

Life of Extraordinary Local Visionary Comes Alive in St. Joseph this July

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Contact: Karen Stewart, Project Co-ordinator

kstewart@ezlink.ca / 519.523.4328

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Cast of 55 in rehearsals for *Narcisse*



The fascinating life of Narcisse Cantin comes alive in *Narcisse*, a new play about St. Joseph during ten performances this summer (July 19-30). Community actors and musicians supported by a team of experienced theatre professionals, including director Duncan McGregor, are currently in rehearsals for this epic outdoor production. The script was researched and written by Governor General Literary Award finalist Paul Ciufo of Grand Bend. Tickets are on sale now through the Blyth Festival Box Office (toll free – 1.877.862.5984) or online at www.narcissetheplay.com

Narcisse Cantin (1870-1940) was arguably the most exciting person to emerge from the French Canadian settlement of St. Joseph, situated between Bayfield and Grand Bend. Remembered as “The Father of the St. Lawrence Seaway” he was an endless promoter, an extraordinary salesman and a strong believer in his family, his faith and the future of Canada. His dream was to make St. Joseph the hub of transportation for North America. This would include a mammoth canal linking Lake Huron and Lake Erie.

Cantin should be placed into the same category of inventors, dreamers and empire builders as James J. Hill of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Thomas Edison, Donald Smith (Lord Strathcona), and Sir Herbert Holt. Unlike these other great men, Cantin did not realize his dreams — not through any lack of ideas or imagination, but chiefly because his ideas were ahead of his time. The history of the man and his community, his challenges and his vision will come alive in a spectacular outdoor setting on the grounds of St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Hwy 21, St. Joseph. For more information visit <http://narcissetheplay.com/>

Narcisse is generously sponsored by **M&M Meats** and is supported by the **Ontario Arts Council** and **Citizen and Immigration Canada** as well as many individuals and businesses in the area. The development of the script and this production has been generously supported by the **Trillium Foundation** and the **Ontario Arts Council**. The assistance of Blyth Festival is gratefully acknowledged.