



Syracuse Convention & Visitors Bureau
A Division of the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce
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Water Sport Competition Returns to Onondaga Lake

Hydrofest Brings Racers to Syracuse from Across Northeast and Canada

Free Admission to the Public

SYRACUSE, NY - The Updowntowners of Syracuse, Inc., in conjunction with the Central New York Hydroplane Association, announce the receipt of a \$17,000 Empire State Development Grant provided by Senator John A. DeFrancisco and secured for the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The grant, implemented through the Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau, will benefit the production of the 2008 Syracuse Hydrofest.

Onondaga Lake Park will host the return of Syracuse to the hydroplane racing circuit, bringing racers into Syracuse from across the Northeast and Canada. The last time Hydroplane Racing was held in Syracuse was in 1999.

The event is scheduled **for Friday, July 11th through Sunday, July 13th, 2008** and has been sanctioned by the American Power Boat Association and the Canadian Boating Federation. A kick-off party will be held on Friday evening, July 11th, at Syracuse's Inner Harbor, followed by 2 days of action-packed racing on Onondaga Lake. Attendance is expected to be 20,000 or more for the 3 days of events.

Friday night's activities (5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.) include live musical performances by 'Under the Gun' and 'Emerald City'. A Hydroplane Racing Boat will be on display. Saturday racing will take place 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday racing will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All events are **FREE** to the public.

The Updowntowners' mission since its inception in 1980 is to enrich life in the Syracuse community. The all-volunteer group is best known for presenting the annual Party in the Plaza on Wednesday evenings each summer in downtown Syracuse, as well as being instrumental in the development of Winterfest, the St. Patrick's Parade, and continues to support countless other downtown events.

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