



For Immediate Release

**Media Contact:**  
Meg Salocks, [meg@lcmm.org](mailto:meg@lcmm.org)

## **Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Receives Four CVNHP Grants** Grants Support 2020 Initiatives, Saving the *Spitfire*, and Internship

**VERGENNES, VT, January 30, 2020**

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum has received four grants totaling over \$67,000 from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) to support special exhibits and programs commemorating the centennial of women's suffrage, long-term planning for conservation of the shipwreck *Spitfire*, and an internship in nautical archaeology and historic preservation.

"Lake Champlain Maritime Museum connects people with our region's history, ecology, and archaeology and creates opportunities for hands-on learning that will last a lifetime," explains Susan Evans McClure, Executive Director of the Museum, "This generous support from CVNHP ensures that our work in water, on water, and underwater will inspire a new generation of leaders, create a more informed community, and help build a healthy future for Lake Champlain."

### **2020 Special Initiative: Women on the Water**

To mark the centennial of women's suffrage, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will be exploring the role of female leaders in the Champlain Valley throughout history and into the future. By elevating the role women have always played as formal and informal leaders for the region, the Museum aims to inform and inspire a new generation to take the helm.

As part of this initiative, the Museum's replica 1862-class canal schooner *Lois McClure* will tour ports on Lake Champlain sharing the exhibit "Women Leaders of Lake Champlain," funded by a Special Project Grant for \$35,000 which is agreement P19AC00878 awarded by the United States National Park Service (NPS) to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) in partnership with the CVNHP.

Additionally, an exhibit on campus exploring female captains on Lake Champlain is funded by a 2020 Making of Nations Grant for \$7,500.

### **Saving *Spitfire***

*Spitfire* is a Revolutionary War-era gunboat with important connections to local and national history. A 54-foot boat originally in Benedict Arnold's fleet, *Spitfire*'s location was unknown for over 200 years after it sank during the critical naval Battle of Valcour Island in 1776, which ultimately helped bring about the American victory in the war. Found in 1997 during a sonar survey of the lake, the Museum has been a key part of the effort to conserve this vital piece of history. The Museum received a Special Project Grant from CVNHP for \$20,000 to continue this project which is funded by an agreement awarded by the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission to the NEIWPCC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP).

**Lake Champlain Maritime Museum**  
4472 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes, Vermont 05491  
(802) 475-2022  
[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

For Immediate Release

### **Nautical Archaeology and Historic Preservation Internship**

Central to Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is its robust archaeological research department, which identifies, documents, and protects Lake Champlain's underwater cultural resources and makes them accessible through exhibits, publications, and public programs. Through this ground-breaking work, the Museum is able to help steward over 300 shipwrecks in the lake, conserve and present 10,000 objects and archives in its collection, and train future archaeologists in cutting-edge methods. In 2020, the Museum will bring on a paid Nautical Archaeology and Historic Preservation Intern who will support ongoing research into the steamboats of Lake Champlain. This exciting educational position is made possible through an Internship Grant for \$4,997 from CVNHP, funded by an agreement awarded by the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission to the NEIWPCC in partnership with the LCBP.

### **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*.



This project was funded by an agreement (P19AC00878) awarded by the National Park Service to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. NEIWPCC manages LCBP's personnel, contract, grant, and budget tasks and provides input on the program's activities through a partnership with the LCBP Steering Committee. The viewpoints expressed here do not necessarily represent those of NEIWPCC, the LCBP Steering Committee, or GLFC, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or causes constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

**Lake Champlain Maritime Museum**  
4472 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes, Vermont 05491  
(802) 475-2022  
[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)