



## MEDIA RELEASE

### DOWNTOWN MUSIC SERIES MOVES TO ILLUMINAQUA STAGE AUGUST 18, 2007

**For Immediate Release – Tuesday, August 14, 2007**

**Welland** – Fans of the Downtown Music Series will enjoy this weekend's jazz and blues concert from the banks of Welland Recreational Waterway. Following Friday's IlluminAqua production, the floating stage will remain along Merritt Park for use by the Downtown Music Series on Saturday, August 18.

"This is a great opportunity for us to try out a different venue," stated Joe Ruicci, organizer of the music series. "Rather than take the staging down immediately after Friday's concert by the Niagara Symphony, the Welland Recreational Canal Corporation (WRCC) has arranged for us to use it the following evening."

Arrangements to have the Downtown Summer Music Series perform on the floating stage have been made as a means of further developing the concept of an outdoor performance venue in the Downtown Core, according to Stephen Fischer, Operations and Business Manager for the WRCC. "We wanted to give Welland residents a chance to experience the exhilaration of fire on the water to the backdrop of a different genre of music," stated Fischer. "Hopefully, with the support of the community, we will be able to do many more performances in 2008, both on the main stage and around the banks of the waterway and learn how to create the best show possible for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations."

In addition to a scheduled performance by **Steven Strongman**, this Saturday's line-up includes **The Steve Mariner Band** from Ottawa and opening the show, local band **A Touch of Class**. The concert will run from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The Downtown Summer Music Series concert is free to all, including first-come, first-serve access to the bleachers in front of the stage. The public will also have access to the amenities, beer and wine garden on the east side of the Canal.

- 30 -

For further information, please contact:

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