



# Education Programs

2024-2025



# Programs at a Glance

| PROGRAM | PAGE | STUDENT LEVEL | LOCATION | NEW |
|---------|------|---------------|----------|-----|
|---------|------|---------------|----------|-----|

## S.T.E.A.M.

|                             |   |                     |                    |     |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Jr. Engineers               | 5 | Primary/Junior      | Museum             |     |
| Bright Ideas                | 7 | Primary/Junior      | Museum             |     |
| On the Move: Transportation | 5 | Primary/Junior      | Museum             |     |
| The Welland Canals          | 7 | Junior/Intermediate | Museum             |     |
| Food, Glorious Food!        | 5 | Primary/Junior      | Museum/On Location | NEW |

## Experience Packages

|                          |   |                |        |     |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|--------|-----|
| S.T.E.A.M. Experience    | 5 | Primary/Junior | Museum | NEW |
| Museum School Experience | 5 | All Grades     | Museum | NEW |

## Adventure Programs

|   |   |                     |               |     |
|---|---|---------------------|---------------|-----|
| Where's the Pig?                                | 9 | Junior/Intermediate | On Location   |     |
| Hiking Through History                          | 9 | Junior/Intermediate | On Location   |     |
| Food, Glorious Food!:<br>At Walker's Creek Park | 9 | Primary/Junior      | On Location   | NEW |
| Canal Walks                                     | 9 | Intermediate/Senior | On Location   |     |
| Ride On!  | 9 | Primary/Junior      | Lakeside Park |     |

## Classroom Visits

|                              |    |                             |        |     |
|------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|--------|-----|
| Jr. Travelling Museum        | 11 | Primary/Junior              | School |     |
| The Travelling Museum        | 11 | Junior/Intermediate         | School |     |
| The Travelling Museum 2      | 11 | Junior/Intermediate         | School | NEW |
| Heritage Fair Workshop       | 11 | Junior/Intermediate         | School |     |
| My and My Family Tree        | 11 | Junior/Intermediate         | School | NEW |
| Court is Now in Session: Law | 11 | Intermediate/Senior         | School | NEW |
| Promise of Hope: Immigration | 11 | Intermediate/Senior         | School | NEW |
| EduKits                      | 13 | Primary/Junior/Intermediate | School |     |
| Pop-Up Exhibits              | 13 | Junior/Intermediate/Senior  | School |     |

## Museum Programs

|                                    |   |                     |        |                   |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------|-------------------|
| The Welland Canals                 | 7 | Junior/Intermediate | Museum |                   |
| On the Liberty Line: Black History | 7 | Intermediate/Senior | Museum |                   |
| In Service: Military               | 7 | Intermediate/Senior | Museum | NEW               |
| Rhythm and Harmony: Music          | 7 | Primary/Junior      | Museum | NEW               |
| Food, Glorious Food!               | 9 | Primary/Junior      | Museum | 2024 - 25<br>Only |
| Jr. Engineers                      | 5 | Primary/Junior      | Museum |                   |
| On the Move: Transportation        | 5 | Junior/Intermediate | Museum | NEW               |
| Bright Ideas                       | 7 | Primary/Junior      | Museum |                   |

# Planning Your Visit

## Group Experience Rates

Admission rates vary by program type:

|           |                       | 2024              | 2025            |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Regular:  | Up to 90 minutes      | \$5.00 / student  | \$5.15/student  |
| Half Day: | 90 minutes to 3 hours | \$10.80 / student | \$11.15/student |
| Full Day: | 3 hours to 5 hours    | \$16.25 / student | \$16.75/student |

Students must be accompanied by adults at a suggested 1:10 ratio. Admission for additional adults is \$5.70/adult (2024), \$5.85/adult (2025).

## Bookings

Book group experiences, tours, programs, kits and pop-up exhibits by contacting the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre at 905.984.8880 or by email at [museum@stcatharines.ca](mailto:museum@stcatharines.ca) Seasonal programming is very popular and offered at a limited capacity. Book early to avoid disappointment.

## 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.

## Hours of Operation

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. The Museum is open until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays between Victoria Day and Thanksgiving.

## Self-Guided Visits

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.

## Self-Use Resources

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.

## Ship Schedules

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](http://nrtransit.ca) for more information.

“Without the Welland Canal, the Dominion would be little more than a home for cats and badgers.”  
The St. Catharines Journal

Discover the history of one of the great ship canals of the world: the Welland Canal

### FIRST WELLAND CANAL

The Welland Canal opened the first Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence waterway.

