



MEDIA RELEASE

Canadian University Rowing Championships Welland Welcomes the Nation

For Immediate Release – Wednesday, November 2, 2011

WELLAND – The Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC) represented by the Welland Recreational Canal Corporation (WRCC) and The University of Western Ontario (UWO) were busy today making final preparations for this year's Canadian University Rowing Championships. The stage is set and the WIFC will be welcoming 332 Rowers, competing in 155 different boats from 24 universities from across Canada this coming weekend.

UWO Rowing is the host university for the 2011 Championships and is working in partnership with the WRCC to stage the event. UWO is making full use of the WIFC's permanent setup and sheltered waters and was keen to host the CURC's back in Welland. "The team in Welland makes staging the event as easy as can be. There is great infrastructure and very fair water for racing. It is good to be able to expect great things, great racing and great working relationships," said Volker Nolte, Head Coach, of Western Rowing and CURC 2011 Regatta Chair. The Western Mustangs men's and women's rowing teams are coming off winning gold in both men's and women's divisions at the Ontario University Association Rowing Championships held last week, so there is a lot on the table this weekend.

Racing will take place on the South Course of the WIFC starting at 9 am on Saturday, November 5th with a full day of time trials showcasing a chase style, 2,000m race against the clock to determine racing orders for finals in A, B and C classes. Finals will be run on Sunday, November 6th, starting at 9 am.

"Some of the best athletes in the country will be in Welland this weekend," said Bob Mahler, WRCC Chair, "exciting racing, continued economic impact for community businesses in an elongated tourism season. The WRCC couldn't be happier to have been able to partner with the University of Western Ontario Rowing to bring this event to Welland."

Rowers, administrative staff and Canadian University Rowing Association board members will start arriving as early as Thursday for training and for annual meetings and technical sessions providing for a full four days of activity in the city. The national university champions will be crowned at a Champions Banquet on Sunday evening with nearly 400 attendees. An assessment has been completed on the Sport Tourism Economic Assessment Model (STEAM), created in association with Sport Canada, the Canadian Tourism Commission, the Canadian Tourism Research Institute / The Conference Board of Canada (CTRI), and the Canadian Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaux (CACVB) and the spending outputs for Welland, generated by this event, are in excess of \$325,000 for the weekend.

"We're thrilled to be able to work with Western Rowing to stage the regatta, our third national championships of the year," suggested Stephen Fischer, WRCC/WIFC Executive Director, "and next weekend, we welcome the National Rowing Championships to conclude what has been an incredible 2011 season of flatwater sports in Welland, with incredible economic impacts for local businesses."

For more information please contact the WIFC at 905-735-1700, ext 2311.

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