

## Media Release

### ***“WELLAND TOPS THE CHARTS IN THE CURRENT STUDY OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT”***

#### **STUDY REPORTS ON NIAGARA MUNICIPALITIES LEVEL OF COMMITMENT TO INCREASING INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE.**

**August 14, 2006**

The Heavy Construction Association of Regional Niagara (HCARN) recently concluded the 3<sup>rd</sup> municipal accountability study covering actual capital expenditures for 2004 in order to gauge the ongoing level of commitment municipalities are giving to infrastructure issues. The initial study covering the 2002 year included the development of a scorecard wherein points were awarded based on various criteria, each municipality within the Region of Niagara was invited to participate. The following participants were again measured against a set of pre-determined criteria, and provided with a score out of 100: Port Colborne, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Regional Municipality of Niagara, St. Catharines, Thorold, Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Grimsby and Welland. The resultant score reflects the municipality's current infrastructure investment position in relation to their own circumstances, a score approaching 100 would indicate an increasing investment in the municipal infrastructure while a score reducing to 0 would indicate a lessening of investment in municipal infrastructure.

The nine municipalities in Niagara that have participated from inception in this series of studies continue to provide solid evidence that they are committed to maintaining an elevated level of investment in infrastructure (i.e. roads, wastewater and water). The population of the study group has grown by 4.4% since 2001 while at the same time the per capita spending has increased by \$130.35 (56.0%) from 2001. The increase from 2004 over 2003 in the average municipal scoring of 5.7% (3.3% 2003 over 2002) is another indication of the continued “raising of the bar” in the combined approach to infrastructure investment by the Niagara Region municipalities studied.

Welland with a score of 86 (2003 – 55), St. Catharines with a 85 (2003 – 92) and the Regional Municipality of Niagara with a 85 (2003 – 74) are leading in the measured level of commitment to infrastructure investment for the years studied.

HCARN includes 53 Niagara based heavy construction firms that provide road construction, reconstruction and sewer/water main construction and associated services. In 2000, the Association commissioned a report entitled **“The Case for Increased Infrastructure Investment in the Region of Niagara”**. This report highlighted the immediate need for investment in road infrastructure and in sewer and water main construction, and was presented to The Regional Public Works Committee and various Municipal Councils. The study has served as the catalyst for many further investigations and public awareness campaigns regarding infrastructure issues.

HCARN is taking the initiative to keep people informed of what's happening in Niagara regarding the state of infrastructure.

If you would like further information about HCARN and its initiatives, please contact John C. Passero, President of HCARN at (905) 680-6002 or visit our website for a complete copy of the report at <http://www.hcarn.com>