

## **Andrejsala Water Festival: a pageant of sailing boats and powered watercraft**

Rīga, May 30, 2007

On the 2nd of June (Saturday) Rīga's Andrejsala celebrates the Water Festival 2007 and invites everyone to a rich programme of arts, music, exploration of nautical themes and active lifestyle. It will be the first such festival in Rīga sporting a great variety of watercraft ranging from yachts, powerboats and cabin cruisers to a Naval Forces vessel and several catamarans.

Valters Māziņš, chairman of the board of SIA "Jaunrīgas attīstības uzņēmums", which is the main initiator of the festival, comments about its programme: "We wish to enkindle greater interest in using the Daugava embankment and the river's waters – both for recreational purposes and for traffic. Rīga, in our view, as a modern European city should develop water traffic routes, which will eventually benefit the entire community."

"Andrejsala organises the Water Festival 2007 as its highlight of the year, but in the future, along with the development of mooring places and water-based touring facilities in Rīga, there could emerge a prominent aquatic-themed all-city festival comprising even wider areas along the riverbank," further explains Valters Māziņš.

During the Water Festival, the Daugava riverside near the heart of Rīga will see the opening of a new promenade. It will allow Rigans to take 2.6-kilometre-long walks along the river from the South End of Andrejsala to the northmost tip of the Eksporta port's dam. The idea of the new walkway is to provide a recreational place that is comfortably located near the Daugava and can offer something new to people enjoying active lifestyle. The promenade will gradually become available for the general public's daily use, and it will be further upgraded and maintained in order to fit in with the rest of the Andrejsala development.

The Water Festival of Andrejsala will feature an event dedicated to the commencement of the navigable season: a race of sea yachts, microyachts and catamarans. Moreover, there will be a parade of specialty watercraft built from wood, demonstrations by catamaran navigators, water-skiers, jet-skiers and motor cruisers as well as excursion opportunities around and inside cabin cruisers and sailing boats, some of which will offer to hitch a ride. Varonis, a command and supplies ship of the Latvian Naval Forces, and Kapella, a training vessel, will both offer excursions onboard. Visitors will also be shown the construction of a two-masted wooden yacht taking place in Andrejsala.

The Water Festival's programme is conceived with families and children in mind and contains activities related to navigation and waters as well as a broad range of art and music shows. The start is set to 11:00 AM, after which exhibitions of works by young artists and of the collection of the Museum of Naïve Art, concerts, games and demonstrations, drawing contests and art workshops for children will carry on for the entire day. The evening will be concluded by performances of popular rock and pop singers and bands (Intars Busulis, Keksi and Astro'n'out) and a show by drummer Nils Īle and fire eaters.

The Water Festival 2007 in Andrejsala is a coordinated production by several organisations: SIA "Jaunrīgas attīstības uzņēmums", the Latvian Multihull Yachts Association, the Rīga City Council, the Yachting Union of Latvia and SIA "Rīgas jahtu centrs Andrejosta".