

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Niagara River Anglers Lure Crowds to Annual Smelt  
Festival**  
**National Smelt Day Festival Planned for May 5 at the Lewiston**  
**Waterfront**  
**Smelt Offered in Area Restaurants throughout the Week**

(April 1, 2006) Lewiston, New York....The Lower Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Niagara River Anglers and the Village and Town of Lewiston will be hosting the Annual Smelt Festival on May 5 at the Lewiston Waterfront from 6 pm – 10 pm. The event is being sponsored by and co-hosted by the Silo Restaurant.

Perhaps a local journalist said it best. “Just as the swallows return to Capistrano every year, the Monarchs fly to Mexico and the sap flows in the spring, the smelt run in the Niagara River just in time for the annual Smelt Festival in Lewiston.”

The Festival was the brainchild of Lewiston Mayor Richard Soluri. “It’s National Smelt Day in Lewiston where we have so many things to celebrate but certainly our world class fishing is one of the things that we are most proud of”. According to Steve Mooradian of the Western Regional DEC, “The Lower Niagara River offers some of the best smelt dipping in the world”.

These little fish have an almost translucent steely blue sheen on their sides and a distinctive cucumber fragrance when plucked from the water. Not powerful swimmers by any means, they can easily fall prey to the nets of smelt “dippers”.

Beginning at 6 pm the Niagara River Anglers will fry up more than 240 pounds of smelt and serve them with various condiments.

According to Paul Jackson, Interim President of the Niagara River Anglers, (NRAA) “This is a tradition that has been on-going for nearly a quarter of a century. It’s a

contribution that our organization makes to the community and an opportunity for us to spread the word about the great fishing opportunities in the Lower Niagara Region.”

The musical group, “Barb Wired” will perform under the tent from 6 pm – 10 pm. All festivities at Waterfront Park at Lewiston Landing located at the foot of Center Street will be geared toward an adult audience.

Paul Jackson and Alan Hastings of the Silo Restaurant are serving as Co-Chairpersons of the 2006 event. A variety of food will be served as well as cold beverages, beer and hot wine.

Christine McCarthy of HSBC Bank Lewiston Branch will serve as the 2006 Smelt Queen.

In addition to activities at the Waterfront, several Lewiston restaurants will be busy preparing their own culinary variation of smelt beginning May 1 and continuing through May 7. Participating restaurants include:

<b>Casa Antica Restaurant</b>	490 Center Street, Lewiston
<b>Apple Granny Restaurant</b>	433 Center Street
<b>Tin Pan Alley</b>	775 Cayuga Street, Lewiston
<b>Carmelo’s Coat of Arms</b>	425 Center Street, Lewiston
<b>The Silo Restaurant</b>	115 N. Water Street, Lewiston
<b>Water Street Landing Restaurant</b>	115 South Water Street, Lewiston
<b>The Brickyard Restaurant</b>	432 Center Street, Lewiston
<b>The Steelhead Restaurant</b>	453 Center Street, Lewiston

Most participating establishments can be identified with a decorative Fish Flag outside their door.

For more information call the Chamber Office at 716.754.9500.