Despite the challenges it took, the Welland Canal was a major engineering achievement.

The Welland Canal opened the first Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence waterway.

### SECOND WELLAND CANAL

The second Welland Canal was built in 1828 and opened the second Welland Canal in 1829.

Built as a response to local economic and transportation needs in the 19th century, the Welland Canal is globally significant to the international economy and to global transportation in the 21st century.

The story of the canal is one of hard work, success, toil, settlement, loss and tragedy, and ingenuity. The story of its construction touches all aspects of life in St. Catharines from settlement and immigration to manufacturing and transportation, from the physical and urban development of the city to the cultural identity of our community.

We are connected to this rich history through the people who surveyed, funded, built, and operated the canals for 200 years.

Visit the William Hamilton Merritt Exhibition Gallery to learn the story of the historic Welland Canals.

## What Educators Are Saying:

"The St. Catharines Museum educational programs are a great way to engage your class in curriculum related topics while enjoying our beautiful city and its history. The booking process is seamless, the cost is minimal, and the educational materials included are fantastic. We experienced the outreach program's 'Travelling Museum' in the fall, and an adventure-style program in the spring. Both encouraged our students to think critically, engage as historians/museum curators, and enjoy time spent together learning in a hands-on environment. Whether you are looking for a half day trip or someone to come into your classroom, the St. Catharines Museum education programs are for you!"

Mr. Josh Nunn  
Grade 5/6,  
Burleigh Hill Public School

"The Carousel Program in Port Dalhousie was an excellent trip for my grade 1 class. It was a 2 hour program that was so well organized. Students played age appropriate games while learning about the history of the original canal as well as traditional games played many years ago. They were given a close up, small group tour of the carousel learning about the history of the carousel, the carousel animals, the music and the artwork. Students had an opportunity to ask questions in a quiet space. They loved having some time under the pavilion to colour pictures of the carousel. The big finale came when we all got to ride the carousel several times. It was a fantastic trip that was very well organized and run. I would highly recommend this trip!"

Ingrid Kraun  
Grade 1,  
Prince Philip Public School

"My class was fortunate to participate in 2 programs offered by the St. Catharines Museum this year. The Travelling Museum was a terrific program which introduced my Grade 1 students to museums and what they are. The students really enjoyed the hands on experience with the artifacts brought in.

Our trip to Lakeside Park and the Port Dalhousie carousel (Ride On program) was a wonderful experience. The museum facilitators were well organized and developed a great rapport with my students. The program and games were very engaging and appropriate for the age of the students. The educator's guide was extremely helpful in explaining the program in detail and providing engaging pre- and post-trip activities. The highlight of the morning was riding the carousel and learning about its history! We loved the experience and can't wait to book again for next year! It was the perfect year end trip."

Pam Schonewille  
Grade 1 Teacher  
Carleton School



Museum Program staff share a message of thanks on social media to the students of Niagara for such a successful 2023-2024 season.



Visit the new Isabella Frampton Hawken Exhibition Gallery and learn about the history of work in St. Catharines.

# Museum Programs and Experiences

**NEW**

## S.T.E.A.M. Experience Package

ELKP – Grade 3 | Full Day

Capture all your S.T.E.A.M. learning objectives in 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.

**NEW**

## Museum School 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, table and chairs, audio/visual support, and a program of your choice. Our facility is fully accessible and includes free Wi-Fi. This program is subject to the full day fee.

**NEW | 2024-2025 Only**

## Food, Glorious Food!

ELKP – Grade 3 | 90 Minutes

Visit the latest temporary exhibit all about food in St. Catharines. Students will learn about agriculture and food production, restaurants, and grocery stores, and all the tools and machinery we use to make and eat food. This program includes engaging hands-on activities and a self-guided visit to the Museum's permanent galleries.

## Jr. Engineers

ELKP – Grade 3 | 60 Minutes | Available April/May/June

Students will learn all about the Welland Canal in this fast-paced activity-based program and go home with an official Jr. Engineer badge.

**NEW**

## On the Move: Transportation in the Garden City

Grades 4 – 8 | 60 Minutes

All aboard! In this immersive gallery experience, students will turn cranks, switch gears, plot their routes, and set sail! Learn about the history of transportation, discover incredible stories of innovation, and see ships in the Welland Canal, a 1905 Oldsmobile, a 1912 REO, a 1915 Steam Pumper Fire Truck, streetcar tracks, and much more.



