



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Welland Home to North American First**

Seaway Mall Set to Host Inaugural Can-Am RC Challenge for Charity

**(Welland, ON) October 19** – The Seaway Mall is host to a North American first, as the inaugural Can-Am Radio Controlled (RC) Challenge for charity will start their engines next weekend at the Mall’s Centre Court. The three-day event is the first RC race of its size to be held at a mall in North America.

“Races are traditionally held in a hall or hotel, where you wouldn’t get a chance to experience an event of this type unless you were to go specifically to take-in a race,” said Michael Belcastro, President of Seaway Mall. “With the race taking place inside the Mall, it provides an excellent opportunity to showcase a hobby that a lot of people have yet to be exposed to.”

The hosting RC club for this event is Niagara RC Indoor Carpet Racing, the only local RC club that operates during the winter months. The club has been organizing RC races since the 80’s, and has been competing at the Merritton Community Center in St. Catharines for the past ten years. Mark Frechette, who has been with the Club for more than ten years, encourages those who have never been to an RC Race to come out and be entertained.

“Seaway Mall is an excellent location for a race of this kind as it allows spectators an excellent view of the track which will be located right in the middle of the Mall’s centre court. These races are very entertaining for both adults and children to watch, as RC cars participating in these types of races reach scale speeds of up to 300 km/h. It’s like watching an F1 or Indy Cart race,” added Frechette.

The Niagara FC Club is made-up of a dedicated group of members who typically race every Sunday through the months of November to April. This past season, over 90 members strong participated ranging in ages from 6 to 65, but the club is always looking for new recruits.

“There are thousands of RC clubs in North America that hold annual events that attract masses of people. We’re hoping that this event will help to promote RC racing in Niagara and bring it to the public’s attention. There’s no reason why Niagara can’t be home to a RC national event such as the ones held in Florida, New York City and Las Vegas,” added Frechette.

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The event begins on Friday, October 23rd with practice starting at 2:00pm and ending at 9:00pm. Another practice session will be held on Saturday, October 24th from 8:00am-10:00am followed by three qualifying rounds. Sunday, October 25th will have the fourth qualifier, the celebrity race, and the mains, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

The celebrity race will feature special guests including Pete Bicknell, owner of Merrittville Speedway, Glenn Styres, Oshwegan Speedway, Dale Epp of Protoform, and Fred Cade owner of Best Western Cairn Croft, just to name a few. The celebrities will be racing a 1/10 scale Tamiya M-chassis cars which resemble Mini-Coopers.

Five dollars from each entry race fee will be donated to the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre.

For more information or to participate in the race, please contact Mark Frechette (905) 732 3581 or [canamrcchallenge@cogeco.ca](mailto:canamrcchallenge@cogeco.ca), or visit the website [www.canamrcchallenge.com](http://www.canamrcchallenge.com).

### **About the Seaway Mall**

Seaway Mall goes WAY beyond your expectations! Seaway Mall offers a variety of unique shopping and dining experiences and is home to over 120 stores and services including Le Chateau, the Shoe Warehouse, Bonnie Togs, and a brand new Pennington's. Seaway Mall is simply the best place to shop for everything you need for your family, home and for yourself. For those looking to take-in some tasty treats, the Mall offers a wide-variety of food choices. Recently, the Mall welcomed Ye' Olde Squire, which features a Scottish Pub theme and is well-known for its home made dishes.

### **Contact:**

S. Michael Belcastro, President  
Seaway Mall  
(905) 735-0697