



MEDIA RELEASE

Orchestra Fundraiser Kicks off the 2008 IlluminAqua Season



For Immediate Release – Thursday, June 12, 2008

Welland – The Welland Recreational Canal Corp (WRCC) is thrilled to officially announce the entertainment lineup for the first 2008 IlluminAqua Production taking place in June.

Premiering on Friday, June 27, 2008, at Merritt Park, the series kicks off with the **Niagara Youth Orchestra** followed by the **Mandolin Orchestra of Niagara**, with a special musical fire entertainer to dazzle the audience during intermission. Musical performances start at dusk (approximately 8:00 p.m.) Ticket prices for IlluminAqua Concerts (which provide exclusive access to amenities, bleacher seating, wine & beer garden, program and licensed viewing area) remain at \$20 for the 2008 Series and are available in advance at the Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce and Seaway Mall Service Plus or at www.illuminaqua.com (before June 25); tickets are \$26 at the door.

The Niagara Youth Orchestra last performed in Europe nearly 10 years ago. A portion of the ticket price will be donated to the NYO to assist with fundraising efforts to cover costs associated with competing in Prague, Czech Republic. The NYO is “very excited to be on the IlluminAqua Stage and very thankful for this wonderful opportunity!” suggested Karen McCafferty, NYO, General Manager.

On Saturday, June 28, 2008, the 4th Annual Welland Downtown Music Series will launch its season on the IlluminAqua stage in Merritt Park, with headliner **Rodney Appleby** and opening act **The Roger Niznik Trio**. The Saturday performances begin at 7:00 p.m.

“This is a great showcase to begin the 2008 IlluminAqua Season,” stated Stephen Fischer, Business and Operations Manager for the Welland Recreational Canal Corporation (WRCC). Bob Mahler, Chair of the WRCC stated, “the suggestion to help support this wonderful youth organization was quickly and warmly greeted by the WRCC, we hope the community will rally behind both Orchestras and make the June IlluminAqua production a smashing success.”

The kick-off concert for the Downtown Summer Music Series on Saturday, June 28 (also taking place in Merritt Park) is absolutely free, and provides first-come, first-serve access to the bleachers in front of the stage. The public will also have access to the amenities and beer and wine garden on the east side of the Canal for this Saturday Downtown Summer Music Series performance.

IlluminAqua is also scheduled for the weekends of July 24, 25 and 26 in concert the City of Welland’s 150th Anniversary Celebrations and August 22, 23.

Further information and advance tickets are available online at www.illuminaqua.com.

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