



Destination: Accessible Museum

Port Colborne Historical &
Marine Museum

★ Community Engagement ★

■ **MUSEUM:** Volunteer's donation builds paved pathway

Work helping Port museum retain building's old character

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Getting around the grounds of Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum has been made a little easier, thanks to a longtime volunteer.

Ruth Henry, a 15-year volunteer, made a donation that made possible a paved pathway built from the museum's entrance to Arabella's Tea Room and the Heritage Resource Centre.

"Ruth has a real passion for Arabella's and the museum," curator Stephanie Powell Baswick said.

She said the pathway has exposed aggregate, keeping a heritage feel to it and allowing more access for those with ability issues. People in wheelchairs or using walkers will find it easier to make their way around.

Powell Baswick said the pathway fits in nicely with all the renovation work being carried out to make the museum more accessible

also doing the interior work.

Powell Baswick all that's left are interior renovations in the museum's reception area.

"The demolition process is complete."

In that process, walls were taken down in the original house and an addition on the back, which was completed in 1974, a year before the museum opened.

Because of that, such things as square nails in the walls, a metal stencil for the Yvon Dupre Jr., a support beam signed by all of the workers from 1974 and an old Kentucky Fried Chicken bag stuck in the walls were found.

Powell Baswick said windows in the reception area will keep the same feel of the original building, doors will be widened to allow for wheelchair access and the floor between the museum exhibit section and reception area will now be level. Insulation has also been added to the reception area that wasn't previously insulated, making the area warmer for staff and visitors alike.

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum curator Stephanie Powell Baswick stands in the reception area which is undergoing renovations to make it more accessible to those who visit. It's expected the work will be completed by mid-February.

those with visual impairments. an interactive research station ruary so museum staff can start We're going to have fresh, new and setting up a virtual tour of working on the exhibit plans for







James Murray
Photographer
Artist









LOCAL NEWS

ADHD FOUNDATION CREATOR TO SPEAK AT PORT COLBORNE MUSEUM

Cooper was former personal photographer for Trudeau

Robert Cooper calls his condition a gift, not a curse.

"I know firsthand the highs and lows of being ADHD," said the 61 year-old, who grew up with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD. He's also dyslexic.

Next week Cooper will be stopping by the Welland Library and Port Colborne Museum to talk about his experiences growing up with ADHD. On Wednesday he'll be in Welland and Thursday in Port Colborne. Both presentations run from 7-9 p.m.

Cooper spent his entire life both struggling with the disorder and benefitting from it. His excitement-seeking behaviour led him to act

For all the highlights in his life, though, ADHD cost him jobs, businesses and a marriage. It was at one of his low points that he developed a passion for helping the ADHD community and raising awareness on the issue.

He founded the ADHD Foundation of Canada and is the owner of Living ADHD, which seeks to raise public awareness on the condition.

"ADHD people are risk takers and visionaries. It's very dangerous when society represses a segment of the population that doesn't need to be repressed," he said.

The presentations are free to the public.

