



**CANADIAN ARTISTS RON SEXSMITH AND DUKE ROBILLARD
CLOSE OUT 2008 ILLUMINAQUA SEASON**

Welland, ON August 19 – Nationally-acclaimed singer-songwriter Ron Sexsmith will headline the Friday August 22 presentation of IlluminAqua at Merritt Park in Welland, with supporting performances by The Lost Fingers and The Priddle Concern.

St. Catharines native Sexsmith made his major label debut in 1995 with a self-titled album on Interscope, followed by *Other Songs* (1997), *Blue Boy* (2001), *Retriever* (2004), and *Time Being* (2006). The Lost Fingers, an acoustic trio out of Quebec, specialize in “gypsy jazz” along the lines of the great Django Reinhardt. The Lost Fingers are a part of the 400th Anniversary Celebration of Quebec City and it is a delight to have them here in Welland. Priddle Concern is a noted rock/alternative act that will start things off on Friday evening when the concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

The final concert on Saturday, August 23, in partnership with the Downtown Music Series, features award-winning blues guitarist and former Fabulous Thunderbird, Duke Robillard. The supporting performance that evening by East Coast entertainer Bharath and his Rhythm Four will feature 1950’s Chicago-style blues. Saturday’s concert begins at 7:00 p.m.

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE FREE OF CHARGE, on a first-come, first-serve basis for the Grand Stand Seating. Grass seating is also available and the public is encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets.

Free parking is also available at the Market Square which is located at the cross section of Division and Cross Street. Those interested in checking out the show can walk along Avenue Place or Young Street towards Merritt Park to locate the floating stage and free seating.

These concerts are the final shows of the 2008 IlluminAqua season. Performances in June and for the July 150th Anniversary weekend drew thousands of visitors from Welland, across Niagara and beyond, including the Greater Toronto Area, Western Canada and northern New York State. .../more

For more information on the performances, please visit www.illuminaqua.com.

About IlluminAqua

The event is a blend of art, culture, and the elements of fire and water. Pods of fire will float in a laid-out design along the Recreational Water way, while the sweet strains of music fill the air. The firepods of “IlluminAqua” will dance, reflect and illuminate the peaceful waters of the Recreational Water way as residents and visitors alike stroll along the banks of the Old Welland Canal.



IlluminAqua is a presentation of the Welland Recreational Waterway Arts and Culture Series.

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