

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Au Marché Event Brings Community Together to Support Youth Programs**

**St. Catharines, ON, August 13, 2007** – Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> will see the Market Square in downtown St. Catharines transformed into a stunning venue for the St. Catharines Community Fund's annual Au Marché event in support of our city's youth.

The Au Marché event, presented by Bell, is now in its fourth year and has raised \$110,000 to date. The funds go to the St. Catharines Community Fund's *Investing in St. Catharines Youth Fund*. Many children in our community cannot participate in quality recreation due to financial constraints or access issues, and since the launch of this fund in 2004, more than 500 children have received the financial assistance necessary to enjoy programs such as sports leagues, summer camps, and art and music classes.

St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan is the official host of the event. "The Niagara Community Foundation continues to raise much needed dollars to provide financial assistance for children in our community to participate in quality recreational programs," he says. "It is for this reason that we support its efforts, through the Au Marché event, to generate funds for the St. Catharines Community Fund and in particular the Youth Fund."

Guests at the event will enjoy food from local restaurants Pow Wow, Wellington Court, Coppola's, JJ Kapp's and Blue Mermaid along with wine from Henry of Pelham, Hernder, Konzelmann, Reif and Creekside wineries. "The volunteer committee will deliver another special evening that will combine the spirit of giving with great food, wine and entertainment in a unique venue," says Rosemary Auld, Event Co-Chair. "This event sells out year after year not only because it has become known as a highlight of the summer, but because our community is so willing to financially support youth programs." The event is almost sold out, and those who wish to purchase tickets should call the Foundation at 905-684-8688. Tickets for Au Marché are \$110 per person.

The Niagara Community Foundation builds and manages income earning endowment funds to support charitable activities. Since 2000, the Foundation has received over \$5.7 million in permanently held endowment funds. The Foundation has awarded over \$1.75 million in grants during this time. The St. Catharines Community Fund is one of the family of community funds supporting the work of charities in specific municipalities.

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