Press Releases:

-July 18th, 2008 - Greening the Festivals

-June 5st, 2008 - London, ON: Three London Festivals Turning Over a Green Leaf

Awards:

"Green Foot Award"

Think Globally - Act Locally Environmental Event

Whiteoaks Mall

April 12, 2008

"Green Foot Award"

Think Globally - Act Locally Environmental Event

April 4 2009

Videos:

EcoVox - A local London Rogers TV show dedicated to living lightly on the earth.

Magazines:

EcoVox Magazine - A magazine written for Londoners, about Londoners, by Londoners dedicated to living lightly on the earth.

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Greening the Festivals - Home County Folk Festival introduces more green initiatives

Following the successful introduction of the Greening of the Festivals at Sunfest earlier this month, the committee responsible for the initiative is excited to announce the next phase of the program.

This weekend, at the Home County Folk Festival, visitors will see new green festival initiatives, as well as improvements to those introduced at Sunfest.

New: Bring your own, reusable, & dishwashing station the message from Home County Folk Festival is to "bring your own" dishes, cutlery, mug and water bottle. A dishwashing trailer has been installed in the park and the staff working there will gladly send the dinnerware through the machine for cleaning. For those who may prefer to rent, the dishwashing station will also carry a supply of plates and cutlery, which will be available for a small returnable deposit fee. In celebration of their 35th anniversary, the Home County Folk Festival will also be selling reusable water bottles and mugs at their info booth. Reusable and the dishwashing station are firsts for the Green Festival project and will be tested this weekend.

Improved: More locations to fill up your water bottle In addition to the three permanent water fountains installed for Sunfest, there will be a water trailer to provide more access to free municipal water. This will help reduce the reliance of festival visitors on single-use plastic water bottles.

Improved: EcoStations The EcoStation, first introduced at Sunfest, is where visitors go to dispose of their waste and sort it into the various bins for recyclables, compostable or landfill. Responding to feedback from visitors to Sunfest, the EcoStations will now be easier to find and use. They will be marked with green flags flying high overhead and new signage promises to make the process of sorting waste easier to understand.

The Greening of the Festivals is a partnership between the City of London, Home County Folk Festival, Sunfest, Ribfest and Waste Free World. As Catherine McInnis, Home County Artistic Director and member of the Green Festival partnership, explains: Along with the goal to introduce waste diversion to these three major London events is our hope that visitors will be encouraged to continue good environmental practices at home as well as at their own summer get-togethers and celebrations.

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London, ON: Three London Festivals Turning Over a Green Leaf

Propelled by the need to take bolder environmental steps, a coalition of forces has come together to turn over a green leaf for festivals in the Forest City. Representatives from three festivals including Home County Folk Festival, London Rib-Fest and SunFest are working with the City of London and Waste Free World to colour the 2008 festival season green.

"These festivals are an opportunity for the London community to come together and celebrate. People come to the festivals with family and friends and enjoy all we have to offer: the diversity of culture, art, music and food. Feeling good about our environmental impact is very much part of this experience." Catherine McInnes, Artistic Director, HCFF

Festival organizers appreciated they have a long road ahead of them and look at the 2008 season to begin to make important first steps in "Turning Over a Green Leaf"

Areas to be targeted at all or some of the three festivals are:

- more recycling

- introducing composting and the use of compostable food and beverage containers

- accessible & free City water to replace the reliance on single-use plastic water bottles

- Bring-Your-Own picnic ware, reusable water-bottles, and shopping bags

- dish lending and dishwashing services

These are some of the ideas brought forward by Waste Free World, a group of engaged citizens in London who are eager to see the city make strides in waste diversion and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The group formed less than a year ago and has initiated the recent London Plastic Bag Project and Bring-Your-Own Campaign at Covent Garden Market.

"We know that greening the festivals is the tip of the melting iceberg but we think it is a great opportunity to educate Londoners and make a positive impact," said Trae Robinson, Waste Free representative "We are excited by the ripple effects of what people will take away from the festival. If we can make strides at these large festivals, others will be encouraged to 'green-up' their own summer events - everything from a family picnic to a neighbourhood event.

Festival organizers are treating 2008 as a pilot project and hope that many of the ideas tested by the three festivals will become policy by 2009. Any festivals or events interested in becoming part of the greening initiative are invited to contact Waste Free World. More information is available at wastefreeworld.org

This initiative has been made possible for Sunfest and Home County through financial support from TD - Canada Trust Friends of The Environment. Home County also received a grant from the London Community Foundation.

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