

First Ships through the Welland Canal at Port Colborne, May 1833

While the first Welland Canal opened in 1829, the channel only reached where Port Robinson, where the canal connected with the Welland River. The route followed the Welland River to Chippawa and then to the Niagara River to reach Lake Erie. It was not until 1833 that the canal was finished through to Gravelly Bay, now Port Colborne. The *Montreal Gazette* published a letter, first printed in the *York Patriot*, from an eyewitness at Port Colborne who recorded the names of the first vessels through the “New Cut” in May 1833, marking the start of a new era for Port Colborne.

H F S X J A D O L Z R M R A A
T W C W D O G A V O Q K F N U
M V A A Z A F B B X H G T O R
S Q N Z B A U E S X S J Q T O
T A Q E Y H R H N T A C C N R
C Q N E O T Y L I M E N E I A
V I T V B H H O Y D Z V N L B
W T H U I E P Y M O K P Y C O
E P R L P R P X T K S Q Y T R
V N K N N C Z F K F I R E T E
S H L V X U D M M M K Y M I A
B M E X Z L E K M J P E W W L
E L I Z A E R K S Q A C Q E I
M I W C K S M I H G F K U D S
N O R T H A M E R I C A U U E

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