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CHARTING A COURSE TO ANOTHER WORLD RECORD

TORONTO – June 2009 – Holding claim to the world record as the youngest and fastest solo swimmer to cross Lake Erie, 15 year old Jade Scognamillo will take on Lake Ontario, July 24th, in an attempt to mark another milestone as the youngest solo swimmer to cross the Great Lake along the traditional 52km route from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Toronto completed by Marilyn Bell 55 years ago. And why not? What else would this average teenager have to do with her time but spend countless hours preparing for the 18-20 hour swim by endurance and open water training; body-acclimatizing; treading water while holding a 20lb brick to simulate feeding times; working on stroke and pacing; and, being sworn in as a Canadian citizen.

Born in Britain on December 8, 1993, Jade's incredible 5 hour and 40 minute swim across Lake Erie currently rests on the record books under the Union Jack. This time however, things will be different. Offered a grant of citizenship by The Honourable Jason Kenny, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Jade will be made a full-fledged Canadian on July 1st, 2009, during a swearing in ceremony at the Albion Hills Conservation Area in Caledon, at 5:30 pm. Presiding over the ceremony will be MP David Tilson who has been granted license as a Citizenship Judge for the day to bestow this exceptional honour upon a very deserving constituent.

CURRENTS AND VESSELS AND KELP, OH MY!

With nothing more than a swimsuit, some body grease and load of confidence and determination afforded Jade on her journey, the fiery young spirit feels pretty good about meeting her goal. "I managed to get across Lake Erie with energy to spare," commented Jade. "I just need to stay focused and I will make it through this swim just fine."

Like the countless number of swimmers who have attempted the lake before her, Jade will have to contend with a host of conditions and obstacles that may intersect her path. Lake water traffic, swimming throughout the night, drift factors from water entering the lake from nearby rivers, lake currents and an unpredictable mother nature may all prove a bit bothersome for this veteran swimmer and her support team. "No worries," she said, "the rewards of swimming the lake and meeting all my goals outweigh any of the risks that I may encounter." However, before Jade makes it to the July 24th swim, she must first successfully complete an open water trial swim of 18 km scheduled for July 11th along the shores of Lake Ontario: no sweat for this committed teenager who conquered 19.2 km when she tore across Lake Erie one year ago.

JADE'S DETERMINATION INSPIRES THE TROOPS TO RALLY

Anyone who is fortunate enough to know Jade is blown away by her passion to set life altering goals and the sincerity that drives her to meet them. On July 24th, when Jade steps into the cool waters of Lake Ontario, she will do it as a personal challenge to both cross the lake as a Canadian and to help raise

enough money to fund an incubator for the neo-natal unit of The Hospital for Sick Children. “Two years ago, I told my mom and dad that I was really serious about swimming Lake Ontario,” said Jade. “I thought to myself, that if I spend all this time swimming and training, why don’t I use my swimming to do something good and make a difference in the world?”

Jade’s unbridled determination to make a difference in the lives of others has caught the attention of a team of sponsors, coaches and volunteers who have stepped up to the plate to help her realize her goal: sponsors such as Caledon based Kinetico Home Water Systems who have taken on a lead role in marketing Jade’s cause through monetary support; the production of promotional and sponsorship materials; and, orchestrating event logistics; etc. For more information on Jade’s incredible *Swim4Life*, visit www.jadeswim4life.com.

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