



ST. CATHARINES 1876-2026

June 13, 2026



Doors Open Ontario



ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST





Mayor Mat Siscoe
City of St. Catharines

stcatharines.ca



Mayors Message

Doors Open St. Catharines

On behalf of St. Catharines City Council, I am pleased to welcome each of you to Doors Open St. Catharines 2026!

As we mark our city's 150th anniversary, taking in Doors Open is the perfect way to explore St. Catharines and to experience and pay homage to our rich history, vibrant culture and stunning architecture.

This is an exciting opportunity for us to invite visitors and residents to step inside many of the culturally significant and historically distinct properties, as well as infrastructure and outdoor spaces, that tell the story of the evolution of our community over the past 150 years.

Locals who have long been intrigued by these familiar sites are sure to gain a deeper appreciation for their origins, their many uses and the people who have brought them to life through the years. Together, these landmarks reflect the cultural, economic and social growth that has shaped St. Catharines into the city we celebrate today.

We thank our community partners for opening their doors, and the many volunteers who will welcome us—offering a glimpse into the past and helping uncover the stories that continue to define our community in this milestone year.

Enjoy your time exploring St. Catharines and celebrating 150 years of community, heritage and pride.

Mat Siscoe
Mayor, St. Catharines



[@MatSiscoe](https://www.instagram.com/MatSiscoe)

[f/MayorMatSiscoe](https://www.facebook.com/MayorMatSiscoe)

[✉ mayor@stcatharines.ca](mailto:mayor@stcatharines.ca)



Celebrate **St. Catharines**

Welcome to Doors Open St. Catharines!

Whether you call St. Catharines or Niagara home, or are visiting from beyond, we invite you to explore some of our city's most distinctive places, free of charge, on Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. From heritage sites and cultural centres to places of worship and guided walking tours, there is something for everyone to discover.

Some of the spaces you'll visit are part of everyday public life. Others are not, including working facilities, manufacturing sites, and essential infrastructure that are rarely open to the community. As you explore, we ask that you do so with care and respect, helping us ensure these places can be shared safely today and in the future.

As we mark 150 years since St. Catharines' incorporation as a city, Doors Open offers a unique opportunity to connect with the places that have shaped our community over that time. Every building, street, and shoreline is part of a larger story, one rooted in the land beneath our feet. Long before incorporation, this land supported the first Indigenous peoples. It later played a role in the Underground Railroad, and continues to sustain the communities, industries, and neighbourhoods that define us today.

That enduring connection is at the heart of Our Common Ground. It reminds us that while our stories are diverse, they are all tied to the same foundation. Each place you visit is a piece of that shared patchwork, past and present, public and behind the scenes, coming together to tell the story of St. Catharines.

We are excited to have you join us for this event, and we hope it will be an enriching and memorable experience. If you're a social media user, don't forget to tag us if you share your adventures. Our social media accounts can be found at stcatharines.ca/socialmedia.

Mark your calendar, plan your route, and enjoy discovering the spaces that connect us all.

Some locations require pre-registration to ensure room for those wanting to participate in tours, for location information and registration links, please visit:

[**stcatharines.ca/DoorsOpen**](https://stcatharines.ca/DoorsOpen)



June 13, 2026

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1. Knox Presbyterian Church

53 Church Street

www.knoxchurch.com

905-641-8868



Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.

Tours: Self-guided with stationed guides discussing the stain glass windows, and Peggy Boyle, a member of the recent Knox exterior restoration will be on hand to answer any inquires.

Special Event: From 1 to 3 pm, Sharon Willock will explain the workings of the restored 1919 Casavant organ and provide a demonstration. Knox Presbyterian Church celebrated its 185th anniversary of community service in May. We welcome visitors to enjoy tours highlighting the history of Knox and its 15 Memorial Stained-Glass Windows. The windows are dedicated to many local leaders including lake captains, ship owners, builders, an architect, a Mayor of St. Catharines, a postmaster, a St. Paul Street clothier, and other business leaders.

Accessible / Kid Friendly / Parking at Market Square or Downtown Parking Garages



2. Lake Street Armoury

81 Lake Street

(905) 685-6777



Pre-Registration
Required

Tours: Pre-Registered Hourly Guided Tours from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Lake Street Armoury, built in 1905, is a prominent landmark reflecting Canada's early 20th-century militia movement.

