



Education Programs

2025-2026



Programs at a Glance

PROGRAM	TOPIC	GRADE LEVEL	LOCATION	PAGE
S.T.E.A.M				
On the Move	Transportation	1 – 3	Museum	5
Jr. Engineers	Welland Canal	ELKP – 3	Museum, Jaycee Gardens	5
Bright Ideas	Local Innovation	1 – 3	Museum	5
The Welland Canals	Welland Canal	3 – 12	Museum	7
The Welland Canal Math Trail	Math	9 – 10	Museum	7
Experience Packages				
S.T.E.A.M. Experience	Transportation, Innovation, Local History	1 – 3	Museum	7
Museum School Experience	Local History and Museum Studies	6 – 8	Museum	7
Adventure Programs				
Where's the Pig?	Local History and Development, Built Heritage	6 – 8	Downtown	9
Hiking Through History	Welland Canal	5 – 8	On Location	9
Ride On!	Lakeside Park Carousel, Traditions and Celebrations	ELKP – 3	Lakeside Park	7
Walking Tours				
In Service	Military Service and Remembrance	7 – 10	Victoria Lawn Cemetery	11
Locking Through	Welland Canal	7 – 12	Canal Valley, Mountain Locks Park	11
Port Dalhousie	Local History, Welland Canal	7 – 12	Port Dalhousie	11
Classroom Visits				
Stories About the Past	Observation and Storytelling	ELKP	In Class	13
Jr. Travelling Museum	Inferencing and Observation	1 – 3	In Class	13
Travelling Museum	Critical Thinking, Inferencing, and Community	4 – 6	In Class	13
Call the Curator	Exhibit Development	6 – 8	In Class	13
Heritage Fair Workshop	Heritage Fair Prep	4 – 6	In Class	13
Me and My Family Tree	Family History	1 – 6	In Class	13
Court is Now in Session	Local History, Law	5 – 8, 11	In Class	15
EduKits	Welland Canals, Early Settlers	3 – 8	In Class	15
Pop-up Exhibits	Local Black History, Local Military History	6 – 12	In Class/Library	15
Museum Programs and Experiences				
The Welland Canals	Welland Canal	3 – 12	Museum	7
On the Liberty Line	Black History	4 – 10	Museum	7
In Service	Military History	7 – 10	Museum	7
Rhythm and Harmony	Music and Cultural History	ELKP – 3	Museum	5
X Marks the Spot	Mapping and Orienteering	3 – 9	Museum	5
Family History Workshop for Students	Archival Research, Local History, Family History	7 – 8	Museum	5

Best Times to Book Programs

The calendar below highlights the dates that are best suited to our seasonal programs.

Museum programs and tours are available all year, but some outdoor and adventure programs are only available at specific times.

We are very happy to try to accommodate your needs and schedule, so please reach out to us through the booking form if the below dates conflict with your planning.

Use the legend located at the bottom of the page to find the dates best suited for programs you are considering.

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			3-1	3-2	3-3	4
			1	2	3	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	7-1	7-2	7-3	7-4	7-5	6
	1	2	3	4	5	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28


March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			13-10	14-1	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		


May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					15-10	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	17-10	18-1	18-2	18-3	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				


 Holiday,
School Closed


 First and Last
Day of School


 Professional
Development Day

 September 16 – November 27
Autumn Walking Tours

 January 6 – February 6
February 24 – March 6
March 24 – April 2
Heritage Fair Prep,
Call the Curator

 February 3 – May 29
Travelling Museum

 April 7 – May 29
Spring Walking Tours,
and Adventure Programs

 June 2 – June 19
Ride On!



