



Welland Canal
Fallen Workers Memorial

A PLACE TO REMEMBER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation donates \$25,000
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

Jan. 17, 2017 – The Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation continues its tradition of community development with a donation of \$25,000 to the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force in honour of 137 men who died building the fourth Welland Canal.

Task Force chair Mayor Walter Sendzik, campaign chair Greg Wight, and members of the Task Force thanked the Foundation at a recent meeting.

“Thank you to the Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation. This donation helps us remember what the memorial is really about, that in honouring the fallen workers who built the canal, we are also recognizing their efforts and sacrifices for an even bigger project – the development of Niagara as a community and an economy,” said Mayor Sendzik.

The Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation has a long history of supporting Niagara’s economic and social development. Since 1958 the Foundation has supported local charitable organizations in health and wellness, education, social services and environmental causes. Members are active and retired employees of the Thorold mill now known as Resolute Forest Products Ltd. which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2013.

“Our foundation believes strongly in supporting the community. Every year the Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation donates thousands of dollars to healthcare, education, social causes and community projects and we believe that this project is long overdue,” said Ron Hartle, chair of the donations committee.

When the fourth Welland Ship Canal was constructed between 1914 and 1932, 137 men died in what is believed to be the largest loss of life on a federal government infrastructure project in Canadian history. Despite the huge loss of life on the project, the canal attracted industry and commerce to the Niagara area. Mills were built along the canal locks to take advantage of water power and shipping. Communities grew up around the mills, plants and businesses. Thousands of employees continue to work in manufacturing and shipping industries along the Welland Canal.





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Campaign chair, Greg Wight thanked the members for the donation and remembering the fallen workers.

“Thank you for this generous donation to help us remember that without the Welland Canal and the men who built it, our community and our economy would not be what it is today,” said Mr. Wight.

The fundraising goal for the memorial and parkette is approximately \$1 million. Through funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, marine industry businesses and organizations, as well as the labour community, the Task Force has raised almost \$700,000 to date. The Task Force is continuing to seek donations to build and unveil the memorial later this year. For more information or to make a donation 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 partners from the Canadian Canal Society, the Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre and the Welland Canals Foundation. Administrative and project support is provided by the City of St. Catharines.

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Contact:

Greg Wight, Fundraising Chair
Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force
905-988-8150

Ron Hartle, Chair of Donations Committee
Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation
905-734-7953



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Ron Hartle and Sue Burch of the Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation present a cheque for \$25,000 to Mayor Walter Sendzik and Greg Wight, fundraising chair for the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force.