

Welland Recreational Canal Corp Assisting Local Coaches

For Immediate Release – Thursday, February 19, 2009

Welland – The Welland Recreational Canal Corp (WRCC) is helping to send coaches from local flatwater clubs to the 2009 Ontario Coaches Conference - February 20-22, 2009. Coaches are an integral part of local clubs and essential to delivering community programs. Coaches from all around the province are gearing up for the annual Coaches Conference with over 200 coaches and sport administrators from a variety of sports expected to gather this weekend; to network, share and work towards a higher level of NCCP certification. On Saturday morning, delegates will hear from keynote Speaker Dr. Peter Jensen, a world renowned innovator who has worked with over 40 medal-winning athletes.

“The WRCC Board of Directors endorsed the plan to help offset costs for local coaches wishing to improve their credentials. Given the current economic state of the region and the fact local club coaches are unpaid volunteers, supporting our community coaches was seen as an important community outreach,” stated Tom Bacolini, WRCC Vice-Chair.

The Ontario Coaches Association has provided a group discount to the WRCC for coaches/clubs involved with the Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC). Twelve (12) representatives from a mixture of the rowing, canoe, kayak, dragon boat and swimming clubs in Welland will head to the Coaches Conference to upgrade their own skills. Many groups are already winter training and competing at indoor events, so the lessons learned this weekend will be put to use long before the waterway opens up again for what is looking like a another very busy season.

“The WRCC offering this opportunity to us here locally is just great”, said Rick Morris, South Niagara Canoe Club Coach and Commodore. “I can say wholeheartedly, I wouldn’t be attending without their support.”

“The WRCC continues to provide community opportunities across all the flatwater sports, even as they work towards the international centre”, suggested Coach Richard TenDen of Notre Dame Rowing and South Niagara Rowing Club, “it’s great to be a part of it all, to know we’re embraced and not left behind.”

The conference has been created with the intent to provide Ontario coaches with an opportunity to attend NCCP workshops toward a higher level of certification while also attending additional sessions on coaching topics of interest to all like sport psychology, nutrition or coaching best practices, coach recruiting, developing, and reward programs, as well as new technologies and video analysis.

“Supporting our local clubs, their coaches and their growth, is a critical element in delivering the Flatwater Centre and flatwater sports to the community,” stated Stephen Fischer, WRCC Business & Operations Manager for the WRCC. “The personal commitment these coaches make helps us reach our common goal of offering our local youth the best coaches, best programming and the best flatwater sport facilities in the world!”

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