

## **City looking at options to relocate mural on the soon-to-be-demolished hotel on Niagara Street**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Welland, ON** – The City of Welland is working with the developer of the soon-to-be-demolished former Best Value Inn on Niagara Street (municipally known as 1030 Niagara Street) to relocate a prominent mural depicting the historical images of a horse pulling a sailing ship through the canal in the mid-1800s.

Made aware of the impending destruction of the mural, City staff have reached out to the developer to explore the potential of safely removing the art. Once determined, city staff would then store the mural until a new location is chosen.

"Our city is rich in history and culture, and preserving both is important as we move forward," said Rob Axiak, director of community services. "We will look at potential locations and bring recommendations to the arts and culture advisory committee and heritage committee for their support and advice."

The Welland Mural project began in 1986 and depicts Welland's industrial and marine history, including the Welland Fair, steam engines, tugboats, and historic downtown, to name a few. Murals are found throughout the downtown area and the city's north end.

"We are looking forward to working with the developer to find a suitable outcome for this particular piece of art," said Axiak. "This is one of those instances when the city, community, and our development partners can work together to produce a positive result."

Along with the mural project, canoe art and sculptures by Rod Dowling, Welland is home to many great art pieces. You can learn more at <https://discover.welland.ca/attractions/art.asp>.

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