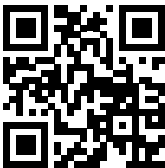
Image

- The Queen Street Y. c. 1941.
3156 N
- The YMCA and YWCA have a long history in St. Catharines as a community group and service organization that has served those needs for over 120 years.
- The Y has had a few homes since its inception in St. Catharines in 1889, and it makes a great example of the cycle of development in our city. Its first purpose-built location was constructed on St. Paul Street in 1904.
- A new building incorporating growing membership and both the YMCA and YWCA was built in 1928 on Queen Street. The Queen Street Y features most amenities of the time and who grew up here. It had a pool - and many took swimming lessons there - and recreational rooms where concerts and dance were held. The Queen Street Y was closed in 1996 and a new facility built just north of the QEW.
- View more photos of the old YMCA buildings at the QR code below.
- F** YMCA/YWCA sign, 1941.
K2010.14.1
This sign hung on the side of the Queen Street YMCA / YWCA from its installation in 1941 to the 1980s when the sign was replaced.
- G** Second floor window from the Queen Street Y, 1928.
2005.97.2
This window was rescued from the Y before demolition.
- H** T. Thompson Printing Co. sign, c. 1941.
1976.133.40
Ted Thompson's Printing shop was located at 564 Huron Street, near the corner of Walnut Street, where this sign hung between 1941 and 1974.
- A story conveyed by Marston to residents Tom Barrett had Thompson printing up membership cards for him and his friends. "Tom", the "T" in the "T" in the 1950s, and Thompson apparently worked at the while he set up the cards. Thompson also printed various publications, including the Ontario Nurses' Union and Labour Review for Labour Day 1947.
- I** Met-son-Mulvan-Memorial United Church sign, c. 1990s.
1997.176.3
This sign came from the Met-son-Mulvan-Memorial United Church at 50 Marston Street. The church closed in 1997 and the congregation amalgamated with Elm Street United Church.
- J** Marston Team Hall Council Chambers sign, c. 1917.
1990.74.10
This sign hung on the door to Council Chambers in the Marston Team Hall from 1917 until the 1960s. Marston was amalgamated with St. Catharines. Ben Galloway and Marston's first home was in the Marston Team Hall.
- completed in 1925, the Stan Mikita Exhibition Gallery explores the local history of sport, arts, culture, celebrations, built heritage and much more.

Planning Your Visit

New! Booking Request Form

Our new and efficient online booking form will help you share details and receive information without too many emails. Send us a booking request by scanning the QR Code.



Seasonal programming is limited and very popular, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Feel free to reach out to us if you need specialized programming. We're happy to help.

Group Experience Rates			
Admission rates vary by program type:			
		2025	2026
Regular	Up to 90 Minutes	\$5.15/student	\$5.25/student
Half Day	90 Minutes to 3 Hours	\$11.15/student	\$11.40/student
Full Day	3 Hours to 5 Hours	\$16.25/student	\$17.15/student
Students must be accompanied by adults at a suggested 1:10 ratio. Admission for additional adults is \$5.85/adult (2025), \$6.00/adult (2026).			

Group Sizes

Listed program and experience lengths accommodate a group of approximately 30 students or 1 class. Please contact us to discuss accommodating groups larger than 30 students or 1 class.

Self-Guided Visits and Resources

Self-guided visits are available by donation to the Museum. Please book your self-guided tour in advance to avoid scheduling conflicts with other groups.

The Museum's blog, podcasts, and YouTube channel are filled with content for you and your students to use and enjoy. Learn more about our rich local history with the History from Here video series, the Virtual Museum Lecture Series, I-Spy tour, the Lego Challenge, and more. Lesson plans and activities are available for a donation on the Museum's blog under the Museum Classroom section.

Hours of Operation and Ship Schedules

The Museum is open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the year, but closed on New Year's Day, Good Friday, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day.

Ship schedules are posted daily; however, the schedule is subject to change and is managed by the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation. Booking a program or tour can help to increase the value of your visit in the event a ship is not expected to lock through during your visit.

Niagara Regional Transit

Transit buses run to and from the Museum on a regular schedule. See nrtransit.ca for more information.



"Thank you to the museum staff for providing our Grade 9 Geography students with such excellent learning experiences at both the museum and at Mountain Locks Park. In the classroom we can teach our students about the cultural and economic importance of the Welland Canals but to have the opportunity to visit the second, third, and fourth Welland Canals really brings our lessons to life for the students."

Nicholas Ronald,
Grade 9,
Ridley College

"The museum's programs encouraged students to think critically, engage as historians/museum curators, and enjoy time spent together learning in a hands-on environment."

Josh Nunn,
Burleigh Hill Public School



"The museum provided such an excellent trip (Ride On!) for our Grapeview students. We were very impressed by the opportunities for learning throughout the morning."

Lori Reimer Wiebe,
Grade 2,
Grapeview Public School

"The museum staff were very informative, and they answered the students' questions well and with patience. It happens sometimes where some other tour guides get impatient with students, but the museum staff were amazing!! Thank you so much for the kindness you showed. The students had an amazing time that they'll never forget. Keep up the good work!"

