

MEDIA RELEASE For Immediate Release August 2, 2023

New outdoor lights at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park funded through Government of Canada's Tourism Relief Fund

PORT COLBORNE, ON – New outdoor lights have been installed at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne with funding provided by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario).

The City of Port Colborne received a non-repayable contribution of \$100,000 from the Tourism Partnership of Niagara (RTO2) to permanently install the new lights and make the park safer and more accessible.

RTO2 was approved for \$8.5 million from FedDev Ontario to support local tourism organizations and businesses by funding projects that help communities recover from the impacts of the pandemic and capture opportunities to develop or enhance new products and services.

"The new lighting installation at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park will have a positive and lasting impact on the local community," said the Honourable Filomena Tassi, Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. "Our government knows that investing in these amenities allows people to enjoy the space and offers visitors exciting experiences that will bring them back again and again."

"The Tourism Partnership of Niagara is committed to working together with our tourism stakeholders in Port Colborne," says Anthony Annunziata, President of The Tourism Partnership of Niagara (RTO2). "We recognize the synergies that are generated through the visitor economy. This funding opportunity provides the much needed capital. Tourism is a critical economic driver not only for Port Colborne but for the entire Niagara Region."

H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park is the main stage for free concerts at the annual Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival. In the absence of a lasting solution to light the park during the late evening hours, tower lights were usually rented. "For a few years now, we've talked about budgeting for lights that would increase safety and accessibility at the park," said Mayor Bill Steele. "This funding from FedDev Ontario helped us get this project off the ground and transform H.H. Knoll (Lakeview Park) into a premier outdoor venue."

The six newly installed light poles, each with four LED fixtures, will be economical for the city in the long-term as well as environmentally friendly compared to temporarily renting tower lights run by diesel engines. Other project benefits include placemaking for future entertainment experiences, enhanced year-round accessibility, and creating new opportunities for residents to PORTicipate in their community.

About FedDev Ontario

For 13 years, the Government of Canada, through <u>FedDev Ontario</u>, has worked to advance and diversify the southern Ontario economy through funding opportunities and business services that support innovation, growth and job creation in Canada's most populous region. The Agency has delivered impressive results, which can be seen in southern Ontario businesses that are creating innovative technologies, improving productivity, growing revenues, creating jobs, and in the economic advancement of communities across the region. Learn more about the impacts the Agency is having in southern Ontario by exploring our <u>pivotal projects</u>, our <u>Southern Ontario Spotlight</u>, and FedDev Ontario's <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u>.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jasmine Peazel-Graham Manager of Corporate Communications City of Port Colborne 905– 835– 2900 x 307 jasmine.peazel-graham@portcolborne.ca

Edward Hutchinson Press Secretary Office of the Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario edward.hutchinson@feddevontario.gc.ca