



Education Programs

2026 - 2027





Public Programmer Sean leads a tour through the Isabella Frampton Hawken Gallery.

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Second World War munitions factory workers march in the Fourth Victory Loan parade on Lake Street in 1943. Learn their story with a visit to the James "The General" Grant Exhibition Gallery and the In Service program.

About Us

About the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre

The St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre is owned by the people of St. Catharines and operated by the City of St. Catharines. The Museum preserves, shares, and celebrates the rich history of the people of St. Catharines.

About our Interpretive Education Programs

Our education programs are designed with student engagement and learning at their core. Some programs have specific links to social studies and history curriculums (for example: Communities in Canada, 1780-1850), while others focus on skills development (for example: inquiry, critical thinking, inferencing) and lean on local history and museum studies to engage students in the workings of historical thinking and practice.

We leverage media, technology, and interpretive techniques to engage the community and visitors with meaningful, enjoyable, and fun programs that inspire, educate, and connect our history and the Museum's collection with audiences from around the city.

Education Resource Packages

Please reach out to us for more information about the information content and interpretive messages presented in our programs.

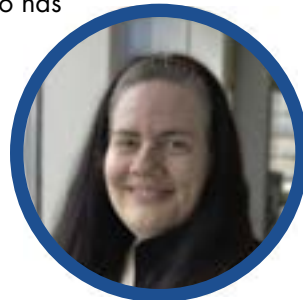
Education Resource Packages accompany booked programs and contain a variety of suggested pre- and post-visit activities that are helpful but not necessary to the learning objectives of our programs.

We look forward to working with you and your students!

Our Interpreters

Abbey Stansfield, M.A. Public Programmer

Abbey is an experienced museum programmer who has been interpreting and engaging museum audiences since 2006. She has worked at several of Niagara's heritage sites and museums. She holds a B.A. in Classical History and Archaeology from Queen's University, and a M.A. in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester.



Sean Dineley, M.A. Public Programmer

Sean is an engaging museum programmer with 15 years of teaching experience at museums, conservation areas, and music studios around the GTA. He holds a B.A. in Medieval Studies from the University of Waterloo, and a M.A. in Popular Music and Culture from Western University.

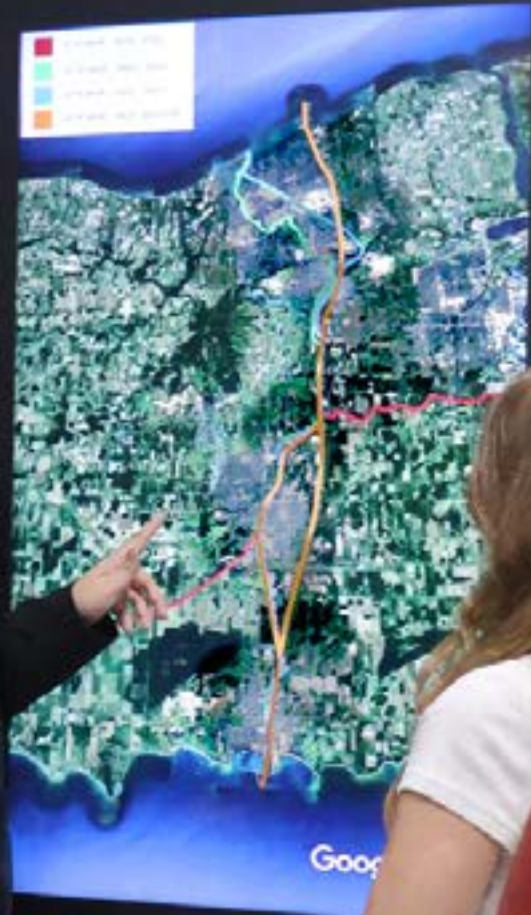


Adrian Petry, M.A. Visitor Services Coordinator

Adrian is an enthusiastic heritage educator and interpreter with 20 years of experience at parks, heritage sites, and museums around the province. He holds a B.A. in History from Brock University, and a M.A. in Public History from Western University.



Routes of the Welland Canals



Public Programmer Abbey leads a tour of the William Hamilton Merritt Gallery.

Museum Programs and Experiences

STEAM, Geography

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.

MOST POPULAR

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!

STEAM, Community and Culture

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.

STEAM, Community and Culture

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.

STEAM

Full Steam Ahead: The STEAM Experience Package

Grade 1 – Grade 3 | Full Day

Wrap all your STEAM learning objectives into one visit with this experience package which includes the Jr. Engineers program, 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.



