



Welland Canal  
Fallen Workers Memorial

A PLACE TO REMEMBER

**TASK FORCE CO-CHAIRS**

Walter Sendzik  
Mayor St. Catharines

Rick Dykstra  
MP St. Catharines

**CAMPAIGN CHAIR**

Greg Wight

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Canadian Canal Society

Niagara Folk Arts  
Multicultural Centre

Welland Canals Foundation

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Memorial design to honour fallen workers revealed at fundraising announcement**

August 6, 2015 – A campaign to honour 137 workers who lost their lives during construction of the Welland Canal is moving forward with funding from the federal government and a memorial designed by artist Dereck Revington.

Today at a special announcement, Rick Dykstra, and Mayor Walter Sendzik, co-chairs of the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force announced a \$150,000 grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage to support the project and revealed the memorial design to the community. The grant will help the Task Force achieve its fundraising goal of \$450,000 to build the memorial alongside the Welland Canal at Lock 3.

“Today’s announcement represents the vision and dedication of a great many people”, said Dykstra. “Not the least of which are the men who lost their lives constructing the canal which is so vital to our community and to our nation. It is only fitting and just that we remember and honour them with this monument and I could not be more pleased that we are well on our way to doing so.”

The Welland Canal was constructed between 1914-1932. During construction 137 men lost their lives, in what is believed to be the largest loss of life on a federal government infrastructure project in Canadian history.

“Niagara’s history and geography has been shaped by the construction of the Welland Canal – and not just the landscape and economy. Through this project we have seen how many lives and families were impacted by the loss of loved ones during construction,” stated Mayor Walter Sendzik. “The memorial will be a place for all of us to remember them and reflect on the sacrifices made during construction of one of the most defining projects in our community’s history.”

Mr. Dykstra and Mayor Sendzik introduced Greg Wight, retired CEO of Algoma Central Corporation, as fundraising campaign chair for the memorial.



[www.stcatharines.ca/CanalWorkersMemorial](http://www.stcatharines.ca/CanalWorkersMemorial)



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Mr. Wight announced the first corporate donor to the campaign, Algoma Central Corporation, who have committed \$25,000 to the project.

“Through my career I have seen and experienced the wonder of the Welland Canal. Its construction continues to shape Niagara’s economy and now, as an integral part of the St. Lawrence Seaway system, it connects us to the world. I’m proud to be a part of this project to recognize the fallen workers with a fitting tribute.”

Bruce Allen, President of Unifor Local 199, spoke on behalf of the Niagara Regional Labour Council, and confirmed their commitment to fundraise \$25,000 for the worker’s memorial.

The community also got its first look at the memorial designed by Toronto-based Dereck Revington Studio Inc. The [design](#) was selected by a committee with support from the St. Catharines Public Art Advisory Committee. Mr. Revington described the memorial:

“The memorial will carry its meaning with and without words, engaging and awakening the visitor, making them think and feel more deeply through the encounter. Who were these men whose lives were cut short so that the Great Lakes could be bridged?” – Dereck Revington, selected designer.

The [Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force](#) is a volunteer group established to finance, design, build and install a memorial to recognize workers who were killed while building the Welland Ship Canal between 1914 and 1932. Members of the Task Force include representation from all Welland Canal communities, Niagara Regional Council, the federal government, the marine industry, local historians, the labour community, and community partner representatives from the Canadian Canal Society, the Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre and the Welland Canals Foundation, with administrative and project support provided by the City of St. Catharines.

The Task Force is now fundraising to build the memorial and seeking support from the marine and business community, Niagara community partners and the public. All donations are welcome. Once fundraising is complete, construction of the memorial is scheduled for 2017. For more information





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about the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial or to contribute to the project visit [www.stcatharines.ca/CanalWorkersMemorial](http://www.stcatharines.ca/CanalWorkersMemorial)

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