FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian Canal Society contributes to Fallen Workers Memorial

May 24, 2016 – The Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force is proud to receive support from the Canadian Canal Society which made a contribution to the memorial at their 2016 Annual General Meeting.

Task Force Chair Mayor Walter Sendzik thanked the members for their financial contribution to the memorial and President Bob Sears for his continued support of the Task Force’s efforts to honour the 137 workers who died building the fourth Welland Canal.

“On behalf of the Task Force, thank you to the Canadian Canal Society for your work and dedication to sharing the important stories of Niagara’s canal history. The contributions of your members to this project are valuable and we are proud to have your support for the Fallen Workers Memorial,” stated Mayor Sendzik.

The Canadian Canal Society is a not-for-profit educational and historical organization dedicated to the preservation of Canada’s canal heritage. The Society works with other organizations to document, preserve, restore and interpret the history of Canadian canals and waterways. President Bob Sears is also a member of the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force.

“The Welland Ship Canal was built with blood, sweat and yes, even lives. It is only right that we honour those who died building this engineering marvel. The Society is pleased to be making a donation to this long overdue memorial,” stated Mr. Sears.

“The Canadian Canal Society’s contribution to the memorial highlights what this project is about - sharing the important stories of Niagara’s canal history and honouring the workers who helped build our community around the Welland Canal,” said campaign chair, Greg Wight.

The Task Force’s current fundraising goal for the memorial and parkette is approximately $750,000. 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.
Mayor Sendzik, chair of the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force receives a cheque for the Fallen Workers Memorial from the Canadian Canal Society President, Bob Sears

About the Task Force

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 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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