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MEDIA RELEASE

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Capital for the Capitol

For Immediate release

March 28, 2008 Chatham-Kent, Ontario

In a major announcement made in Chatham-Kent today by MPP Pat Hoy, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has been awarded \$7 million from the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative, (MIII), to complete the Chatham Capitol Theatre.

Officials from the Capitol Theatre Association, who recently transferred ownership of the historic downtown Chatham theatre to the municipality to facilitate the application to MIII, were obviously thrilled with the announcement. "For the last decade a group of concerned citizens have held out the dream of completing the reconstruction and opening the Capitol", said Association Board President Kevin McMillan. "Honestly, there were times when we wondered whether it would ever happen, but we continued to persevere in our dream knowing that it was the right thing for Chatham-Kent. This announcement today is the best possible news and we are deeply grateful to the Municipal Council for their courage in agreeing to make the Capitol their project of choice for this important funding programme and to the province for their foresight in funding it. All of the people who have laboured so hard for so many years, all of those individuals and businesses, who have been so encouraging, both morally and financially, have been waiting for this day."

General Manager Dan Donaldson said that he was hopeful and confident that the funding would be achieved. "This magnificent grant now allows my team and me to focus our energies and resources where we've always wanted to focus them and that's on operating a facility that we will make a source of pride for all residents of Chatham-Kent. We believe that this day will become a turning point in what Chatham-Kent can become and we are honoured to be at the vanguard of that change."

Robert Fox, who has been associated with the Capitol refurbishment for the last ten years echoed Mr. McMillan's comments. "We have been a strong advocate for this kind of community development both through the Capitol itself but also through involvement in a wide variety of community groups and endeavours including the BIA and the Chamber of Commerce. We certainly appreciate the support of the many individuals and organizations who have provided strong encouragement over the years. The big winner in today's announcement is our community and we couldn't be happier."

It is expected that the tendering process and construction phases will be completed so as to provide for an opening night in late 2009.

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