ethio-y2k/index.htm>

*The Ethiopian Association in the Greater Toronto Area and Surrounding Regions is a Not-for-Profit and Charitable Organization incorporated in 1981. The Association has been providing Community and Social service programs to people of Ethiopian origin and others for the last twenty seven years.*

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