Mary Friesen,
Grades 7-8
Walsingham Christian School



Thank you!

Thank you to all our partners in education who booked with us last year. It was a delight to share our local history with you and your students. We hope to see you again this year!

Abbey, Sean, Adrian,
and the Museum team





Visit the James "the General" Grant Exhibition Gallery to learn more about the valiant military service of men and women from St. Catharines.

Museum Programs and Experiences

New | Community and Culture, Geography

X Marks the Spot!

Grade 3 – Grade 9 | 90 Minutes

Visit the latest temporary exhibition to discover our local history through maps. Students will learn about maps, map making, how maps relate to them, and about orienteering. The program includes a visit to the map exhibit, our permanent exhibition galleries, and hands-on program activities. This program is flexible for various grade levels and learning objectives. Study guide available.

New | Community and Culture

Family History Workshop for Students

Grade 7 – Grade 8 | 180 Minutes | October-March

Kick-start student family history projects by learning from the experts. This new workshop developed specifically for students introduces students to the techniques and processes for caring for objects, researching in archives, and interviewing family members. The workshop includes a workbook students can use throughout to help carry their newly learned skills through to the end of the project. This program includes a tour of the Museum's collection vaults.

S.T.E.A.M.

Jr. Engineers: The Welland Canal

ELKP – Grade 3 | 60 Minutes | April-May

Earn an official Jr. Engineer badge with this fast-paced activity-based program all about the Welland Canal. From ships, to cargoes, to the locks, students will leave with an understanding and appreciation of our local engineering marvel.

S.T.E.A.M.

Bright Ideas: Innovation in St. Catharines

Grade 1 – Grade 3 | 60 Minutes

Join in centuries of discovery in St. Catharines and learn about the important innovations unique to our city. This fast-paced tour engages students with interactives throughout the museum's galleries, and focuses on the lives and technologies of innovative women from St. Catharines' past.

S.T.E.A.M.

On the Move: Transportation in the Garden City

Grade 3 – Grade 6 | 60 Minutes

All aboard! This immersive gallery experience will float your boat or turn your crank. Students will learn about gears, cranks, routes, rails, and more as they discover incredible and local St. Catharines stories of innovation. Visit includes the 1905 Oldsmobile, the 1912 REO, the 1915 Steam Pumper Fire Truck, railway tracks of the NS&T Streetcar, and the Welland Canal.

Community and Culture

Rhythm and Harmony: Music Traditions in St. Catharines

ELKP – Grade 3 | 60 Minutes

St. Catharines has a vibrant history of diverse communities and one thing all these communities share is music! In this interactive and intersensory program, students will explore various St. Catharines music traditions and hear stories about the people who make music. Get ready to listen, clap, step, and sing along!



Students enjoy a guided tour of *The Canals Gallery* as they learn about lock operations on the Welland Canal.

More Museum Programs and Experiences

S.T.E.A.M and Community and Culture

The Welland Canals

Grade 3 – Grade 12 | 90 Minutes

Explore the development and operations of the historic Welland Canals in our fun and interactive guided experience through the Welland Canals exhibit. Students will see the world-renowned engineering marvel first-hand and participate in engaging curriculum-based and local history activities. Study guide available.

Community and Culture

On the Liberty Line: Early Black History and the Underground Railroad

Grade 4 – Grade 10 | 90 Minutes

Trace the journey to freedom through a history of slavery and emancipation, racism and prejudice, while exploring the lives of St. Catharines' first African Canadian settlers in this interactive program. Study guide available.

Community and Culture

In Service: Military Service and Remembrance in St. Catharines

Grade 7 – Grade 10 | 90 Minutes

Take a guided tour of the James Grant Exhibition Gallery to hear stories of military service across the conflicts in which Canadians saw service. This experience includes collaborative learning opportunities with an emphasis on primary source material study, helping students learn directly from the past. Study guide available.

S.T.E.A.M

Full Steam Ahead: the S.T.E.A.M. Experience Package

Grade 1 – Grade 3 | Full Day

Wrap all your S.T.E.A.M. learning objectives into one visit with this experience package which includes the Jr. Engineers programs, the On the Move tour, and the Bright Ideas tour. Full day programs include time for lunch and nutrition breaks and are subject to the full day fee.

