Wall-to-wall Turn-Out for OPS United Way Pasta Lunch at Fort William Historical Park

A tasty pasta lunch made for a winning drawing card for the kick-off to the OPS Thunder Bay United Way 2008 campaign at Fort William Historical Park October 7th.

Patrons eagerly lined up for the pasta lunch which virtually sold-out with more than 600 tickets being purchased, raising close to $8,000.00 for the United Way. This was more than triple the number of tickets sold last year. This was the second consecutive year that the Fort served as host venue for the pasta lunch.

Virtually every square inch of available floor space was used to accommodate the turn-out, the highest-ever for McGillivray’s Landing, the Fort’s banquet hall. Even the Visitor Centre lobby was brimming with patrons and dining tables.

In his remarks to the audience, United Way OPS Campaign Chair and Fort General Manager Sergio Buonocore praised the private sector who prominently supported the event.

He also extended thanks to the United Way Executive Committee and to Fort staff who were busily hosting, bussing tables, staging heritage crafts, serving and cleaning up.

United Way Chair Matthew Oliphant praised Sergio and his staff for their tremendous effort in making the event such a success, providing an exciting kick-off to the 2008 Thunder Bay campaign.

One of the highlights featured three Italian gentlemen who provided an impromptu musical performance, adding an appropriate cultural flavour to the proceedings, playing the mandolin, accordion and little organ respectively as they sauntered minstrel-like through the dining tables. This in turn inspired some diners to get up and dance a lively jig of their own.

Several heritage items and prizes were raffled off including tickets to the Fort’s upcoming Haunted Fort Night.

The goal for the OPS Thunder Bay United Way campaign is $165,000.00.