

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Contact: Michele Stokley 519-337-4474 <u>michele@sarniabayfest.com</u> <u>www.sarniabayfest.com</u>

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blue Water Bridge and Rogers Bayfest are working together to reduce wait times at the border

Rogers Bayfest has partnered with the Blue Water Bridge in order to save time at the border for international travelers attending Bayfest.

"By partnering with the Blue Water Bridge we are hoping to educate and make Bayfest goers more aware of their options when it comes to crossing the border," says Michele Stokley, executive director of Rogers Bayfest.

On June 1, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative will take effect; the WHTI states, all travelers crossing the Canada/United States border in Ontario and Michigan will have to hold a valid passport or NEXUS pass.

NEXUS is a joint Canada/United States program designed to let pre-approved, low-risk travelers cross the Blue Water Bridge quickly.

"It's like a VIP pass to cross the border," says Cathy Gardiner, Customer Service Manager at the Blue Water Bridge. "

NEXUS pass holders are entitled to use the centre lane on the twin bridges connecting Sarnia, Ontario to Port Huron, Michigan; this will allow ticket holders to get to the concert grounds without the delay at the border.

-more-

"NEXUS passes may be used instead of a passport and costs less," says Gardiner. "The fee for a NEXUS is \$50 CAD/USD and is free for children 18 years and younger."

During Rogers Bayfest, an information Booth will be set-up for concert goers to have the opportunity to ask questions and receive applications.

Paper applications can be found at <u>www.nexus.gc.ca</u> or apply online at <u>www.goboarder.com</u>.

A link to the Blue Water Bridge can be found on our website under Community Partners at <u>www.sarniabayfest.com</u>.

- 30 -