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Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Opens for 2019 Season

[Vergennes, Vermont, May 24, 2019]

Explore history, archaeology, and ecology through new exhibits, special programs, and hands-on learning this summer at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. In the new exhibit *Steamboats of Lake Champlain*, learn about the colorful career of Lake Champlain steamboat pioneer Captain Jahaziel Sherman of Vergennes and his wife Harriet Daggett Sherman. Experience some of the world's earliest steamboats and learn how nautical archaeologists continue to locate, learn from, and preserve Lake Champlain's many shipwrecks.

Enjoy music, dance, storytelling, and special hands-on activities for children at Abenaki Heritage Weekend, presented at the Museum by the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association on June 22-23. Learn from conversations with Abenaki scholars, culture bearers, and leaders. View the new film *Nebi: Abenaki Ways of Knowing Water*, produced by Lake Champlain Sea Grant and UVM Extension working with members of the Abenaki community.

Get out on the lake with the Maritime Museum! Friday May 31 is Launch Day, a community-wide celebration as the twentieth student-built rowing gig joins the Museum's fleet of Champlain Longboats. The Museum's fleet is used by the Community Rowing Club for twice-weekly practices and summer racing events. Sign up for a seat or bring your own (human-powered) boat for the three-mile Challenge Race at the Museum on June 30. In July and August, visit replica 1862 canal schooner *Lois McClure* at Lake Champlain ports to celebrate the International Year of the Salmon. On-water tour options include the daily Museum/Lunch/Cruise or a visit to one of the lake's many shipwrecks, with real-time video stream by Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV).

The Museum offers summer learning adventures for all ages, including camps in lake ecology, robotics, and boat building for students grades 2 to 12; kayak building and on-water expeditions for teens; and workshops in blacksmithing, bladesmithing, and bronze casting for teens and adults. The Museum also offers in-depth professional development courses for educators and other curious learners, with graduate credit available through Castleton University.

Reconnect the past and present on August 1 as visiting scholars take a new look at the legacy of Samuel de Champlain. On August 17-18, join eighteenth century living historians reenacting events on Lake Champlain during the American Revolution at Rabble in Arms Weekend. Explore a military camp, meet the gunboat crew, and see cooking and artillery demonstrations.

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
4472 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes, Vermont 05491
(802) 475-2022

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Lake Champlain
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Caption: Portraits of Vergennes steamboat pioneer Jahaziel Sherman and his wife Harriett Daggett Sherman invite Lake Champlain Maritime Museum visitors to explore stories of the region's earliest steamboats.

Download image here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ibql0ya66d4lwzh/Visitors%20with%20Captain%20Jahaziel%20and%20Harriet%20Sherman%20-%20LCMM%20Steamboats%20Exhibit%202019.jpg?dl=0>

About Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

Founded in 1985 to preserve and share the maritime heritage of the Champlain Valley, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum shares underwater discoveries and lake history with the public through engaging exhibits, dynamic hands-on learning opportunities, full-scale working replica vessels, and innovative on-water experiences. As a year-round educational service provider, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum connects with more than 2,500 Elementary and Middle School Students each year through valuable place-based learning, ecology and nautical archaeology experiences and other programming with museum educators. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum's 4-acre lakeside campus at Basin Harbor is open daily from late May through mid-October. Perkins Pier in Burlington is homeport for LCMM's canal schooner *Lois McClure*.

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