Harriet Tubman, c. 1868. Learn about Tubman's remarkable achievements and about her life in St. Catharines with the On the Liberty Line program.

Museum Programs and Experiences

STEAM, 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.

MOST POPULAR

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

Mod Cons: How Modern Conveniences Changed

Daily Life in 20th Century St. Catharines

Grades 6, 8, 10 | 90 Minutes | February through December 2027

Discover the modern conveniences that changed life in the 20th century with a tour of our new exhibit Mod Cons. This interactive tour features appliances, advertisements, and a tour of the Museum's collections vaults. Study guide available.

NEW

Community and Culture, Geography

X Marks the Spot!

Grade 3 – Grade 9 | 90 Minutes | April-May

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.



Visitor Services Coordinator Adrian leads a tour of the Fallen Workers Memorial.

Museum Programs and Experiences

Community and Culture

Family History Workshop for Students

Grade 7 – Grade 8 | 120 Minutes | October-March

Kick-start student family history projects by learning from the experts. This workshop introduces techniques and processes for caring for objects, researching 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.

Community and Culture

In Service: Military Service and Remembrance in St. Catharines

Grade 10 | 90 Minutes | September-November

Take a guided tour of the James Grant Exhibition Gallery to hear stories of military 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.

Gallery Tour

I-Spy

ELKP – Grade 3 | 30 - 45 Minutes

For the class field trip with a packed itinerary, this speedy, fun, and interactive tour will have students learning basics of the story of St. Catharines.

Gallery Tour

Top 10

Grade 4 – Grade 12 | 30 - 45 Minutes

This isn't a typical museum tour. For class trips on a busy schedule, this fun, interactive, and fast-moving tour highlights the 'greatest-hits' of the Museum's collection.



Students learn through interaction and song in the program Ride On!

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.

MOST POPULAR

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

In Service: Military Service and Remembrance in St. Catharines

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, Geography

Hike the Merritt Trail

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).

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.



Students in this St. Catharines classroom enjoyed learning dance as a part of the new curriculum introduced in 1937.

Classroom Visits

Observation and Storytelling

Stories About the Past

Free | ELKP | 60 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 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.

FREE

Observation and Inferencing

The Jr. Travelling Museum

Free | Grade 1 – Grade 3 | 60 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.

FREE

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.

MOST POPULAR | FREE

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.

FREE

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. Free for schools in Niagara; a mileage fee applies to schools outside of St. Catharines.

FREE

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. Free for schools in Niagara; a mileage fee applies to schools outside of St. Catharines.

FREE

The Underground Railroad in St. Catharines

The songs of the railroad terminology of the Underground Railroad are a part of the world for many years. There were many people who were looking for freedom and those who were looking for freedom. The songs of the railroad terminology of the Underground Railroad are a part of the world for many years. There were many people who were looking for freedom and those who were looking for freedom.

What would you do?
Would you stay or go?

Displays like the Last Stop pop-up exhibit can bring local history to your students in your classroom or your library.

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 | \$49.65 (2026); \$50.90 (2027)

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 | \$49.65 (2026); \$50.90 (2027)

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.

MOST POPULAR

Pop-Up Exhibits

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

Last Stop: The Underground Railroad in St. Catharines

All Grades | \$30.70 (2026); \$31.45 (2027)

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

All Grades | \$49.65 (2026); \$50.90 (2027)

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

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 dates best suited for programs you are considering.

September 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			

October 2026						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
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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		

January 2027						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

February 2027						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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 2027						
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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 2027						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

June 2027						
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			

- Holiday, School Closed
- Autumn Adventure Programs
- Spring Adventure Programs
- First and Last Day of School
- Classroom Visits
- Ride On!
- Professional Development Day
- *

 Museum programs and experiences are available all year.

Planning Your Visit

Booking Request Form

Our 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:		2026	2027
Regular	Up to 90 Minutes	\$5.25/student	\$5.40/student
Half Day	90 Minutes to 3 Hours	\$11.40/student	\$11.70/student
Full Day	3 Hours to 5 Hours	\$17.15/student	\$17.60/student
Students must be accompanied by adults at a suggested 1:10 ratio. Admission for additional adults is \$6.00/adult (2026), \$6.15/adult (2027).			

Group Sizes

Listed programs and experiences 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 by scanning the QR code. 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.



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/stcatharinesmuseum



stcmuseum podcasts



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stcatharinesmuseumblog.com



St. Catharines

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

080526 6