

January 25, 2010

**Parent's Night Off as Waterfront Winterfest Offers
Educational Overnight Adventures for Kids**

For Immediate Release – This February, the Waterfront Development Corporation Limited presents Waterfront Winterfest, three fun-filled days of celebrating winter fun and activities on the Halifax waterfront from Feb 26-28.

Waterfront Winterfest has something to offer everyone especially kids; after spending the day exploring the waterfront, kids will get the chance to spend the night in one of Canada's premiere museums – the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The Sailor's Olympics Nightwatch program is an overnight adventure where kids can explore Nova Scotia's marine heritage in a unique and fun way. The program is being delivered by Heritage Explorers in partnership with Waterfront Winterfest.

Aaron Legge, Operations Manager for Heritage Explorers explains that, "The Sailor's Olympics Nightwatch program allows kids the opportunity to cooperate, compete and have fun while they learn about the history of Nova Scotia. The Overnight Adventure Nightwatch program has been operating for almost a decade and provides a safe and educational environment for kids to enjoy."

Heritage Explorers has delivered hundreds of overnight adventures for kids through schools and youth groups within HRM. The Sailor's Olympics Nightwatch program allows kids to explore the museum's largest artifact *CSS Acadia*, a steamship built in 1913 and enjoy a full evening of programming in the museum's galleries including ghost stories, all in an adult-supervised overnight adventure.

The Sailor's Olympics Nightwatch program highlights include:

- Knot Tying Competition - After being taught some of the most common knots used on ships, sailing teams will go head-to-head against each other in a quick tie competition.
- Signal Flags Competition - Brightly coloured flags representing each letter of the alphabet are a common means of communication aboard ships. Each team will be given a set of flags and a line to hoist them on.

- Sailor's Slang Quiz – Teams will be given a list of sailor's slang and ship terminology along with a list of definitions.
- Sail Reefing – Teams will learn what it's like to be a sailor aboard a Tall Ship using the museum's square sail.

The Sailor's Olympic Nighwatch program is designed for kids' ages 8-15 years old and the cost is \$32.50 plus tax per participant. There are limited spaces available for Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27.

Once the kids are settled in for a night of fun and education, parents can enjoy a night out on the town at Waterfront Winterfest, taking-in the night time entertainment and activities, and then staying downtown. Winterfest has partnered with the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel to offer an affordable overnight hotel package that includes free parking and a \$10 gift certificate to Starbucks.

Kelli Stutt, Director of Hotel Sales for the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront says, "While the kids are learning how to become a sailor, parents can relax at the hotel, grab a coffee at Starbucks and enjoy a delicious dinner at either 44 North Restaurant or the Fife and Drum. Waterfront Winterfest has something for everyone to enjoy this February – book your hotel package today."

Waterfront Winterfest highlights include:

Bishop's Landing

- The Extreme Snow Sculpting Demonstration will feature a team of snow artists transform two 10-foot snow blocks into Olympic themed sculptures.

Block M (behind the Waterfront Warehouse Restaurant)

- Nova Scotia's only outdoor big screen featuring live CTV coverage of Olympic gold medal events and closing ceremonies at the CTV Winter Games Park presented by BellAliant.
- Bring your family and friends and skate on the outdoor family C100 Skating Rink made from artificial ice provided by IcePro.
- Come check out three-stories of scaffolding as the Urban Butter Snowboard Showcase gets air on the Halifax waterfront. Athletes will practice during the day and compete at night. A live DJ and light show will provide an electric atmosphere.
- Let the Games begin! Stop by the Canada Games Pavilion to try your hand at some of our official sports and learn how to become a 2011 Canada Games volunteer. Halifax

2011 Canada Games mascots, Anni & Sammi, will be visiting the Pavilion to show off their Games spirit and make new friends.

- Grab a bite to eat at the Waterfront Warehouse Restaurant while enjoying Waterfront Winterfest menu specials. You can either warm-up and eat inside the restaurant or watch the CTV Olympic Games coverage from the patio.

Halifax Marriott Harbourfront:

- Get warm in the Indoor Playland that features bouncy inflatables and games from Glow Parties.
- Book your Waterfront Winterfest weekend hotel package at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront, which includes free parking and a \$10 Starbucks coupon.

For more information about the Sailor's Olympics Nightwatch program and the Waterfront Winterfest hotel package visit www.waterfrontwinterfest.ca or by calling the festival hotline at (902) 444-3773.

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