



## Media Release

For Immediate Release

### **Museum ready to opens its doors to Port Colborne's past** *Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum will open for the season on May 1*

**Port Colborne, ON (April 26, 2019)** – With new exhibits on display, the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum opens its doors for the season on Wednesday, May 1, 2019.

The exhibits on display are:

**Solid Comfort (May-December):** What does Port Colborne have in common with Tennessee? Visit this new exhibit as the fascinating history of the exclusive “Solid Comfort” summer cottage community is revealed through photographs and artifacts from the museum’s collection.

**Deadly Dust-Dominion: Grain Elevator Explosion 1919 (May – November):** Located at the southern terminus of the Welland Canal, the grain elevator played an important role in the movement of grain through the Great Lakes. This exhibit not only examines this role, but also the tragic fatal explosion that occurred 100 years ago.

**Tugging Along: Tugboats on the Welland Canal:** Narrow channels, small canal locks, and lots of ship traffic on the third Welland Canal meant plenty of business for the tugs and their crew. Peer into the Marine Exhibit Lighthouse to catch a glimpse of this vital part of the canal scene.

“We’re very excited about this year’s exhibits as we were able to highlight significant landmarks, infrastructure, and associated anniversaries that have created our identity as a community,” commented Stephanie Powell Baswick, Museum Curator. “Port Colborne has been a summer destination for years, with the grain terminal and canal as identifiable landmarks for those who not only lived here, but visited.”

The Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum, Heritage Village and Gift Shop are open daily from 12 – 5 p.m., including holidays, until December 20, 2018 and admission is FREE.

Some upcoming events at the Museum to mark on your calendar, include:

**May 18, 2019 - International Museum Day!** In honour of the 2019 International Museum Day, the Port Colborne Museum has partnered with Sugarloaf Marina to present Sugarloaf Marina Over 30 Years. We are pleased to have a Museum and Archives Assistant Co-Op student, Katelyn Lewis from Lakeshore Catholic High School, working on the design of this retrospective display.

**May 26, 2019** – 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Arabella’s Pie Social & History Fair from 12 – 4 p.m. Visitors can enjoy a slice of homemade pie with hot or cold beverage at Arabella’s Tea Room. Afterwards discover traditional skills at the Niagara Antique Power demonstration and the museum Blacksmith Shop.

Spinning and tatting demonstration will be featured in front of the Log House. Print a card on the heritage press and try on a traditional costume. Perennial plants for sale by the pavilion are looking for a new home in your garden, and lots of gems to be found at the Towpath Treasures Flea Market.

**June 1, 2019** – Arabella’s Tea Room opens for the season until September 30, providing tea and biscuits daily from 2 – 4 p.m.

June 2-8, 2019 - **“Tea for Two” week**, two for the price of one.

**August 3 & 4, 2019** – 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival at the Museum from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

To learn more about Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum:

Visit 280 King Street, Port Colborne, or, [www.portcolborne.ca/page/museum](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/museum)

Email: [museum@portcolborne.ca](mailto:museum@portcolborne.ca)

Call: 905-835-7604

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### **About Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum**

Located at 280 King Street, Port Colborne, The Museum and Heritage Village feature a century of heritage buildings in a landscaped setting of historic gardens, pathways, trees and flowers, picket fences, and a memorial pavilion with picnic tables and benches.

The Village includes the original 1869 Georgian-revival style Home and Carriage House of Arabella Williams which houses the main exhibit galleries, Humberstone's first log schoolhouse where school tours are held, the 1850 log home of John and Sally Sherk, the F.W. Woods and Sons 1880 Marine Blacksmith Shop, a 1915 Edwardian Cottage, which is the home of Arabella's Tea Room, where volunteers serve Afternoon Tea with hot homemade tea biscuits and preserves, a Marine Exhibit Lighthouse, a reproduction of the parapet of Port Colborne's Lighthouse, which displays marine artifacts and ship models, and a Heritage Resource Centre which holds the Museums Reserve Collection and is open for research by appointment.

The Museum interprets and exhibits the history of Port Colborne and the Welland Canal. Marine artifacts include the Wheelhouse from the Yvon Dupre Jr. Tug Boat, the anchor from the Raleigh and a Lifeboat from the S.S. Hochelaga.

The Museum is the home of Canada's Century Car, the 1901 Neff Steam Buggy, one of Ontario's oldest existing automobiles, built by Benton Neff at the Neff Foundry in Humberstone, which is part of Port Colborne today.

### **About City of Port Colborne**

Located on the south coast of the scenic Niagara Region, Niagara’s Port of Call has found the perfect balance – successful industrial and commercial sectors, comfortable and scenic residential areas, white sand beaches, unique culinary choices, the world class Sugarloaf Marina, fishing, golfing, trails, shopping districts along the historic Welland Canal and an energized festival and entertainment scene that includes live theatre – truly a community that adds to the overall Niagara Experience.

**For more information, contact:**

Michelle Cuthbert

Corporate Communications Office

[michellecuthbert@portcolborne.ca](mailto:michellecuthbert@portcolborne.ca)

905-835-2900 ext. 307