S.T.E.A.M

Welland Canal Math Trail, presented in partnership with Brock University

Grade 9 – Grade 12 | Full Day

Take the math trail right to Lock 3! This math program developed and presented in partnership with Brock University brings intermediate and senior grade math to life along the Welland Canal.

Community and Culture

Day at the Museum: the Museum School Experience Package

All Grades | Full Day

Hold your regularly scheduled classes in a new space. Book the Museum School package for an opportunity to hold your class meeting at the Museum for a day. This package includes the room booking, tables and chairs, projector, screen, a/v support, and a program or tour of your choice. Our facility is fully accessible and includes free Wi-Fi. This program is subject to the full day fee.



An escaped pig on the loose on Ontario Street in 1945. This photo inspired the *Where's the Pig?* downtown adventure program.
STCM S1945.5.10.3

Adventure Programs

Community and Culture

Ride On! The Historic Lakeside Park Carousel

ELKP – Grade 3 | Half Day | June | Lakeside Park

Explore the historic fun of Lakeside Park with games, picnics, music, and more. This fast-paced program concludes with a ride on the historic Lakeside Park Carousel. It's the perfect year-end trip. Study guide available.

Phys-Ed, Community and Culture, S.T.E.A.M

Hiking Through History

Grade 5 – Grade 8 | Half-Day | September-November, April-May

Mountain Locks Park or Jaycee Gardens

Adventure awaits students in this outdoor, phys-ed-meets-history program in Mountain Locks Park, or in Jaycee Gardens. Students will participate in fun, interactive, exploration-based activities while learning about the Welland Canals and our City's local built heritage. Wear running shoes and dress for the weather; it's going to be an exciting time! Study guide available.

Community and Culture

Where's the Pig?

Grade 6 – Grade 8 | 120 Minutes | September-November, April-May

Downtown St. Catharines

A pig has escaped and is roaming the streets of downtown St. Catharines. We need your help to find her! In this guided adventure program, students will use primary sources and inferencing skills to gather clues and determine the location of a real-life pig that escaped on the streets of St. Catharines in 1945. Study guide available.



Students learn about the Second Welland Canal during a hike through Mountain Locks Park.

Walking Tours

Community and Culture

In Service: Military Service and Remembrance in St. Catharines

Grade 7 – Grade 10 | 60 Minutes | September-November

Victoria Lawn Cemetery

Take a guided walking tour of the historic Victoria Lawn Cemetery and hear stories of local heroes and their military service from conflicts including the War of 1812, the Fenian Raids, and the First and Second World Wars. Stories included relate to primary resource study activities included in the available study guide.

S.T.E.A.M. and Community and Culture

Locking Through: The Second Welland Canal

Grade 7 – Grade 12 | 90 Minutes | September-November, April-May | Merritt Trail

Enjoy a guided tour of the old Second Welland Canal and discover its impact on the development of our community. Three 90-minute site-specific options are available including: Welland Vale (Fourth Avenue area), Canal Valley (Westchester Avenue area), and Mountain Locks (Glendale Avenue area). Study guide available.

Community and Culture

Port Dalhousie and the Early Canals

Grade 7 – Grade 12 | 90 Minutes | September-November, April-May

Port Dalhousie

Discover the hidden and long forgotten stories with a walking tour through the picturesque streets and parks of Port Dalhousie. Study guide available.



PORT WELLER
PORT WELLER
WEST



The Travelling Museum has visited over 5000 students across Niagara since 2012.

Classroom Visits

Observation and Storytelling

Stories About the Past

Free | ELKP | 45 Minutes | In Class | April-May

Enjoy this new program designed to introduce early learners to stories about the past using age-appropriate techniques and helping students to understand how they fit into their family tree and community. Free for schools in Niagara; a mileage fee applies to schools outside of St. Catharines.

Observation and Inferencing

The Jr. Travelling Museum

Free | Grade 1 – Grade 3 | 45 Minutes | In Class | April-May

Designed to introduce observation and communication skills to early learners while they discover stories about the past through hands-on exploration of artifacts from the Travelling Museum. Free for schools in Niagara; a mileage fee applies to schools outside of St. Catharines.