Long central to local military life, its fortress-like design symbolizes strength and permanence.

It continues to operate as the home of the 10th St. Catharines Field Battery Artillery and the Lincoln & Welland Regiment, maintaining its historic role as a place of training, service, and community connection.

Accessible / Kid Friendly / On-site Parking



3. Marilyn I Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts

15 Artists' Common, St. Catharines

905-688-5550

brocku.ca/miwsfpa



Tours: Guided Tours at 10 am, 11 am and 12 pm – Pre-registration not required

Special Events: A selection of Small Walker Press publications will be featured in the Marilyn I. Walker School's Lobby, including Industrial Niagara and Tewaaraton. La crosse / Lacrosse.

Tickets for the One Acts Festival's 2 pm performance will also be on offer, pending seats availability. Check Department of Dramatic Arts events through brocku.universitytickets.com.

Brock University Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts celebrates 10 years in its award-winning, repurposed Canada Hair Cloth Company building, founded in 1888. The facility serves as a vibrant hub for arts education and research, with theatres, studios, galleries, and specialized spaces supporting students across disciplines. Over the past decade, it has enriched downtown St. Catharines with over 300 performances, 100 exhibitions, and numerous workshops, lectures, and interdisciplinary events.

Accessible / Kid Friendly / Parking in Downtown Parking Garages/Lots

Time:
10 a.m.
to
1 p.m.



4. Niagara Memorial Masonic Temple Association

23 Centre Street, St. Catharines
(Please use side entrance off Court Street)

www.reunionlodge103.ca

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.

Tours: Self-guided with stationed guides

The Niagara Masonic Memorial Temple Association welcomes you to their first Doors Open Event. Originally built in 1891 as St. George's Ward Primary School, and renamed Court Street School in 1927, this St. Catharines landmark educated generations of local students before closing in 1952. The building was later transformed for community use and now serves the Niagara Conservatory of Music and the Masonic Memorial Temple—home to several Masonic lodges, including St. George's Lodge No. 15, Reunion Lodge No. 103, Garden City Lodge No. 221, and Brock Daylight Lodge No. 745.

Partially Accessible / Onsite Parking in the Court Street Parking Lot only
/ Please enter through side entrance off Court Street



5. Niagara Region – Decew Falls Water Treatment Plant

2700 Decew Road

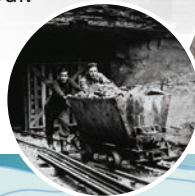
www.niagararegion.ca

Pre-Registration
Required

Tours: Pre-Registered Guided Tours at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Decew Falls Water Treatment Plant has been processing drinking water for residents since 1876. As Niagara Region's largest water treatment facility, it is designed to treat 227 million litres of water per day. The site is unique compared to other water treatment plants in Ontario due to its gravity fed distribution system. This event will give residents an opportunity to explore the history and ongoing importance of the Decew Falls Water Treatment Plant, which has provided safe, reliable drinking water in Niagara for generations. Visitors will enjoy a 1-hour guided walking tour.

Partially Accessible / Closed toe shoes and long pants required for the tour / Some On-site Parking



6. Ontario Power Generation – DeCew Generating Station No. 1

Please note that there is no on-site or street parking available. Visitors are asked to park at Joseph L. McCaffery Sports Park, 61 Vansickle Road. Complimentary shuttle service will operate continuously from 9:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., connecting the Sports Park, DeCew Generating Station, and the Brown Homestead.

www.opg.com

Tours: Pre-Registered Hourly Guided Tours from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; tours are approximately 30 minutes.

Built in 1898, DeCew Generating Station 1 (GS1) is one of the oldest continually running hydroelectric power generating stations in Canada. More than 125 years after it was built, GS1 continues to help OPG generate safe, clean, reliable, low-cost power for Ontario. Today, the plant is a working piece of Canada's hydroelectric heritage.

