

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Niagara Community Foundation Provides Grant for New Skatepark to Town of Fort Erie**

**St. Catharines, ON, August 13, 2007** – The Town of Fort Erie is the most recent beneficiary of the Niagara Community Foundation's Youth Granting Program, receiving \$6,000 toward the design and construction of the community's first Skatepark.

"The Niagara Community Foundation is pleased to assist the Skatepark Committee in their efforts to raise funds," says Paul Jones, Niagara Community Foundation Director from Fort Erie. "We know that these funds will benefit our youth by providing the venue for a positive activity that builds physical and social skills, thereby investing in a vital resource for the benefit of the overall community."

The Skatepark Committee identified the need for a controlled and accessible place for youth to practice their sport of choice that would be a viable alternative to playing on the street. "The youth of Fort Erie have long requested a facility where they can safely skateboard, BMX bike and rollerblade", says Stephen Passero, Chair of the Fort Erie Skatepark Committee. "With the Skatepark, they will have a safe place to gather, socialize and develop their athletic skills."

The grant will be commemorated in a cheque presentation this evening to Mayor Douglas Martin and Skatepark Committee Chair Stephen Passero. The funds will be added to the more than \$100,000 already raised for the project, and represents a significant step towards the Committee's goal of \$420,000.

Through its Youth Granting Program, the Niagara Community Foundation has awarded a total of \$42,000 in grants this year to twelve different projects across the Region. These grants assisted charities in Niagara that are working to develop the skills, relationships and abilities of young people. Projects funded were those designed to prevent risk behavior, build resiliency of youth and promote positive youth development.

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.

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