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**FOND DU LAC FESTIVALS ANNOUNCES NEW CO-CHAIR FOR WALLEYE WEEKEND 2009**

**FOND DU LAC, WIS. (9/16/08)**—Fond du Lac Festivals, Inc. has announced Chief of Police Tony Barthuly as the 2009 Walleye Weekend co-chair. Barthuly will be working alongside Senior Co-Chair Mark Hopper, owner of Hopper’s Silk Screening and All-Star Trophy, 77 N. Main St.

“I know I am in charge of the weather...so that is my biggest challenge,” said Barthuly. “I think this will be an extremely enjoyable role and look forward to working with Mark Hopper and the rest of the Walleye Weekend volunteers.”

Each year, a new junior chairperson is selected for Walleye Weekend. Accepting the position is a two year commitment, since the junior chair serves as the senior chair the following year. The two work with each other as well as with Fond du Lac Festivals, Inc. to prepare, plan and organize the annual event.

“I fondly remember the long weekends running the "radar throw" and being in-charge of police operations with the event. I have always enjoyed the Walleye Weekend atmosphere and working with the volunteers that make it happen.” Barthuly added, “Through volunteering and working for the police department at Walleye Weekend, I

have met some great people who have had an influence in my life. Becoming a co-chair allows me to work at a different level.”

“Tony and I have known each other since childhood and he’s a very active member in the community so I thought he would be a great choice,” said Mark Hopper.

For the past 29 years, Barthuly has been giving back to the Fond du Lac community through his service with the Police Department. As Chief of Police, he has been committed to making Fond du Lac a safe place to live, learn, work and play.

Barthuly’s career focus has been in the area of training and building collaborative relationships with community partners. He has many affiliations both statewide and local including; the Fond du Lac CVB Board of Directors, Fond du Lac United Way Board, the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation Board and many more.

“I truly believe that we have one of the greatest communities in the Midwest. Just look around at the great projects that our service clubs have supported...we have great parks, soccer fields, hockey complex, performing arts centers, baseball fields, bike trails, K-9 program, athletic programs and many more,” said Barthuly. “Walleye Weekend continues to be one of the major fundraisers for those service organizations. Without Walleye Weekend the funding for service clubs would be drastically reduced,” he continued.

Walleye Weekend 2009 will be held June 12, 13 & 14 at Lakeside Park. For more information, please visit the Fond du Lac Festivals Web site at [www.fdlfest.com](http://www.fdlfest.com).

Fond du Lac Festivals, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1983 with a mission to direct, promote, and support festivals and special events that showcase the Fond du Lac community. The organization, with a great deal of help and support from the

community, is responsible for Walleye Weekend, Light Up the City, and Taste of Fond du Lac. These events benefit more than 100 local non-profit organizations. More information is available at [www.fdlfest.com](http://www.fdlfest.com).

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