Partially Accessible / Flat closed toe and closed back shoes required (no crocs or sandals) / No onsite or street parking

Pre-Registration
Required

7. The Brown Homestead

1317 Pelham Road

905-328-1646

thebrownhomestead.ca

Tours: Self-guided with stationed interpreters

The Brown Homestead was settled by United Empire Loyalists in the 1780s and ran as a family farm for almost 200 years. Explore our historic site, be inspired by heritage craft demonstrations, learn through hands-on activities and view two new community exhibits. Grab lunch or a snack from Char in the Kitchen and spend time enjoying our pastoral setting.

The site is partially accessible / Kid-friendly / Please be careful crossing the street / Closed-toed shoes are recommended

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.

8. Power Glen Valley Walking Tour

Hike begins outside the entrance of DeCew Generating Station 1 (GS1) and ends at 28 Power Glen Road. Parking at: Joseph L McCaffery Sports Park, 61 Vansickle Road

Bussed transportation to the Decew Station, The Brown Homestead and then returning to the Sports Park. The busses will be stopping at 28 Power Glen Road at the end of each tour.

Tours: Guided Tours at 10:15 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. (approx. 1.5 hours); Pre-registration Required

Join a local resident, Gordon Sisler for a guided walking tour of the Power Glen Valley, starting outside Decew Generating Station #1 and ending at the 1855 home of Benjamin Reynolds – the oldest home in the Power Glen Heritage District. Along the route, participants will learn about the valley's history and St. Catharines' early industries, examine the exterior heritage features of the Reynold's home, and tour a vintage printery located in the heritage barn behind the Reynold's home.

This tour is not accessible. Participants should wear flat, closed toe shoes or hiking shoes and be prepared for relatively steep hills. The hike is approximately 45 minutes, followed by a 45-minute discussion of the house exterior and heritage printery. The tour will be cancelled if it rains or if hiking conditions are too slippery

Partially Accessible / Flat closed toe and closed back shoes required (no crocs or sandals) / No onsite or street parking

Pre-Registration
Required





9. Rhythm Automotive Canada

(formerly THK Rhythm Automotive, TRW Automotive and originally Thompson Products)

230 Louth Street ON L2S 4B8

(905) 685-1931

www.thk.com

Tours: Guided Tours – throughout the day –
pre-registration is not required

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.

We are thrilled to welcome our community to Rhythm Automotive Canada and share the history of its facilities. Tours begin in Plant #2, built in 1954, where visitors can see the machining of in-house forged components, before continuing beneath Louth Street through an underground tunnel to Plant #1, known as 'The Forge,' dating to 1929, to learn how a range of steering linkages and ball joints are manufactured for our international clients.

Accessible site / Kid friendly / On-site parking / Please wear closed toe shoes

10. Salem Chapel - British Methodist Episcopal Church

92 Geneva Street

www.salemchapelbmechurch.ca

905-682-0993

Tours: Self-guided tours

Special Event: Tour Talk from noon – 1 pm

Salem Chapel was an important centre of abolitionist and civil rights activity and was the corner stone of a growing African American community in Niagara. Harriet Tubman, who attended the church, led many freedom seekers to St. Catharines. The chapel, built in 1855, has an auditory-hall design which is typical of churches associated with the Underground Railroad movement; it also has many original artifacts on display.

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.



Not Accessible / Parking available behind
the church at 62 North Street

11. Ridley College

2 Ridley Road
905-684-1889
ridleycollege.com

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.



Tours: Self-guided

Established in 1889, Ridley College is a renowned independent day and boarding school (JK to Grade 12), guided by a vision of inspiring flourishing lives, with wellbeing woven throughout the educational experience. We welcome visitors to tour the Lower School dining hall, sensory gardens, Mandeville Theatre, and the recently renovated and expanded Evans Athletic Centre and the Iggulden Building — which is home to the Mitchell Learning Commons, Norris Walker '52 Creative Commons and performance spaces. Experience the blend of traditional architectural details and modern learning spaces that reflect the school's rich history while embracing a forward-looking approach to education.

Please note: Due to a private event, the historic chapel and dining hall will not be open for public tours.

Accessible / Kid-friendly / On-site Parking



12. St. Barnabas Anglican Church

33 Queenston Street
905-684-6421
stbarnabasanglican.ca

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.



