



MEDIA RELEASE

Opening Ceremony Features Fireworks

Thursday, July 31st marked the opening ceremonies of the 2013 ICF Junior and Under 23 Canoe Sprint World Championships at Merritt Park Amphitheatre, Welcoming 63 countries and over 750 athletes to compete in Welland. The evening was filled with festivities, dancing, and celebration.

The spectacular setting of a floating stage welcomed athletes from around the world. All had their eyes Welland's Waterway, and the many entrancing production pieces that took place. Among the fireworks shooting into the night sky, the evening featured the official 'Flag Bearing' Ceremony, which involved a cohort of Niagara's youth, representing sport teams, Heritage Halls, and of course, the Rose City Kids. Dance performances from a local studio, speeches from Mayor Sharpe and Canoe Kayak Canada Commodore Madeline Hall, an athlete parade and many other musical stylings were among the highlights of the night

Passion and high spirits were beaming from the amphitheatre; this contagious excitement is just the beginning of the weekend's celebrations as Welland welcomes the World to the Niagara Region. From the Shoreline Festival to the World-class talent on the course; Canoe Niagara 2013 is turning out to be a spectacle for the entire family to enjoy. Admission is free of charge and the experience is second to none.