

SIMCOE ROTARY FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES STELLAR 2008 ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP CANADIAN JAZZ GREAT JOE SEALY TO HEADLINE, NORFOLK ENERGY TO SPONSOR

Simcoe, Ontario
July 4, 2008

Robert Missen, the Entertainment Director of the 41st annual Simcoe Rotary Friendship Festival, today announced the lineup of exceptional performers that will grace the Mainstage of this year's Festival. As in the past several seasons, the Festival will showcase some of Norfolk County's finest musical artists. This year, there will also be a number of guests from neighbouring Haldimand County, as well as a Special Guest Appearance by the Juno Award-winning jazz pianist-composer Joe Sealy. Festivities will take place each afternoon at the Festival Mainstage on Bonny Drive.

“There is such a treasure trove of fantastic musicians in this area that it is always a challenge making choices”, explains Missen, who will also serve as emcee for the three days. “Of course, in addition to all the established artists, we want to showcase a number of the up and coming ones. I think this year we have some special surprises for everyone.”

Saturday August 2 is Family Day. All of the featured artists are either family groups or artists with a special appeal to family audiences. These include Simcoe singer Krysta Clark; Walsingham juggler Daniel Main; Mile Off 21, a bluegrass group from Glen Meyer and Lynedoch; and Silver Hill's Brearley Family Band.

Our Jazz Day last year was such a huge success that we are repeating it this year (Sunday August 3) with an even more distinguished lineup, led by the aforementioned Joe Sealy, winner of a Juno Award for his Africville Suite, who will be fronting the Joe Sealy Trio. Andy Sheppard, a jazz/fusion singer-guitarist and CBC-Radio personality who hails originally from Lynedoch, will share the stage two young Norfolk County prodigies, Delhi's 16-year old song stylist Coco Lee and Simcoe's Josh Cavan, a pianist who is studying at the prestigious Humber College jazz programme in Toronto.

On Monday August 4, the Festival will be acknowledging the County's impressive range of artists in the folk, blues and bluegrass traditions with its 3rd annual Roots Day. These include Waterford's Kim Moverley and the Lost Hobos, Dunnville singer-songwriter Rob Lamothe, the folk/blues band The Darlings (Port Dover and Port Rowan), The Schotts (Langton) and Selkirk's Autumn Road.

The Mainstage Entertainment for this year's Simcoe Rotary Friendship Festival is sponsored by Norfolk Energy.

For more information contact Robert Missen at 519-582-0067.