

For Immediate Release

## From Broadcast Icon to Canadian Music Legend... Vicki Gabereau Passes the Parkinson's Torch to Tom Cochrane

Toronto, September 23, 2004 -- Parkinson Society Canada (PSC) is pleased to announce that celebrated Canadian musician Tom Cochrane will become the National Honourary Chair of Parkinson Society Canada's key fundraising initiative, **SuperWalk for Parkinson's**.

Tom, who will officially assume this role in spring 2005, takes over from Canadian broadcasting icon, Vicki Gabereau, who has served PSC and all Canadians with Parkinson's disease so well for the past 3 years.

SuperWalk 2004, taking place this September in 74 communities across Canada, will bid a fond farewell to Vicki and a celebration of her work. From her initial acceptance, Vicki has used her familiar face, presence and voice to encourage and promote **SuperWalk for Parkinson's** to all Canadians. We thank her for her commitment to Parkinson Society Canada and her passion for SuperWalk.

"This cause is very close to my heart," says Cochrane of Parkinson's. His father battled Parkinson's disease for many years, until his passing almost two years ago. "I want to do as much as I can to raise awareness and funds for Parkinson Society Canada and the 100,000 Canadians living with Parkinson's today".

And he is well positioned to do just that: as one of Canada's most revered and honoured musicians and song writers, Tom has won 13 Juno awards and he and his group, Red Rider, have been nominated for more than 50 Juno's.

"We are thrilled to have Tom join us in this important honorary role", says Joyce Gordon, CEO and President of Parkinson Society Canada. "His commitment and personal experience with Parkinson's disease will no doubt help raise awareness and funds in support of research, education, advocacy and support programs."

**SuperWalk for Parkinson's** began over a decade ago with a small group of volunteers in Toronto who decided to raise funds and awareness for Parkinson's disease. Since then, over \$5 million dollars has been raised by volunteers across Canada in support of the mission and vision of the Society. This year's 2004 **SuperWalk for Parkinson's** goal is to raise \$1.65 million.

*Parkinson Society Canada is the national voice of Canadians living with Parkinson's. Our purpose is to ease the burden and find a cure through research, education, advocacy and support services. Working with our Regional Partners from coast to coast, Parkinson Society Canada shares a common vision to improve the quality of life for all Canadian's affected by Parkinson's*

**For media inquiries, call:**

**Peggy Yates, Parkinson Society Canada**

**Tel: 416-227-9700 ex. 3380**

**Email: [peggy.yates@parkinson.ca](mailto:peggy.yates@parkinson.ca)**