



STC STORYLAB

**Your Story Matters**



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STC StoryLab is presented by the St. Catharines Museum & Welland Canals Centre  
and the City of St. Catharines.



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**Administration**

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# What is STC StoryLab?

STC StoryLab is an ongoing oral history project that will collect and share the oral history and living memory of St. Catharines. Every St. Catharines resident has a story worth telling about our community, no matter how long they've lived here. Stories and memories of life in St. Catharines matter, and it is the mission of the STC StoryLab project to collect, preserve, share, and interpret a diverse range of oral history to build a more robust repertoire of local and personal stories that give our city collective identity.

## Why Do We Want Your Story?

The focus of STC StoryLab is to build a repertoire of life in St. Catharines at particular moments in time through lived memory and storytelling. We're hoping to collect stories and lived experiences of community members of all walks of life, whether they're new to St. Catharines, or a life-long resident.

Stories and memories preserved in the Museum's Collection have, in the past, been reserved for the 'most important' in the community. StoryLab will help to fill in the gaps with your stories and memories, along with artifacts and other media, to help present a more inclusive and varied narrative for our city and for future generations. Head to our Youtube page - St. Catharines Museum - to hear stories that others have shared with STC StoryLab.

## Preparing for Your Interview

Included in this welcome package is all the information you need to participate in the project, including the ethical standards guiding the project, a consent form, and a few photo-prompts to help you get in the right frame of mind for sharing your stories. There will be a few more forms to complete at the time of your interview.

Included in the welcome package is:

- Oral History Consent Form.
- A biography form to help us focus our questions.
- Information on the use of your information and privacy protection.
- A reflection activity that will give you a sense of the goals and direction of our conversation with you.
- Photographic prompts to help you get in the right frame of mind for your interview.
- Information about STC StoryLab Membership for participants to connect.



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## What Should I Expect?

The interview will take about 60 - 90 minutes depending on your comfort level. There is an opportunity to stop for a break about every 20 - 25 minutes or so. We'll provide some water and you're welcome to bring a light snack for refreshment. You should wear something comfortable, not formal but not too casual, and something in neutral colours.

The interview will be recorded on video camera and audio. To maximize the use of the content on our digital platforms, we use two cameras, a lapel microphone, and some studio lighting. The set-up is pictured at right. Despite the set-up, the conversation is between you and the interviewer and is very casual and relaxed.

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns and we can work with you to make sure the interview is as comfortable as possible.



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# How We Will Use Your Information

Your participation is voluntary. As a project participant, you have the authority to remain anonymous or to withdraw from the project at any time.

Any and all of the material you share, including the audio and/or video recording of your image, your voice, and the subject matter and content you share with us, may be used by the Museum at any time, in the following ways:

- On social media platforms, as video, audio, blog, podcast, and any other types of content.
- At public programs or events.
- In Museum exhibitions.
- With the stories of other interviewees, or on its own.
- As individual stories, as a selection of the whole interview.
- As research material/copy work available to the public in our collection.

Your address, email address, phone number, or any other private and sensitive information will not be shared in any way. Your address, email address, and phone number will be kept by the Museum Collections department for contact purposes only.

More information regarding the permissions involved is included in the Oral History Consent Form.

## After the Interview

### Transcription and Packaging

After the interview we'll take about 6 weeks to compile the recorded material, edit it together, transcribe it, and format it together into a package for you to keep. A copy of that package will be submitted into the Museum's archival reference files.

### StoryLab Alumni Membership

Join the StoryLab Alumni Membership program for annual meet-up events, including story sharing between participants, and eventually "living library" events where participants can share stories with members of the public. The membership is developing and more information will be available soon.



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Consent to Participate in an oral history interview being conducted by the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre. This is to state that I agree to participate in the STC StoryLab project.

## Purpose

I have been informed that the purpose of the project is to collect, preserve, share, and interpret the stories of the people of St. Catharines by conducting long-form, life-story interviews.

## Procedures

The interview will be conducted at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre. Interviewers will record participants' life stories using video or audio, depending on the preference of the participant. The participant can choose to discuss any aspect of their lives and they may refuse to answer any questions. Participants may take as long as they would like in the interview and are free to stop at any time.

## Risks and Benefits

Describing difficult experiences can be upsetting and emotionally difficult. As the STC StoryLab project will produce various digital content for public consumption, with your permission, your story will be heard.

## Conditions of Participation

Please review the following conditions and options with the interviewer before your interview begins. Feel free to ask questions.

- ☐ I understand that I am free to withdraw my consent at any time during the interview and discontinue from that point forward.

In terms of identification and reproduction of my interview, I agree to:

- ☐ Open public access – My identity may be revealed in any publications or presentations that may result from this interview.
- ☐ I would like to remain anonymous.
- ☐ I agree to the possible broadcasting and reproduction of sound and images of my interview by any method and in any media by the St. Catharines Museum. I consent that my interview, or portions of it, be made available on the internet, on social media, through web pages and/or on-line databases of the project.
- ☐ I agree that recordings of my interview will be stored at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre for long-term preservation. My interview may be accessed by researchers and the public by viewing it at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre.

# Oral History Consent Form

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In cases where family photographs or documents are scanned or photographed:

- ☐ I agree to let the interviewer copy family photographs and documents to accompany the interview recording in the archives. I likewise give permission to have these images reproduced in curated digital content for social media by the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre.
- ☐ I have carefully studied the above and understand this agreement. I freely and voluntarily agree to participate in this project.

