

Office of the Mayor

ROBERT G. ORTT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Ortt Announces Enhanced Thunder on the Niagara Event At Gratwick Riverside Park

NORTH TONAWANDA—North Tonawanda Mayor Robert G. Ortt announced during a press conference today that the Thunder on the Niagara boat racing event will be “*bigger and better*” than the past 7 years held at Gratwick Riverside park. The Niagara Frontier Boat Racing Association (“NFBRA”) will be partnering with the American Power Boat Racing Association (“APBA”), and the American Canadian Hydroplane Association (“ACHA”). All together, these organizations will have over 80+ racing boat teams participate in the series event. The hydroplanes are automotive high-performance boats that fly and thunder over the water at speeds up to 180mph. The event, that is considered “the fastest show on water,” will take place on Saturday, August 17th and Sunday, August 18th at what is regarded as one of the most beautiful venues along the Niagara River, Gratwick Riverside park.

Representatives from the Niagara Frontier Boat Racing Association and several other high-level North Tonawanda officials joined Mayor Ortt in announcing this family fun event that is largest free motor sport event in the area.

“Waterfront development is all about bringing people to your waterfront and making it accessible. Since 2006, this event has been drawing thousands of people to Gratwick Riverside Park and this beautiful vista of the Niagara River”, stated Mayor Ortt. “This year we expect it to be bigger and better than ever. It’s an event that the whole family can enjoy and we are proud that Thunder on the Niagara calls North Tonawanda home.”

The NFBRA is a non-profit organization with a hard working team of individuals dedicated to making this event possible. NFBRA is asking for a donation of \$5.00 for the on-site parking at Gratwick Riverside park to help alleviate costs. Portions of the proceeds of the parking will be shared with Twin City Community Outreach (“TCCO”), a not-for-profit organization from the City of North Tonawanda. All attendees are asked to use the Ward Road entrance of the park off of River Road.

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There will be food vendors and crafters on site during the two-day event. The park will be open at 8am and the first race each day will begin at approximately 9:30am. Additional information can be found on the event website www.thunderonniagara.com.

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