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NEWS RELEASE

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DOWNTOWN HOLLAND ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2015 ICE SCULPTING COMPETITION

This past weekend, professional ice carvers and collegiate carvers from three different colleges in Michigan and Ohio competed in the annual Downtown Holland Ice Sculpting Competition. While the professionals assembled as many as four 300-pound blocks of ice into a works of art, the students were hard at work creating their masterpieces out of a single 300-pound block of ice using everything from chainsaws and torches to hot irons and chisels. The students competed in two events, a compulsory buffet-style sculpture competition on Friday night and a four-hour freestyle competition on Saturday.

The students' finished pieces were judged by the professional carvers following NICA judging standards. At a private awards dinner following the invitational, NICA awarded prizes to the winning carvers. The carver with the top individual score was returning carver Kaitlin Pfropper from Macomb Community College with her beautiful abstract sculpture titled "Whipping Wind." The second place winner was Walter Ross from Oakland Community College with his precariously sculpted abstract work called "War of Rings." Third place went to Lauren Klapac from Oakland Community College for her meticulously carved lizard titled "B-lizzard." Each of the winners received ice carving tools and equipment, along with gift certificates.

Five of the nation's best professional carvers traveled to Holland to showcase their skills by carving a wide variety of ice sculptures depicting a variety of characters, including everyone's favorite Frozen character, Olaf the Snowman and Peter Pan's Captain Hook. Other large-scale sculptures included a pair of swans, butterflies, a deer and more. Professionally carved ice sculptures were also commissioned by several Downtown Holland businesses and organizations, including 8th Street Grille, the Apothecary Gift Shop, the Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland, Crane's In The City, Hops at 84 East and the Windmill Restaurant.

The 2014 Downtown Ice Sculpting Competition is proudly sponsored by Crown Motors the West Michigan Honda Dealer. Crown Motors is a growth-oriented automotive products and services company that has been serving the Holland community for the past 27 years. With three locations in Holland, Crown Motors strives to provide a ministry to the people in the community.

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