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**PRESS RELEASE – March 11, 2004**

***Fettuccine Faultline to put pasta bridges to the test***

The pasta's been bought, the heavy-weight apparatus has been built, the judges are primed and the fun is set to begin as OUC welcomes nearly 200 competitors at its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Spaghetti Bridge Building Competition Friday.

Competition gets underway at 9:30 a.m. at the North Kelowna Recreation Centre.

Preparations for this year's event included the building of a hydraulically-operated, pressure-compensating apparatus, fondly dubbed the 'Fettuccine Faultline' by its creator, OUC Mechanical Engineering Technology instructor Henry Murphy.

"When we decided to bring back the heavyweight competition, we needed a precise load application instrument to determine which bridge could support the most weight," says Murphy, one of the event organizers. "And we couldn't find any bodybuilders to carry the weights again," he joked. In the past, young, muscled men were called upon to load the various weights when the bridges were tested and it proved to be quite an exhausting job by the end of the day. The last heavyweight competition held in 2000 had a winning bridge that supported over 180 kilograms.

With the financial support of local architectural firm Huber Mackenzie Turik, Murphy set to work on developing a more high-tech version of the loading instrument. "The Fettuccine Faultline will have a controlled flow rate over time and will capture the measurement through a load cell and display it on a digital read-out, showing the maximum load when the bridge breaks."

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While Murphy is responsible for the logistics, he says Fender's Autobody takes credit for the spiffy paint-job on the newly-minted machine.

Trial runs are being held this week, so everything will be set to go as the competitors go head to head to see who takes away the title of Heavyweight Champion and \$1,500 in prize money. Second and third place finishers receive \$1,000 and \$500 respectively.

In the team category, 31 teams will take on the challenge of building the lightest bridge that sustains the most load in a timed competition. Participants will get their plans and building materials at 9:30 a.m. and must create and build their design by noon the day of the event.

As well, 82 post-secondary and secondary school students will be bringing their pre-built bridges to be judged and nine elementary schools will showcase their replicas of Kettle Valley Railroad trestles in the demonstration category.

"The response this year has been great and we're looking forward to an intense, but fun competition," says Dianne Powles, another event organizer.

Anyone interested in watching the competition as it unfolds, can drop by the North Kelowna Campus Recreation Centre Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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For more information, contact Dianne Powles at 862-5473.