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Ward's Island Recreation Association

20 Withrow Street, Ward's Island, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2C4

March 28, 2014

Councillor Pam McConnell
Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Attn: Tom Davidson, Constituency Assistant

Dear Tom,

The Wards Island Recreation Association is starting preparations for this year's annual Gala Day celebrations. As in previous years, we are requesting a letter from Councillor McConnell's office confirming that Gala Day should be designated a Community Festival of Municipal Significance.

The Ward's Island Recreation Association is a registered not-for-profit organization established in 1913 to provide its members with access to amateur sport and social events held in and around our heritage clubhouse, built in 1937. When not being used for WIRA member activities, the clubhouse facilities are available for rent by the public for weddings and other events. The WIRA is managed by volunteers from the surrounding communities of Ward's and Algonquin Islands.

Gala Day is a longstanding tradition, a time when present and former Islanders gather at the Wards Island clubhouse. It is held every summer on the August long weekend (August 1-4, 2014), beginning with our annual Fire Parade on Friday evening and continuing throughout the weekend with a Beer Garden on the clubhouse green, a Saturday night dance, adult and youth games, a Children's Midway, a masquerade, tennis and baseball tournaments and Bingo. All events are open to the public, and only the evening events (Bingo and the dance) charge admission.

Two years ago we unveiled the Willow Square Project, which includes the Pebble Mosaic, a work of public art created by a team of more than 50 community volunteers. This year, in partnership with the Toronto Parks Department, we will launch the second phase of the Willow Square project, encompassing the restored historic Landing Stage.

If you need any further information, please let me know. Best wishes,

Kathleen McDonnell, WIRA President