



MEDIA RELEASE

WRCC Supports Big Brothers Big Sisters with Introduction to Flatwater Sports Day

For Immediate Release – Monday, September 14th, 2009

Welland – The Welland Recreational Canal Corp (WRCC) is happy to help celebrate Big Brother Big Sister Month (BBBS). In celebration and in effort to provide opportunity for fun activities to BBBS, the WRCC is hosting an *Introduction to Flatwater Sports Day* this Sunday, September 20th on the North Course of the Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC). Along with commitments from WIFC Collaborative partners', the South Niagara Canoe Kayak Club, Rowing Club and Notre Dame Rowing, for coaching and equipment, the sixty (60) little brothers and little sisters signed up for the day from across the Niagara Region are going to have a fantastic time!

The day long celebration and introduction to canoe, kayak, rowing and dragon boat will take place this Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm and feature introduction for the kids, and adults, to the four 'paddle' sports; culminating with a dragon boat sprint competition for everyone to enjoy.

This inaugural event fits perfectly into the fall calendar and it is hoped that this community introduction will lead to kids participating on a regular basis in club activities at the Flatwater Centre. Stephen Fischer, Executive Director of the WRCC and WIFC relayed that, "it is very gratifying to be able to celebrate Big Brothers, Big Sisters and to provide opportunity for kids to lead an active healthy lifestyle. To have the show of support from Notre Dame, the South Niagara Rowing Club and the Canoe Kayak Club is an extension of the community focus and approach to development of the Welland International Flatwater Centre." It is hoped this event can become an annual event in celebration of BBBS and all they do in the community.

"It is critical to recognize and embrace the opportunities to deliver and nurture community partnerships, especially when it comes to helping our youth and families throughout the Region," suggested Mayor Damian Goulbourne. "This event is not only a celebration of Big Brothers, Big Sisters, but also of the work the WRCC has been doing to bring the community together on the waterway."

Much of the equipment used for the day is the result of grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Province of Ontario's Active 2010 Grant Program; both of which the WRCC was a recipient.

"We're thrilled that the WRCC has extended this opportunity to Big Brothers Big Sisters Niagara," said Barb Van DerHeyden, Executive Director of BBBS, "we're very thankful. We are always looking for group activities and this community celebration of flatwater sports, with its possibilities for healthy lifestyle choices and future activities together is a wonderful way of supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters Month."

Join us on the North Course of the Welland International Flatwater Centre Sunday, September 20th through out the day. There may be a spot for you too, to get involved!

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