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



## More Museum Programs and Experiences

**NEW**

### 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. Get ready to listen, clap, step, and sing along!

### Bright Ideas

ELKP-Grade 5 | 45 Minutes

Hit your early S.T.E.A.M. learning objectives with this fast-paced tour that engages students in an interactive exploration of the lives and technologies of innovative women from our city's history.

**NEW**

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

Grades 7-10 | 90 Minutes

Enjoy a guided tour of the Museum's new James Grant Exhibition Gallery and hear the famed stories of military service members of St. Catharines past. This experience includes collaborative learning with an emphasis on primary source material designed for curious and engaged students. Study guide available.

### On the Liberty Line: Early Black History and the Underground Railroad in St. Catharines

Grades 6-10 | 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.

### The Welland Canals

Grades 3-12 | 90 Minutes

Explore the development and operations of the historic Welland Canals in our fun and interactive guided experience through the new 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.



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

## Site-Specific and Adventure-Style Programs

### Ride On! The Historic Lakeside Park Carousel

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

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

### Food, Glorious Food!

ELKP – Grade 3 | 90 Minutes | Available October/April/May/June | Walker's Creek Park

Explore the history of agriculture in the Garden City with this fun interactive programming that introduces students to agricultural concepts, local farming, food production, and more.

### Hiking Through History

Grades 6 – 8 | Half Day | Available October/April/May/June

Mountain Locks Park or Jaycee Gardens

Adventure awaits students in this new, outdoor, phys-ed-meets-history program in Mountain Locks Park or 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.

### Where's the Pig?

Grades 6 – 8 | 120 Minutes | Available October/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 got loose on the streets of St. Catharines in 1945. Study guide available.

### Canal Walks

Grades 7 – 12 | 120 Minutes | Available October/April/May | Merritt Trail

Select one of three sections of the Merritt Trail to explore the historic First and Second Welland Canals, lock remnants, and some of the best built heritage in the city. This tour is intended for students learning about the connections in local history and geography. Study guide available.



PORT WELLER  
PORT WELLER  
WEST



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



# Classroom Visits

**FREE**

**The Jr. Travelling Museum** | Grades ELKP – 3 | 60 Minutes

Designed specifically for young historians with hands-on exploration of artifacts and engaging activities designed for students in ELKP to Grade 3. Free for schools in Niagara; a mileage fee applies to schools outside of St. Catharines.

**FREE**

**The Travelling Museum** | Grades 4 – 6 | 90 Minutes

Led by Museum Staff, the Travelling Museum is designed to give students a behind-the-scenes look at museum work. Full of hands-on activities and new content. Free for schools in Niagara; a mileage fee applies to schools outside of St. Catharines.

**NEW**

**The Travelling Museum 2: In the Vaults** | Grades 4 – 6 | 30 Minutes

Enjoy a curator-led virtual tour of the Museum's collection vaults following a visit from the Travelling Museum. Book in conjunction with the Travelling Museum. Free for schools who have booked the Travelling Museum.

**Heritage Fair Workshop** | Grades 4 – 8 | 90 Minutes | January – March

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

**NEW**

**Me and My Family Tree** | Grade 6 | 60 Minutes | November – 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. Study guide available. Student fee applies.

**NEW**

**Court is Now in Session**

Grades 11 – 12 Understanding Canadian Law or Legal Studies | 60 Minutes

The courtroom comes to the classroom with real, historic legal cases from St. Catharines (and the former Lincoln County) for a hands-on look at the law. This exciting program is designed for engaged students and requires advanced yet straightforward in-class preparation for participation. Study guide available. Student fee applies.

**NEW**

**Promise of Hope: Immigration to St. Catharines**

Grade 12 Canadian and World Studies | 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.



An escaped pig on the loose on Ontario Street in 1945. This photo inspired the "Where's the Pig?" downtown walking tour.  
STCM S1945.5.10.3

# 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 – 8 | \$47.00 (2024), \$48.45 (2025)

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 | \$47.00 (2024), \$48.45 (2025)

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

Grades 4 – 12 | \$29.00 (2024), \$29.95 (2025)

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

Grades 7 – 12 | \$47.00 (2024), \$48.45 (2025)

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



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Front cover: A group of evacuee children arrive in Montreal, c. 1940, including future St. Catharines resident, Verna Bryan.  
Back cover: The Laker *Montrealis* moves through the Homer Bridge as it approaches Lock 3 at the St. Catharines Museum.