

For Immediate Release
Monday, July 10, 2017



WATERWAY UPDATES DOCKS WITH 150TH FEDERAL GRANT

Welland, ON - Installation is underway on a series of brand new long-life docks along the Welland Recreational Waterway. Through a \$56,000 grant provided by the Government of Canada's Canada 150 Grant program, along with matching funds from the City of Welland, the community will be able to benefit from brand new, high quality, accessible docks. The docks are being installed to replace older wooden docks that have reached the end of their life span. Replacement of aging docks to new and improved inventory was a key priority of the Canada 150 Grant program and a primary reason for Welland being awarded the grant.

Sourced through a competitive bid process, Poralu Marine company is the chosen supplier of the docks, and through selecting this provider, the City of Welland realises a number of important benefits: superior industry-leading construction of docks and indicated lifespan of 20+ years, lattice dock surface for easy cleaning, durable decking, ramp hardware and anti-slip features to support accessibility, compatibility with existing Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC) dock inventory for use in future large events such as Canoe Polo World Championships in 2018, and suitable dock profile to support a variety of on-water activities.

A key value of the new docks is enhanced safety to all users. Marilyn Abbs, a para kayaker at South Niagara Canoe Club states, "I am very excited to know that PenFinancial Community centre is getting the same docking system that the WIFC has; I have experienced both styles and much prefer the newer docks, it is a very good investment and opens up more opportunities for people like myself with mobility challenges."

Docks are currently being placed at both South Niagara Rowing Club on the south side of the Waterway, and the PenFinancial Credit Union Flatwater Community Centre (PFCC) on the north side. The PFCC home of the Welland Canoe Rental Program is quickly becoming a key tourism destination in the City of Welland. Both facilities operate under the umbrella of the WIFC and are managed by the City of Welland Recreation & Culture Division: "The Canada 150 grant along with the City of Welland matching funds presented a great opportunity to update our dock inventory along the Recreational Waterway. This will help support continued programming and event delivery as well as provide opportunities for expansion," says Richard Dalton, City of Welland Rec & Culture Manager.

Longer term plans for the docks aside from expected use during the Canoe Polo World Championships include events such as the inaugural CanAqua SwimRun taking place at the Flatwater Community Centre September 9, and staging for the Head of the Welland Regatta taking place on September 23. For more information on WIFC events visit wifc.ca

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