

# Champions WELLAND LEADING THE WAY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **CITY OF WELLAND ADOPTS BRIDGE 13**

**Welland, ON** – Bridge 13 is finally coming home to Welland! It has been 25 years since Henri Beaudoin put the finishing touches on the wooden replica. It took Beaudoin four years to build the fully functional scale-model bridge. Although the gifted jack-of-all-trades grandfather passed away many years ago, his legacy of talent continues through his art. Model Bridge 13 has now found a permanent home at Welland Civic Square. Mayor Frank Champion will unveil the replica on Wednesday, July 29, at 3:30 p.m. in the Civic Square Lobby.

Vincent Beaudoin, General Foreman of Public Works for the City of Welland will attend the unveiling. Beaudoin is the grandson of Henri Beaudoin. The public works staffer is excited to see the model bridge finally make it back to its hometown. "The bridge has been tucked away in Wainfleet for many years now. It finally made it home where it's suppose to be," said Beaudoin.

Henri Beaudoin began to build the model when he was 78 years old. After four years of great detail and hard work, the 8' model Bridge 13 was completed and sent to the Welland Museum as a temporary display. The scale model is equipped with crossing lights and a siren just as the actual Bridge 13 once had.

The model is significant to the history of the bridge due to all the changes that have occurred to the actual bridge over the years. In 2014 the bridge was repainted by the Niagara Region, and in 2015 decorative lighting was added to attract visitors. Everyone is encouraged to visit the Bridge 13 model on display at Welland Civic Square, located at 60 East Main Street, Welland.

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