Tours: Self-guided with stationed interpreters

Special Events: Live music throughout the day

St. Barnabas Anglican Church was designed by Toronto architect Charles T. Gibson and dates back to 1893, when its foundation stone was laid. The exterior features local red-brown sandstone and a slate roof, while the interior showcases solid wooden beams with turned drop finials, intricately carved paneling and stained glass windows dedicated to local citizens. The church's collection of vestments and candelabra will also be on display.

Accessible / On-site and Street Parking



13. Royal House Redeemed Christian Church of God

95 Church Street

Tours: Self-guided

Special Events: Choir and children's performances throughout the day.

Royal House Redeemed Christian Church of God welcomes visitors to its first Doors Open St. Catharines event. Its new home is a rare example of brick Romanesque design, highlighted by a striking 12-petal stained-glass rose window. The site has been a place of worship since 1834, when the First Presbyterian Church first gathered here. Rebuilt in 1876 and opened in 1878, it later became First United Church, which held its final service in 2003. Since 2006, Royal House has brought new life to the space as a vibrant, multicultural congregation representing 30 nations, known for its dynamic services, strong choir, and community outreach.

Accessible / Kid-friendly / Parking at Market Square or Downtown Parking Garages or Street Parking

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.

14. St. George's Anglican Church

83 Church Street

905-682-9232

<http://www.stgeorgesanglican.ca>

Tours: Self-guided with stationed interpreters

Special Event: Live music will be performed in the sanctuary from noon - 2 pm.
Come to hear the organ, choir and other special musical guests.

St. George's is the first established church in St. Catharines and its congregation will celebrate their 235th anniversary next year. The grey stone church was built in 1840. The carved stone, beautiful stained glass, memorials from both world wars, and magnificent pipe organ provide an inspiring background for prayer and worship. The church supports a daily breakfast program, 365 days of the year and is a hub for shelter, feeding programs, community gathering, and exceptional music programs for people of all ages.

Accessible / Kid Friendly / Parking at Market Square
or Downtown Parking Garages

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.

Time:
9 a.m.
to
5 p.m.



st. catharines
museum
& WELLAND CANALS CENTRE
St. Catharines



15. St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre

1932 Welland Canals Parkway

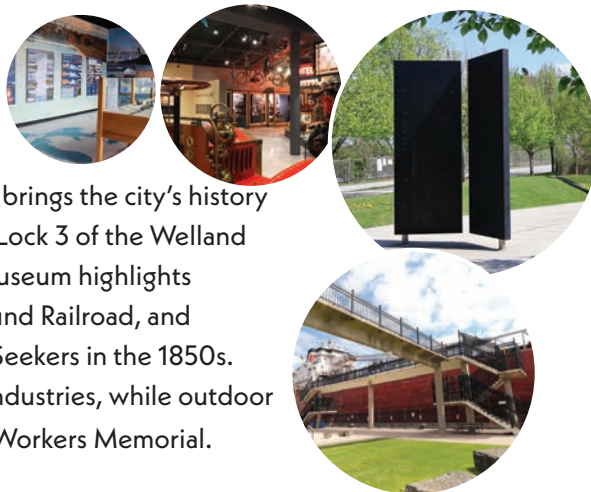
905-984-8880

www.stcatharines.ca/museum

Tours: Self-guided

The St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre brings the city's history to life through artifacts, stories, and exhibits set against Lock 3 of the Welland Ship Canal. Located beside this active waterway, the museum highlights the history of the earlier Welland Canals, the Underground Railroad, and the contributions of immigrant labourers and Freedom Seekers in the 1850s. Additional exhibits explore women's history and local industries, while outdoor spaces offer canal views and the Welland Canals Fallen Workers Memorial.

Accessible / Kid-friendly / On-site Parking



16. St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre – Yates Street Heritage Architecture Walking Tour

Hike begins at the St. Catharines Cenotaph at 6 St Paul Street West and ends at St. Thomas Anglican Church

Tours: Guided Tour at 10 am only (approx. 1.5 hours);
Pre-registration Required

Take a guided stroll along the quiet streets of the Yates Street Heritage District, only steps from bustling downtown St. Catharines. This architectural heritage tour is led by Brian Narhi, chair of the City's Heritage Advisory Committee.

