



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Meg Salocks, meg@lcmmm.org

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Receives CVNHP, LCBP Grants Grants support 2023 season, research, and educational programs

VERGENNES, VT - Lake Champlain Maritime Museum has received grant support totaling over \$230,000 from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) to support free admission, research and programs exploring the canal boat era and the Revolutionary War, and educational programs for youth and adults.

“Lake Champlain Maritime Museum creates opportunities where everyone can explore our lake and its history, ecology, and archaeology,” said Lauren Ross, Director of Development. “This generous support from CVNHP and LCBP will foster these kinds of connections and engagement for our whole community to learn from the past, build together, and create a healthy future for Lake Champlain.”

Free Admission, Pay-What-You-Can Camps, and Digital Access

With support from LCBP, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will continue to offer free admission, pay-what-you-can camps and expeditions, and expanded digital access for all in 2023. This critical funding will keep the Museum accessible to everyone and provide the opportunity for all people to make personal connections with Lake Champlain that empower them to become lifelong stewards of the lake.

The Giant Lake Champlain Map

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will continue to provide free experiences and ongoing access for local schools to the Giant Lake Champlain Map program, supported by LCBP. The Giant Map is a 27' by 35' vinyl map of the Lake Champlain basin that educators can use for hands-on learning. It increases students' understanding of spatial and ecological relationships between the watershed and Lake Champlain and helps students learn how they can positively affect the future of the lake.

Champlain Longboats Student Boat Building

In 2023, LCBP support will sponsor the Museum's flagship boat building program, Champlain Longboats. Students from Middlebury Union High School and the Addison Consortium Program will work from tree to boat, from selecting lumber to hammering in each rib and plank. The program connects students with the rich tradition of boatbuilding in the Champlain Valley and with the science of our forests and lake, all while building teamwork, self-confidence, and community.

Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species through Public Engagement

In 2023, the Museum will create a new multilingual waterfront exhibit focused on identification and management of aquatic invasives and actions that prevent their spread supported by LCBP. Docents will also provide free interactive programs throughout the summer season to increase awareness of invasive

species detection, monitoring, and prevention, with the goal to manage and decrease the spread of aquatic invasive species in Lake Champlain.

The Champlain Canal at 200 Book Project

With support from CVNHP, in 2023, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will mark the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Champlain Canal with the publication of a new book. An anthology of essays, this book project will bring together leading voices in history, archaeology, conservation, ecology, and communities to tell the story of the past 200 years with a focus on the future of the canal system.

Canal Collections

The Museum's collections preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the lake and provide a tangible connection to the past. With support from CVNHP, the Museum will inventory its canal-related collections with the goal of providing greater access to these materials for researchers and the public. The Museum's collections web hub will be updated and the work will inform exhibits and programs celebrating the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Champlain Canal in 2023.

Museum Interpretation Internship

Supported by CVNHP, the Museum's Visitor Experience and Learning department will welcome an intern during the 2023 season, who will serve as an interpretive educator and docent for visitors to the Museum's campus. In addition, the intern will have the opportunity to host interactive programs for visitors on the history of the Champlain Canal, tours of the Museum's replica fleet, and more.

Canal Boat Photogrammetry

The Museum will develop two 3D photogrammetry models of canal boat shipwrecks in Lake Champlain, thanks to support from CVNHP. 3D models allow the public to virtually dive into shipwrecks, without getting in the water, and better understand the stories of the lake's canal boats, their owners, and the world in which they operated. These 3D shipwreck models will be available online for free public access.

***Spitfire* Preservation**

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will move forward on the multi-year project to document and preserve the shipwreck of the Revolutionary War gunboat *Spitfire* in Lake Champlain for future public interpretation, supported by CVNHP. Work will include developing an underwater excavation plan for in-water archaeological research.

About Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

Founded in 1985, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum connects all people to Lake Champlain, inspiring them to learn from the past, build together in the present, and create a sustainable future. Committed to increasing access to the lake and its history, archaeology, and ecology, the Museum is open to all from late May to mid-October for free admission. Year-round education programs serve more than 2,500 K-12 students, as well as hundreds of educators locally and nationally. For more information, visit www.lcmm.org.



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