## Interviewee

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Interviewer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

If at any time you have questions about your rights as a project participant, please contact Adrian Petry, Visitor Services Coordinator of the St. Catharines Museum & Welland Canals Centre for the City of St. Catharines at 905-688-5601 ext. 5223 or by email at [apetry@stcatharines.ca](mailto:apetry@stcatharines.ca).





**Preparation and Reflection**

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The background of the lower half of the page is decorated with several overlapping speech bubbles in muted colors: light blue, light orange, and light grey. The bubbles vary in size and are scattered across the bottom, creating a conversational feel.

## Preparation Activity: Biography Form

Complete the below form to remind yourself of significant dates and bring it to the interview to share with the interviewer so they have some background information about you before the interview begins.

Start with a little about you:

Full Name	
Other Names	
Birth Date	
Place of Birth	
Home Town	
Place of Residence	
Years in St. Catharines	
Education	
Occupation	

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## Preparation Activity: Biography Form (Continued)

Complete the below form to remind yourself of significant dates and bring it to the interview to share with the interviewer so they have some background information about you before the interview begins.

Continue with a little about you and your family:

Parents/ Guardians	
Siblings	
Children	
Activities	
Interests	
Influences	
Life Milestones	

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## Preparation Activity: Universal Concepts

A universal concept is an idea or experience that can be shared by anyone regardless of their background. Below is a list of universal concepts we're interested in hearing about. You can jot some stories that relate to your experiences down next to them to help prepare for the interview.

Play	
Special Events	
Celebrations	
Family Time	
Travel	
School	
Friends	
Shopping	
Entertainments	
Sports and Culture	

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## Preparation Activity: St. Catharines Experiences

Use the chart below to help note some experiences specific to St. Catharines.

Favourite Parks or Trails	
Home Neighbourhood	
Favourite Restaurants	
Getting Around the City	
Parades	
Lakeside Park	
Downtown	
Places of Work	

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## Reflection Activity: Jot It Down

The STC StoryLab project is recording the life stories of the people of St. Catharines through long-form, life-story interviews. To help you recall long-ago, or even recent memories, we've put together an optional reflection activity to inspire your storytelling.

Below, we've selected a list of words related to universal concepts we've all experienced in some way. Read the word and jot down the first memory or story that comes to mind in the space provided. If nothing comes to mind, that's ok. You can leave it blank or return later.

Heritage	
Friendship	
Summertime	
Perseverance	
Justice	
First Job	
Family	
Wintertime	



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## Reflection Activity: Jot It Down (Continued)

Heroes	
Nature	
Play	
Coming of Age	
Achievement	
Freedom	
Other	

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## Reflection Activity: Picture This

On the next pages, we've selected photographs from the Museum Collection that relate to universal concepts we've all experienced in some way. Take a look at each photo and jot down the first response that comes to mind in the space provided.

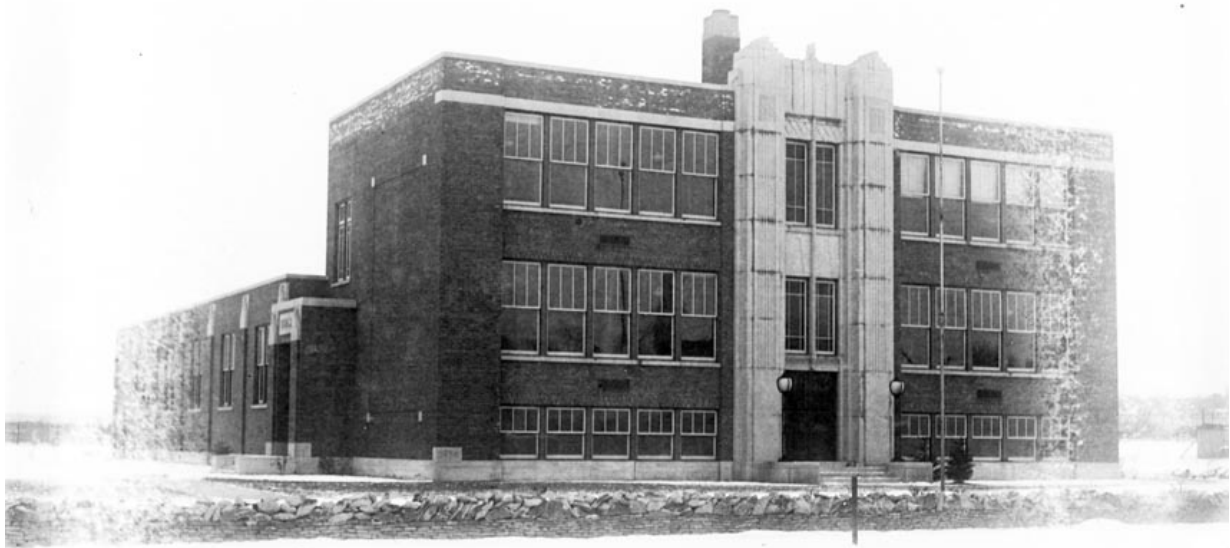


S1937.70.4.1

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## Reflection Activity: Picture This (Continued)



S1938.67.3.1.

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## Reflection Activity: Picture This (Continued)



S1939.30.9.3

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## Reflection Activity: Picture This (Continued)



S1942.8.3.1

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## Reflection Activity: Picture This (Continued)



S1952.78.9.1

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## Reflection Activity: Picture This (Continued)



S1984.12.14.41

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## Follow Us on Social Media

Keep up with STC StoryLab on our social media channels, including the STC StoryLab Facebook page!



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