

For Immediate Release

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**ROWONTARIO MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURNS TO THE
WELLAND INTERNATIONAL FLATWATER CENTRE NORTH COURSE**

Welland, ON - The City of Welland and ROWONTARIO are pleased to announce the Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC) North Course as the location for the 2018-2020 Masters Rowing Championships. The 2018 ROWONTARIO Masters Championships will be held on Sunday, July 15, 2018.

The WIFC North Course is a world class venue for various flat-water sports, and is committed to improving and enhancing its delivery of the ROWONTARIO Masters Championships in order to maintain the venue's and the regatta's world-class reputation.

The hosting agreement between ROWONTARIO and the City of Welland emphasizes the importance of building and maintaining partnerships with the local rowing community. Volunteer recruitment, engagement, and training will be a significant focus of the hosting agreement. In addition, the City of Welland will continue to maintain and improve the city-owned facility to ensure it meets the high standards required to host regional, provincial, and international events.

"Our Masters Championships is one of our marquee events of the season. It was important that we found a host partner that valued the importance of this regatta," said Andrew Backer, ROWONTARIO Executive Director. "We are excited to partner with the City of Welland under their revitalized management structure."

"The City of Welland is proud to enter a new partnership with ROWONTARIO to host the Provincial Masters Championships at the Welland International Flatwater Centre," said Richard Dalton, Manager of Recreation and Culture for the City of Welland. "Our community has benefitted from a great relationship with ROWONTARIO for nearly 10 years. Looking to the future, we're excited about continuing this partnership. Rowing is a big part of the sporting culture in Welland and having the top Masters in Ontario competing on our waterway is a source of pride for the City."

The WIFC will host several rowing regattas this year on both the North and South Courses, including the Tony Biernacki Sr. Memorial Regatta, the South Niagara High School Invitational, and the Head of the Welland – Five Bridges Fall Classic, as well as numerous other flat-water events.

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