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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR RELEASE:	<u>July 25, 2007</u> DATE	<u>Immediate</u> TIME	<u>Long List</u> DISTRIBUTION
PREPARED:	<u>July 25, 2007</u> DATE	<u>2:00 a.m.</u> TIME	<u>Welland</u> LOCATION

CYCLISTS INJURED IN HEAD-ON COLLISION

On Tuesday, July 24th, 2007 at approximately 10:29 p.m., Niagara Regional Police Service, Niagara Emergency Medical Services and the City of Welland Fire Department were called to reports of injured cyclists on First Street north of Quaker Road in the City of Welland, Ontario.

Upon arrival, investigators determined that three cyclists were traveling southbound on First Street. To accommodate a southbound motor vehicle that was approaching them from behind, the three cyclists crossed over to the opposite side of the roadway, being the northbound lane. The motor vehicle passed, at which point one of the three cyclists, a 17 year old Welland female, collided with a northbound cyclist within the northbound lane. Lighting conditions at the time were dark, and none of the bicycles involved had proper lighting as required by the Highway Traffic Act.

Both injured cyclists were transported by ambulance to the Niagara Health System – Welland General Hospital site. The 17 year old female cyclist remains in serious condition. The 34 year old Thorold male cyclist who was northbound was treated and released. The two other southbound cyclists, both 17 years old, one from Fonthill and one from Welland were uninjured.

MORE... MORE... MORE...

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This incident remains under investigation by members of 3 District and members of the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

The Niagara Regional Police Service reminds all bicycle operators that section 62(17) of the Highway Traffic Act mandates:

When on a highway at any time from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise and at any other time when, due to insufficient light or unfavourable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 150 metres or less, every motor assisted bicycle, bicycle or tricycle shall carry on the front thereof a lighted lamp displaying a white or amber light and on the rear thereof a lighted lamp displaying a red light or a reflector approved by the Ministry, and in addition there shall be placed on the front forks thereof white reflective material, and on the rear thereof red reflective material covering a surface of not less than 250 millimetres in length and 25 millimetres in width. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 62 (17).