

Downsview Park Foundation Launches with World-Class African Circus and Gala Fundraiser

Aug 19, 2008 - 08:45 EST

TORONTO, Aug. 19 /CNW/ - The Downsview Park Foundation, in an initiative to recognize and celebrate the unique vision and opportunities of Downsview Park as Canada's urban recreational green space, and model of environmental, economic and social sustainability, is launching with a gala fundraising event on September 26, 2008.

Created by community leaders, The Downsview Park Foundation will present its first-ever fundraising event with Kings of Africa: Gala and Premiere, featuring an exclusive VIP reception followed by the Toronto premiere of AMAKHOSi, a circus performance currently traveling the globe with a multi-talented cast of artists, musicians, dancers, and gymnasts showcasing some of Africa's best cultural performance talent.

"We are pleased to launch the Downsview Park Foundation with such a unique cultural experience for the residents of the Greater Toronto Area," said Rina Camarra, Chair of the Downsview Park Foundation. "The show has been a globally recognized success and bringing it to Toronto reflects upon our status as a culturally aware organization, and highlights our commitment to invest in Downsview Park."

The gala will feature an eco-friendly green carpet reception, African cuisine, wine tasting samples from local wineries, and a silent auction with proceeds going towards the Downsview Park Foundation in support of the development of the self-financing Downsview Park. The event is expected to attract an assortment of local celebrities and cultural sector leaders in Toronto. AMAKHOSi is inspired by ancient and diverse African culture and features an international cast of 40, fusing time-honoured traditions with modern life to create a vividly imagined, wildly energetic and exhilarating spectacle. The tour kicked off in Ottawa in June and is touring cross-country with limited engagement stops in Montreal, QC, Kitchener, ON, Toronto, ON and Vancouver, BC.

The Downsview Park Foundation is a registered charitable organization dedicated to assisting in the development of Downsview Park in achieving its potential. A group of volunteers established the Foundation independent of Parc Downsview Park Inc. to heighten awareness of the important work the lands can do in achieving its mandate for all Canadians.

About Downsview Park Downsview Park consists of 572 acres of land in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area. Formerly a military base (CFB Downsview), the site was designated by the Government of Canada to be developed as "a unique urban recreational green space for the enjoyment of future generations." The Park attracts more than a million visits annually and is home to numerous enterprises, including the Toronto Aerospace Museum, the Downsview Park Merchants Market and Farmers Market, GrandPrix Kartways, The Toronto and Region Conservation, Treble Clef Music School, The HoopDome, The Toronto Wildlife Centre, Area 51 Paintball and Downsview Park's The Hangar, which offers indoor soccer and beach volleyball within the larger Downsview Park Sports Centre. Downsview Park also hosts a roster of

community and school programs and events year-round to create a vibrant resource for the national community. All these attractions and a host of other business relationships and opportunities help set the stage for the future development of an internationally significant sustainable community at Downsview Park.

For gala ticket information, please visit: www.dpfoundationkings.ca -0- 08/19/2008 /For further information: Media Contact: Paul Koidis, email: [paul\(at\)thegoldiecompany.com](mailto:paul(at)thegoldiecompany.com)/ CO: Downsview Park Foundation ST: Ontario IN: SU: NPT -30- _____CNW
08:30e 19-AUG-08