



Welland Canal
Fallen Workers Memorial

A PLACE TO REMEMBER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
\$75,000 donated to Fallen Workers Memorial

TASK FORCE CHAIR

Walter Sendzik
Mayor St. Catharines

CAMPAIGN CHAIR

Greg Wight

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Canadian Canal Society

Niagara Folk Arts
Multicultural Centre

Welland Canals Foundation

January 13, 2016 – Although the Welland Canal has closed for the shipping season, the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force is continuing its work to design, build and finance a memorial to honour 137 men whose lives were lost during construction of the canal.

Campaign chair Greg Wight is pleased to announce donations of \$25,000 each from the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC), Fednav and ArcelorMittal Dofasco towards the memorial.

"I'm very proud of the support we've received from the marine and shipping industry for this project. Thank you to the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, Fednav and ArcelorMittal Dofasco for coming forward to help us build a fitting memorial to the men whose lives were lost during construction of the Welland Canal. We are very pleased and honoured to have your support," stated Mr. Wight.

The SLSMC is a not-for-profit corporation responsible for the movement of marine traffic through the St. Lawrence Seaway, which includes the Welland Canal. The SLSMC also provided the land where the memorial will be built, alongside the Welland Canal at Lock 3 in St. Catharines.

"The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation stands with other members of the marine community in recognizing the great sacrifice that was paid by workers and their families" said Terence Bowles, the Corporation's President and CEO. "The loss of life that occurred during the construction of the Welland Canal, which this memorial will honour, has led to construction methods, safety regulations and procedures that, today, ensure that endeavours of this nature do not require such a sacrifice. Some 84 years after completion, the Welland Canal serves as an integral part of the St. Lawrence Seaway, and cargo carried on this vital marine transportation artery continues to support tens of thousands of jobs in Canada and the United States, a legacy that all can look upon with pride."

Fednav is a Montreal-based international shipping and charter group, operating around the world, Fednav is a leader in international shipping on the Great Lakes as well as the Canadian Arctic. The company has offices in Antwerp, Barbados, Hamburg, Rio de Janeiro, London, Singapore, and Tokyo and regional offices in Canada and the United States.

"The Welland Canal has been instrumental in the economic development of the Great Lakes region, and has improved the lives of many of us. But let us not forget that 137 men lost their own lives building it, and they deserve our respect and gratitude. We're proud to contribute to this memorial that honours their contribution and their sacrifice," said Mark Pathy, President and Co-CEO.





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ArcelorMittal Dofasco is a steel producer based in Hamilton and a significant user of the Seaway system. Some 150 vessels of iron ore and coal (the main raw materials for steel production) transfer through the St. Lawrence Seaway and Welland Canal to the company's Hamilton steelmaking facilities. With 5,400 employees, the company ships 4.5 million net tons of steel every year.

"The Great Lakes / St. Lawrence Seaway system provides a critical business advantage for ArcelorMittal. It provides a direct, cost effective and sustainable method of transportation for raw materials and finished product for both domestic and international shipping," says Sean Donnelly, President and CEO. "We are pleased that a Fallen Workers Memorial will be placed alongside the Welland Canal at Lock 3 and even more proud to join with others to help support this important project. It will forever pay tribute to the 137 men who lost their lives in constructing the canal and contributed to this incredible and significant facility on the Seaway."

In addition to these new donations from the SLSMC, Fednav and ArcelorMittal Dofasco, the project has also received \$25,000 donations from St. Catharines-based Algoma Central Corporation and Rankin Construction, as well as McKeil Marine, Heddle Marine Services and Canada Steamship Lines.

The Task Force's current fundraising goal for the memorial and parkette is approximately \$750,000. To date \$250,000 has been raised through corporate sponsorship. The Department of Canadian Heritage has also contributed \$150,000 towards the memorial.

The Task Force is continuing to seek support from the marine and business community, community partners, and members of the public. Once fundraising is complete, the memorial will be built in 2017. For more information about the memorial, to view the design or to make a contribution, please visit www.stcatharines.ca/CanalWorkersMemorial.

About the Task Force

The [Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force](http://www.stcatharines.ca/CanalWorkersMemorial) is a volunteer group established to finance, design, build and install a memorial to recognize workers who died while building the Welland Ship Canal between 1914 and 1932. Members of the Task Force include representatives 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.

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