



MEDIA RELEASE



ROWONTARIO Recommends WRCC for Next Three Years of Provincial Championships and Masters Championships

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Welland – The potential list of events for Welland, the Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC), and the Welland Recreational Canal Corp (WRCC) continues to grow. The WRCC is pleased to announce that it has just received official word that the WRCC/WIFC has been recommended as the host site for the 2010 through 2012 ROWONTARIO Provincial and Masters Championships.

ROWONTARIO opened up the two regattas to bids from all Ontario Member clubs and organizations in 2009 and the WRCC moved to win the bids to protect the investments made to the Welland flatwater courses, ensure continued sport tourism spin-off to local businesses and secure opportunity for fundraising to local clubs and groups. The successfully awarded bid includes a combined \$6,500 annually in monies directly from ROWONTARIO for volunteer groups like the rowing clubs, canoe club, Cadets and other local organizations that assist in the delivery of the regattas. Local groups will also have opportunity to share in vending opportunities and parking revenues for each event. A Sport Tourism Economic Assessment Model analysis of the events project an economic impact of well over \$3.5 million dollars over the next three years and nearly \$30,000 in volunteer funding opportunities.

The WRCC has been working diligently to improve facilities for flatwater sports, bolster relationships with Provincial and National sport governing bodies and make the WIFC the venue of choice for any and all regattas and events. "We are very pleased to have received the recommendation of ROWONTARIO's Board of Directors and we will work diligently to ensure that a positive outcome is the result for the flatwater community," suggested Stephen Fischer, WRCC Business & Operations Manager. "The bid process was an extensive one, with a very professional package put together by ROWONTARIO. On the heels of our successful bid to host the 2010 Commonwealth Rowing Championships, I think we can say we're getting out of the gate well for 2010."

"The ROWONTARIO Board of Directors is very pleased to recommend a member Association, the Welland Recreational Canal Corporation, as the host of the 2010, 2011 and 2012 ROWONTARIO Masters Championships and ROWONTARIO Championships regattas. We believe that working with the Welland Recreational Canal Corporation, we will be able to provide our members with the best regatta experience possible. We encourage all members to support this recommendation at the Annual General Meeting to be held on November 15, 2009," suggests the Notice of Motion from the ROWONTARIO Board of Directors. The final decision on the 2010 through 2012 regattas will take place at their Annual General Meeting on Sunday November 15th, 2009 in Toronto, ON. Mayor Damian Goulbourne is slated to make remarks in support of the bid selection for Welland and Welland area clubs at the AGM.

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