



MEDIA RELEASE



Christmas is the Time to Shop and Give

For Immediate Release – Monday, December 1, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.

Welland – The City of Welland will be celebrating over one-hundred years of Christmas at Market Square on Saturday, December 13, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Welland has always been a city saturated with benevolent community organizations. With respect to the work done by the community, and in celebration of the holidays, Market Square will also participate in the spirit of giving. Families are encouraged to come celebrate “Christmas at the Market” and not only have the opportunity to donate a child’s toy to “The Hope Centre” but to also enjoy a traditional holiday festivity during the widely celebrated Farmers’ Market.

Councillor Mark Dzugan is an advocate of Market Square and a believer in the promise of a brighter, more beautiful facility. “The city has hired a coordinator to act as a facilitator in the development of programs at the market, and encourage a multi-functioning facility,” said Dzugan. “Christmas at the Market” combines Market Square development and the spirit of giving. Santa Clause will available between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. to chat with children. Families will be welcomed by Victorian Dickens greeters, and Centennial High Vocal Ensemble will welcome carollers in a Christmas sing-a-long.

“Christmas at the Market” gives Christmas shoppers the opportunity to purchase all their holiday needs while enjoying complimentary hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. Vermeers Garden Centre will pay a special visit during the event to offer fresh Christmas Trees, Wreaths, and decorative Urns for purchase. For those shoppers interested in giving to less fortunate children, toy donations will be accepted on behalf of The Hope Centre. The Hope Centre offers temporary accommodations and support for victims of crisis situations. Many Welland families have been helped by the centre after losing their homes to fire or various disasters.

Market Square, located at 50 Market Lane, is not only getting older, but it appears to be getting better. Along with the Downtown Improvement Initiatives, the municipality anticipates many changes for Market Square in 2009. Councillor Dzugan is excited about the plans that are currently being drafted and considered for one of the city’s most cherished facilities. “Welland is under some great changes, and the Market is on the list for improvement,” said Dzugan.

Contact Bernice Booth, market square coordinator, at 905-735-1700 extension 2334 for information about the December 13 “Christmas at the Market” event.

For more information about “Christmas at the Market” event or Downtown Improvements, visit www.welland.ca, and information regarding The Hope Centre can be found at www.thehopecentre.net

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For further information contact:
Bernice Booth
(905) 735-1700 ext. 2334
bernice.booth@welland.ca

Councillor Mark Dzugan
(905) 788-1306
mark.dzugan@welland.ca

City of Welland
60 East Main Street
Welland, ON L3B 3X4