Tour runs rain or shine / Participants should wear flat, closed toe shoes / Please dress for the weather



**Pre-Registration
Required**

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Doors Open 2026



150
ST. CATHARINES
1876-2026

17. Sts. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

14 Rolls Avenue

905-646-1275

<http://www.cyrilandmethodius.ca>

Tours: Self-guided with presentations on the hour until 3 pm

Visitors are invited to explore this architectural and spiritual treasure, built between 1944 and 1946 by a devoted Ukrainian community. Designed by priest-architect Philip Ruh, the church beautifully blends Ukrainian Greek Catholic tradition with rich, layered design. Inside, stunning icons created by renowned iconographer Igor Suhacev fill the space with colour, symbolism and meaning. Designated as a heritage site in 1997, the church stands as a lasting testament to faith, artistry and cultural identity in St. Catharines.

Accessible / Kid Friendly/ On-site Parking

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.



18. St. Ignatius of Antioch Antiochian Orthodox Church

332 Carlton Street (and 75 Rolls Avenue)

905-646-4222

www.stignatius-stc.ca

Tours: Self-guided with stationed interpreters

Special Event: Hymns in Byzantine chant for 10 minutes at 11 am and 2 pm.

St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church is an English-speaking parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, located in the former Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church in St. Catharines. Since its purchase in 2013, the sanctuary has been thoughtfully transformed with Byzantine-style iconography, including works by artists such as Alexander Schelechow and Hanan Houli. Recent additions—donated icons and a new wooden Holy Table—reflect a growing, vibrant community rooted in tradition and faith.

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.



Kid Friendly / Street Parking /
Accessible Parking at 75 Rolls Avenue

19. St. Thomas' Anglican Church

99 Ontario Street

905 684-2339

www.stthomaschurch.ca

Tours: Self Guided with Stationed Guides

Special Events: Live music throughout the day, exhibits about the local areas and more!

St. Thomas' Anglican Church has been a landmark in St. Catharines since 1879. Designed by noted Buffalo architect Milton Earle Beebe, this Richardson Romanesque church is distinguished by its magnificent turrets and beautiful stained-glass windows. It is also well known for its long-standing Day Care Centre and its annual Civic Carol Concert, which highlights the remarkable acoustics beneath its expansive domed roof. The cornerstone was laid in September 1877, and beginning in 2027, St. Thomas' will celebrate its 150th anniversary, leading up to October 2029, which marks 150 years since the first service—stay tuned for celebrations.

Accessible / Kid Friendly / Street Parking / Parking in Downtown Parking Garages / Please use the crosswalks when crossing the streets

Time:
10 a.m.
to
4 p.m.



