



MEDIA RELEASE

Province Supports CANOE Niagara 2013 The 2013 ICF Junior and Under 23 Canoe Sprint World Championships

For Immediate Release - Monday, November 26, 2012

WELLAND – The Welland Recreational Canal Corporation (WRCC) is very pleased to recognize support from the Province of Ontario for the 2013 ICF Junior and Under 23 Canoe Sprint World Championships to be held at the Welland International Flatwater Centre in August of 2013. This event will attract the fastest young paddlers on the planet from 55 countries and will be a major stepping stone for many athletes preparing for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. This world championship is expected to draw 1,200 athletes, with additional contingents of over 700, many of whom will be arriving weeks prior to the event to test the waters and acclimate themselves to the facilities.

“International events such as this invigorate local economies - they support jobs, enhance tourism and increase visitor spending in the community.” said Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. “Hosting such an important event will also enhance Ontario’s international reputation and play a role in the development of a vibrant sport culture in the province.”

Minister Jim Bradley, making the announcement on behalf of Minister Chan’s office said, “Niagara’s reputation as a water sport centre just keeps growing. This substantial provincial grant supports the canoe competition next year in Welland, and puts the facilities through their paces in preparation for the Pan Am Games.”

The Host Organizing Committee, has brought together a leadership team that consists of local talent and paddling experts who have literally moved to Welland from across Canada and England, and have been hard at work building the plan that will deliver an extraordinary championship, with fair and exciting competition, a celebration of the Province, the Region and all we have to offer. “We are extremely proud to be showcasing Welland, Niagara and the Province as a hosting destination”, suggested Stephen Fischer, WIFC Executive Director, “the support of the Province of Ontario in delivering this World Championships is a critical cornerstone to its success and also testament to their vision and commitment to sport tourism.”

The canoe championships will take place at the Welland International Flatwater Centre along the Recreational Waterway from August 1-4, 2013. While the Sprint Junior World Championships have traditionally been held every second year, this will be the first time for an



Stewards of the Welland Recreational Waterway

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Under 23 class at World Championships. Canada will be the first country to hold the combined event which will continue to be held on an annual basis.

With more than 1900 athletes, team leaders, coaches, delegates and officials, this World Championship is slated to be the largest canoe sprint World Championships ever hosted.

Canoe Niagara 2013 Video: <http://vimeo.com/54275192>

Canoe Niagara 2013: www.canoeniagara.ca

Photo Caption: Ontario Environment Minister Jim Bradley, representing Minister Chan's office, announced the Province's support of \$675,000 for the Canoe Niagara 2013 International Canoe Federation Junior and Under 23 Canoe Sprint World Championships taking place August 1-4, 2013 at the Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC). With Minister Bradley, left to right are: Canoe Niagara 2013 General Manager – Richard Dalton; Welland Councillor and Canoe Niagara steering committee member Michael Petrachenko; Michael Haines representing Cindy Forster, MPP; Treasurer of Welland Recreational Canal Corporation (WRCC), Vic Kersch; Welland Councillor and WRCC Board Vice-chair Bob Wright; Minister Jim Bradley; City of Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe; Welland Councillor Paul Grenier; and WRCC Executive Director Stephen Fischer.

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Stephen Fischer
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