## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SARATOGA'S 2011 CHOWDERFEST RESULTS

Record Breaking Number of Participants, Servings and Attendance!

**SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.** - The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Saratoga Chowderfest (part of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Winterfest Weekend) set records for attendance, cups of chowder served and participating chowder outlets, bringing in new Bureau members and first-time Chowderfest contestants.

The Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau's Chowderfest results:

- **A Record!** 73 outlets (up from 56 last year) including 10 new Bureau members! American Culinary Federation, Beverly's, Brunswick Bed & Breakfast, Dango's, High Rock Sports & Fitness, King Brothers Dairy, The Meat House, Olde Saratoga Brewery, SOUPerlative and The Union Grille.
- A Record! 70,302 servings of chowder from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (55, 852 last year)
- **A Record!** Over 14,000 people on the streets (up from 11,000 last year)
- Large crowd for the Chow-down contest between Dawgdom, Impressions of Saratoga and Sloppy Kisses. Celebrity judge, Chase...Mayor Johnson's pooch, chose the winner of the Chow-down Dawgdom who won for the second year in a row!
- A Record! Distributed approximately 2,000 tee shirts

## **Chowderfest 2011 Winners:**

The winners-by vote of the chowder consumers themselves

- Best On Broadway— Cantina
- Best Off Broadway— Seven Horse Pub
- Best Non-Downtown— Longfellows Restaurant
- Best Newcomer— American Culinary Federation
- Most Chowder Served— The Parting Glass
- People's Choice— The Parting Glass

Todd Garofano, President of the Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau, explains, "This was an amazing turnout for Saratoga Springs! Despite the weather late in the day, the streets remained full and chowder was enjoyed by all! The CHUGS (chowder mugs), new to the event this year, were a huge hit and flew off the shelves of area retailers. Special thanks to Mayor Johnson and the City of Saratoga Springs, all of the volunteers at the Visitor's Center and Arts Center, Mark Baker and the staff at the City Center, the Convention & Tourism Bureau Staff (especially Connie Crudo) and all of the participating Chowder outlets for staging another successful Chowderfest. This event has become one of the highlights of the year for Saratoga merchants and restaurateurs. We are already planning for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Chowderfest and will have some exciting changes to announce very soon."

Chowderfest 2011 participants: Bailey's Café, Ben & Jerry's of Saratoga, Beverly's, Black Diamond Caterers, Bookmakers at Holiday Inn, Bread Basket Bakery, Bullpen/ Horseshoe, Brindisi's Restaurant, Cantina, Caffé Lena, Chianti II Ristorante, Circus Café, Esperanto, Forno Bistro, Four Seasons Natural Foods, Gaffney's Restaurant, Great Bay Clam Co., Grey Gelding, Hattie's, Icehouse, Irish Times Pub & Restaurant, Johnny Luc's, Lillian's Restaurant, The Local Pub & Teahouse, Longfellows Restaurant, Maestro's Restaurant, Max London's Restaurant & Bar, Olde Bryan Inn, One Caroline Street Bistro, Panza's Restaurant, The

Parting Glass, Peabody's Sports Bar & Grille, Prestwick Chase at Saratoga, Prime at Saratoga National Golf, Primo's at the Inn at Saratoga, Putnam's at Gideon Putnam Resort, Saratoga City Tavern, Saratoga Hospital Foundation, Saratoga Springs Universal Preservation Foundation, Scallions Restaurant, Seven Horse Pub, Sperry's, Stadium Café, Sushi Thai Garden, TIZNOW, The Union Grille, West Side Stadium Café and Wheatfields Restaurant & Bar

Newcomers- American Culinary Federation, Brunswick Bed & Breakfast, Compton's, Cupcake Lab/Isabel's Bistro, Dango's, Fifty South/Kim Klopstock's Lily and the Rose, Finish Line Restaurant & Bar, High Rock Sports & Fitness, Jacob & Anthony's, Kings Brothers Dairy, Legends Café, The Meat House, Olde Saratoga Brewing Company, Pacific Grille, Phila Fusion, Pizza on Broadway, Plum Dandy, Saratoga Specialties Co., SOUPerlative, Wheatfields Bistro & Wine Bar-Clifton Park, Wine Bar and The Wishing Well

Contact: Todd Garofano President, Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau 60 Railroad Place, Suite 100, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 518-584-1531 todd@discoversaratoga.org

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The Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau is an independent, not-for-profit destination marketing organization with the mission of attracting group business to the Saratoga area and to serve as a liaison between group buyers and local businesses.