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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



WELLAND COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE NIAGARA REGIONAL EXHIBITION-FOOD FESTIVAL

The Niagara Regional Exhibition (NRE) will continue its traditional yearly agricultural showcase in 2016, alongside a new food festival addition to the NRE that will feature a variety of culinary delights. Welland City Council approved a \$24,641.00 grant at a special Council meeting held Wednesday, August 10, 2016. The Niagara Regional Agricultural Society Board made an announcement in July to cancel this year's NRE, and bring the event back for the 2017 festival season. Due to the grant bestowed to the organization, the NRE is now able to host its yearly event this September 16 – 18 to mark the exhibition's 164 years of agricultural education and interactive fun.

The grant was originally earmarked for the 2016 Niagara Food Festival; however, organizers decided to cancel the 2016 event. Mayor Frank Campion says combining the NRE with a new food festival will complement the NRE and could give the event a new appeal. "Council is pleased to support a combined exhibition and food festival event for 2016, and we commend all the volunteers for the dedication and commitment to these events. These events are extremely important to our citizens and supported throughout the Region," said Campion.

The City recognizes the importance of nurturing a healthy, socially engaged community. "Welland is a City that cherishes festivals and events. They bring together networks of communities that strengthen social bonds and build shared memories," said Campion. The NRE has been entertaining families long before Welland was incorporated a City in 1917. "Council appreciates the historical value of this event and how it's become a part of our story," said Campion. "We are proud to see it continue and represent our community's agricultural voice."

For more information on the City of Welland visit welland.ca, or for more information on the Niagara Regional Exhibition visit niagararegionalexhibition.com.

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For more information contact:

Mayor Frank Campion
905-735-1700 Ext. 2101
mayor@welland.ca

Gary Long CAO
905-735-1700 Ext. 2122
cao@welland.ca