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## **For Immediate Release**

**Presented by Bank of America**

### **25<sup>h</sup> Annual Festival Oyster Festival Celebrates Anniversary with More Entertainment, Food, Rides and Ships than Ever**

August 14, 2008

Oyster Bay, N.Y.: **The Oyster Festival**, the east coasts' largest waterfront festival, celebrates its Silver Anniversary this October with a mixture of new activities and old favorites certain to entertain the entire family. This year, Saturday night fireworks makes the event more fun than ever - and a free shuttle bus service and designated bus lane makes it more convenient than ever to attend.

Begun 25 years ago as a hometown parade honoring Teddy Roosevelt, today the festival brings over 200,000 visitors to downtown Oyster Bay and its waterfront with entertainment, midway rides, pirates, tall ships, arts and crafts and – of course – loads of oysters. And it's for a good cause - revenues help fund some 40 non-profit organizations in Oyster Bay Town.

#### **What's New for 2008:**

#### **ADDITIONAL DAYS AND HOURS:**

##### **Special Anniversary hours:**

Friday night, October 17, 6:30PM-10:30PM –Amusements and Midway Only

Saturday, October 18, 11AM – 7PM

Sunday, October 19, 11AM-6PM

#### **ANNIVERSARY FIREWORKS SPECTACTULAR:**

At the waterfront at 7PM on Saturday, October 18.

## **NEW FREE SHUTTLE MAKES GETTING AROUND EASIER**

Park in a designated lot and hop on the festival bus. Busses take the new DESIGNATED BUS LANE serving key locations along main routes to Oyster Bay & the festival.

## **OR TAKE THE TRAIN**

The Long Island Railroad offers special excursion fare from Penn Station and Jamaica. Ticket price includes certificate good for three oysters. During Festival Weekend special schedule serving in effect serving Oyster Bay branch, located in the center of the Festival. Visit our Web site for schedule details: [TheOysterFestival.org](http://TheOysterFestival.org)

## **2008 ATTRACTIONS:**

### **ULTIMATE AIR DOGS**

This high-jumping, dare-devil canine competitor must be seen to be believed. Fellow competitors will be arriving from all over the eastern seaboard. All sponsored by Optimum.

### **PIRATES**

The ever-popular *Pirates Cove* returns to the waterfront featuring buccaneer encampments, live demonstrations and an interactive treasure hunt the kids will love. Shows twice daily.

### **COMMEMORATIVE MUGS**

The Oyster Festival celebrates its Silver Anniversary with Wild Bill's Olde Fashioned soda served in commemorative mugs.

### **TALL SHIPS**

Four tall ships will grace the Oyster Festival in 2008.

#### ***Roseway***

At 137' in sparred length, it was designed by John James as a fishing yacht to compete against the Canadians and built in 1925 at his family's shipyard in Essex, Massachusetts. Father and son worked side by side on *Roseway*, carrying on a long New England history of wooden shipbuilding. She was commissioned by Harold Hathaway of Taunton, Massachusetts, and named after an acquaintance of Hathaway's "who always got her way." Despite her limited fishing history, *Roseway* set a record of 74 swordfish caught in one day in 1934.

#### ***Soundwaters***

Come aboard the Tall Ship *SoundWaters*, a three-masted, 80-foot schooner styled after a nineteenth-century sharpie, for an unforgettable adventure.

#### ***Tall Ship Unicorn***

Originally built in 1947 under the name *Deo Volente I* with the fleet number of TX 11, *Unicorn's* hull was crafted from the metals of captured German U-boats salvaged after World War II.

#### ***The Historic Oyster Sloop – The Christeen – Celebrating 125 Years in 2008***

*The Christeen*, a 40-foot, gaff-rigged sloop, is the oldest oyster sloop in America and a National Historic Landmark. Originally built in 1883 for Captain William Smith in Glenwood Landing, NY for the purpose of harvesting oysters in Oyster Bay & Cold Spring Harbor.

### **VOTE FOR THE BEST OF THE FOODCOURT**

Over 30 food court vendors, more than ever before, offer snacks and local favorites: stewed oysters, fried clams, seafood chowder, bivalves on the half shell, “secret” sausage, Oyster Bay apple pie and much more. Festival regulars have debated which is best for decades. Cast your vote for Best of the Food Court. Contest sponsored by Whole Foods Markets.

### **ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE**

And we’ve added more. In addition to the main stage at the food court, you’ll find another stage featuring great local talent showing off everything from dance to song.

### **CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER**

It feels like Christmas in October when 140 artisans and crafters from around the country put their wares up for sale at the Arts and Crafts Pavilion. You’ll find art glass, hand crafted jewelry, handmade candles, artesian soaps, paintings, woodcrafts, hand-blown Christmas ornaments and more.

### **THE BEST OF THE REST**

Returning this year are such popular events as the Supervisor’s 5K run, live bands, kids activity area, antique show and of course the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Oyster Eating and Shucking contest held Saturday at 2PM.

### **About the Event Organizers:**

Organized and operated by the Oyster Bay Rotary, the festival has generated over \$5 million for local humanitarian causes and non-profit organizations throughout its history. Currently, revenues from the event help fund approximately 40 non-profit organizations in the Town of Oyster Bay.

**###**

- Photos and video available
- Information as of August 14, 2008 – Subject to change