

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

Historical Conference to fund Environmental Disaster Relief June 13-14, 2008

On Friday, June 13th, 2008 Guelph will have a unique opportunity to learn more about Ontario's environmental history while supporting an important international cause. In response to the devastation caused by the recent cyclone, the Ontario Historical Society, along with the Guelph Historical Society, Guelph Civic Museums and the History Department at the University of Guelph, will be generously donating a portion of profits from their upcoming Gala Night to Canadian Save the Children's Myanmar/Burma disaster relief fund. Given Guelph's excellent reputation for supporting disaster relief, this event will demonstrate one of the finer aspects of Guelph's heritage.

The Gala event, entitled "**Celebrating Ontario's Environmental Heritage**" takes place Friday, June 13th at 8pm at War Memorial Hall. Featuring an illustrated talk by local environmentalist, photographer and author Peter Kelly, a performance by the Spirit Walk artists, and music by local songwriter and activist James Gordon, the Gala night event is sure to be exciting, educational and entertaining.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to attend this event. Advance tickets are available through the River Run Centre box office for \$25, \$20 for seniors and students. The box office can be contacted at 519-763-3000, toll free at 1-877-520-2408, or online at www.riverrun.ca. Tickets purchased at the door of the event will be \$30.

The Gala night kicks off the Ontario Historical Society's 120th anniversary conference, "**From Nature to Ecology, Landscape to Ecosystems: A Historical View of Ontario Environments**," taking place June 13th and June 14th. Participants will be able to take part in a variety of tours, events, papers and presentations, all focused on the theme of Ontario's environmental history. The keynote speaker for the conference is Dr. Gilbert Stelter, Professor Emeritus at the University of Guelph and one of the founders of the field of urban history in Canada. The OHS Annual General Meeting and awards ceremony will take place in conjunction with the conference. The public is encouraged to attend the conference. Registration begins at 1pm on June 13 at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre. For more information and registration details, please see the OHS website, www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Guelph organizing committee member Debra Nash-Chambers explains that "Guelph was specifically chosen to host this year's event due to the city's notoriety as a frontrunner in the implementation of environmental policies and programs, the University's position at the forefront of environmental research, and our people's commitment to historical conservation."

For more information, contact:
Debra Nash-Chambers,
e-mail: dnashchambers@wlu.ca
Tel: 519.767.9895