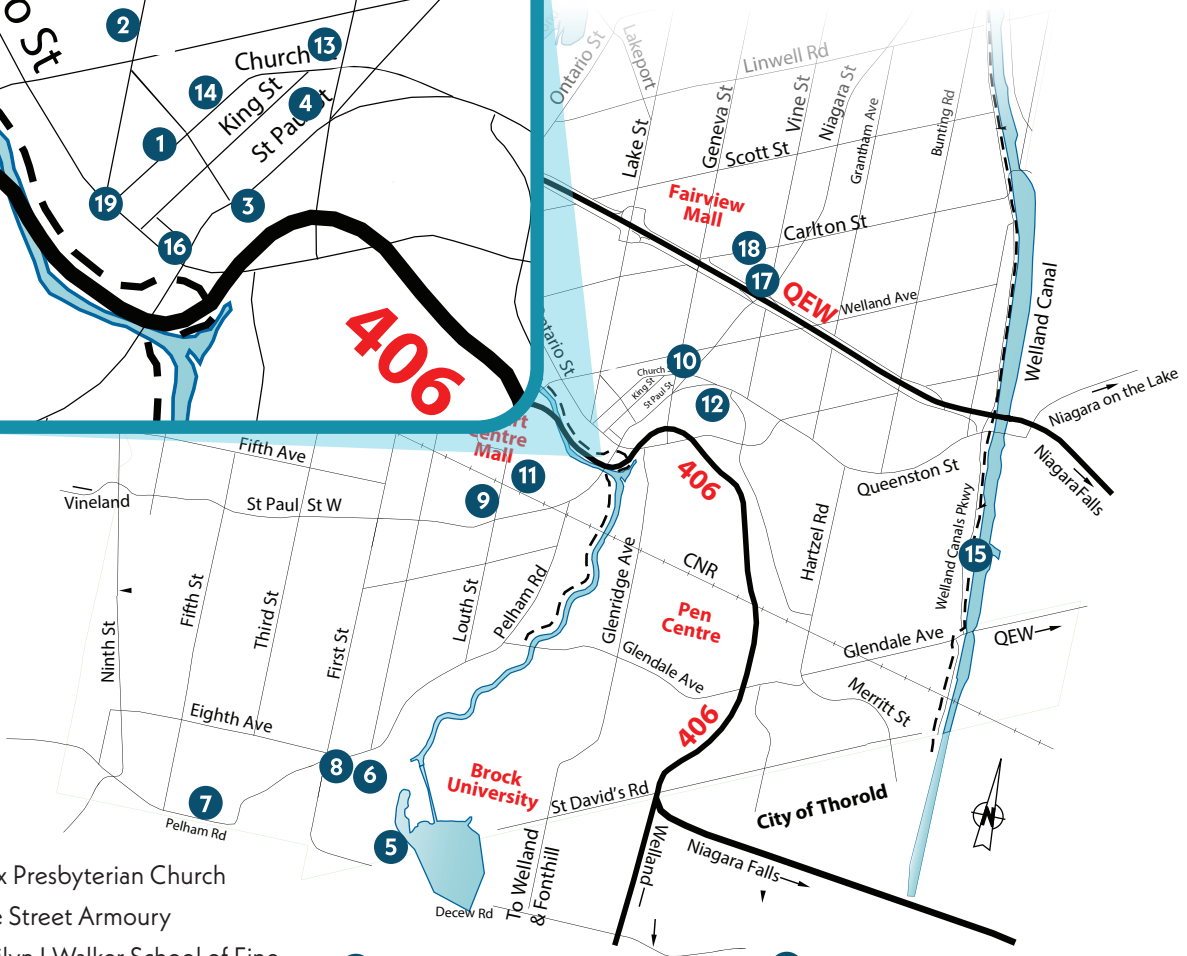
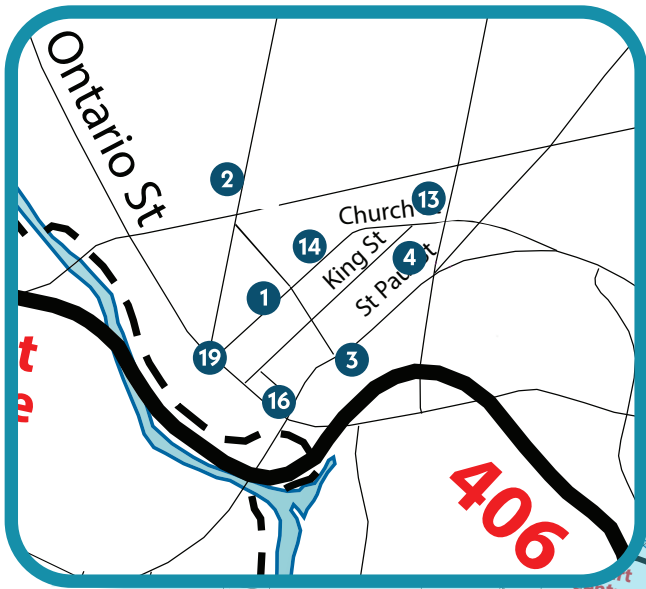
**ST. CATHARINES
1876-2026**

our common ground

St. Catharines at 150 is more than a celebration of the past. It is a reminder that what unites us is stronger than what divides us, and that through it all, the land has remained the foundation on which we stand, and will always be our common ground.



Doors Open St. Catharines 2026



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Thank You

To all of our 2026 Doors Open participants

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**ST. CATHARINES
1876-2026**



Thank you to everyone who has helped make Doors Open St. Catharines 2026 possible. As part of the City's 150th anniversary celebrations, it is a wonderful opportunity to come together and explore the places that tell the story of our community.

A big thank you to all the participating sites, organizations, staff, and volunteers who open their doors and share their spaces, stories and time today. Your enthusiasm and generosity help make the day truly special for everyone.

And to our visitors, thank you for joining in! Your participation is what makes Doors Open such a vibrant and special event.

We wish everyone a wonderful day!