Critical Thinking and Inferencing

The Travelling Museum

Free | Grade 4 – Grade 6 | 90 Minutes | In Class | All Year

Encourage critical thinking and inferencing with the popular Travelling Museum program. The program has reached over 5000 students since its introduction in 2012. The recently revised program introduces students to museums, museum work, and storytelling using objects with hands-on activities and a classroom-based behind-the-scenes look at the museum's collection. Free for schools in Niagara; a mileage fee applies to schools outside of St. Catharines.

Critical Thinking, Research and Development

Call the Curator

Free | Grade 6 – Grade 8 | 60 Minutes | In Class | October-March

For students and educators embarking on building their own exhibit as a class project, why not engage the local experts? Our curatorial team is available to provide practical and achievable advice for your in-class or in-library exhibit with this age-appropriate crash-course in museum and exhibition studies. Free for schools in Niagara; a mileage fee applies to schools outside of St. Catharines.

Critical Thinking, Research and Development

Heritage Fair Workshop

Grade 4 – Grade 6 | 60 Minutes | In Class | October-March

Inspire your students' Heritage Fair projects with this in-class workshop led by Museum historians. Hands-on activities are designed to help students select their topics, learn research skills, and curate their projects for a winning result. Study guide included. Student fee applies.

Community and Culture

Me and My Family Tree

Grade 1 – Grade 6 | 60 Minutes | In Class | October-March

Foster student exploration into their family story with this in-classroom workshop led by our Museum historians. This hands-on program guides students through the process of researching and curating their family history, just like the professionals. Materials and programs vary by grade level. Study guide available. Student fee applies.



Displays like the *In Service* pop-up exhibit can bring local history to your students in your classroom or your library.

Community and Culture

Court is Now in Session

Grade 5 – Grade 8, Grade 11 | 60 Minutes | October-March

The courtroom comes to the classroom with real, historic legal cases from St. Catharines for a hands-on look at the law and local history. This program is designed for engaged students and requires straightforward preparation in advance of program delivery. Materials and programs vary by grade level. Study guide available. Student fee applies.

Community and Culture

Promise of Hope: Immigration to St. Catharines

Grade 12 | 60 Minutes

From the Loyalists to the Freedom Seekers, to canal labourers and more, this special classroom visit weaves local stories of hope, fear, success, and loss into a relevant and accessible study of immigration to St. Catharines over the last 200 years. Study guide available. Student fee applies.

Classroom Resources

EduKits

Our revised and updated classroom kits align with the curriculum and provide educators hands-on resources to help facilitate museum-style learning in the classroom, so it feels like you and your students have travelled back in time! EduKits are available to rent for a 10-day period.

The Four Welland Canals

Grade 3 – Grade 8 | \$48.45 (2025); \$49.65 (2026)

Learn the history of the Welland Canals from the comfort of your classroom. Lesson plans and activities will turn your students into local history experts.

Early Settlers in Upper Canada

Grade 3 | \$48.45 (2025); \$49.65 (2026)

Filled with hands-on materials including heritage games and toys, costumes, farm and cooking equipment, and much, much more, this EduKit will transport your students back to the 1790s when the earliest settlers began to arrive in St. Catharines.

Pop-Up Exhibits

Rent a pop-up exhibit for your classroom, library, or common learning space.

Last Stop: The Underground Railroad in St. Catharines

Grade 4 – Grade 12 | \$29.95 (2025); \$30.70 (2026)

Meet significant individuals with local connections to the story of the Underground Railroad, including Frederick Douglass, Mary-Ann Shadd, Anthony Burns, and Harriet Tubman.

In Service: St. Catharines Military Service and Remembrance in St. Catharines

Grade 7 – Grade 12 | \$48.45 (2025); \$49.65 (2026)

This exhibit uses descriptive text, images, and replica artifacts to highlight the contributions of St. Catharines' residents in times of conflict.



discover #stcmuseum



1932 Welland Canals Parkway, St. Catharines, ON L2R 7K6
t: 905.984.8880 tf: 1.800.305.5134
e: museum@stcatharines.ca
w: www.stcatharinesmuseum

Front Cover: Jimmy (played by Adrian, Visitor Services Coordinator) introduces students to the famous Looft Lion at the Lakeside Park Carousel in *Ride On*.

Back cover: The Laker *CSL Laurentien* prepares to continue its upbound transit of Lock 3 at the St. Catharines Museum.