

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY CALLED TO SAVE HISTORIC KEILLOR HOUSE: \$100,000 MATCHING CHALLENGE LAUNCHED TO PROTECT LANDMARK MUSEUM

Donations Matched Dollar-for-Dollar Until December 31 to Help Save Historic Keillor House

DORCHESTER, N.B. – September 10, 2026 – Keillor House Museum, one of New Brunswick's most significant heritage landmarks, is facing urgent restoration needs. The Westmorland Historical Society has launched a dollar-for-dollar matching campaign to raise **\$100,000 in donations before December 31, 2026** thanks to a generous donor who will match these donations, generating up to **\$200,000** toward critical repairs to the museum's deteriorating stone walls.

Sections of the masonry have deteriorated significantly and require specialized restoration to stabilize and preserve the historic structure. Similar work was completed on the front wall in 2005, and this next phase is essential to protect one of Dorchester's most important historic landmarks. Without immediate restoration, continued deterioration could threaten the long-term integrity of Keillor House and the irreplaceable stories, collections, and community history it protects.

The full restoration project is estimated at **\$700,000** and will be completed in three phases over the next three to four years. A very significant private contribution has already been committed, and applications for government funding are underway. However, public funding alone will not be enough to preserve this important heritage asset.

The Society's immediate goal is to raise \$100,000 by December 31, 2026, which will unlock an additional \$100,000 through the matching campaign and generate \$200,000 toward the next phase of restoration.

“Keillor House is more than a museum. It is a symbol of our region's history and identity,” said Judy Morison, President of the Westmorland Historical Society. “This matching campaign gives everyone in our community an opportunity to help preserve that legacy and ensure future generations can continue to learn from and enjoy this remarkable landmark.”

A Limited-Time Opportunity to Double Your Impact

This matching gift is offered in memory of their **Hons. George and Ruth Stanley**, who dearly loved Keillor House and believed in the mission and vision of the Westmorland Historical Society.

Every donation counts. A \$50 gift becomes \$100. A \$500 gift becomes \$1,000. Every dollar donated before the deadline helps unlock critical support needed to preserve Keillor House for future generations.

Preserving a Regional Landmark

Built in **1813** by Yorkshire immigrant **John Keillor**, Keillor House Museum is an impressive Georgian stone mansion in the heart of Dorchester and one of the Tantramar region's most significant heritage properties.

Now more than **213 years old**, the building has stood as a symbol of the region's history, resilience, and community spirit.

Today, the museum welcomes visitors into a carefully preserved setting that reflects the rich social, political, and domestic history of southeastern New Brunswick. Through its artefacts, archives, genealogical collections, and stories, Keillor House provides a direct connection to the people, places, and events that shaped our communities.

Preserving the building ensures these stories remain accessible to residents, students, researchers, and visitors for generations to come.

Every donation, regardless of size, will help preserve this irreplaceable part of New Brunswick's history.

Help us save Keillor House by making your donation today.

HOW TO DONATE

Online

Donate through Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/149476>

By Mail

Westmorland Historical Society
4974 Main Street
Dorchester, NB E3K 2Z1

By E-Transfer

keillorhousemuseum@gmail.com

Memo: **Donation – Wall Project**

All Donations receive a charitable tax receipt with donations received by December 31, 2026 eligible for the matching challenge.

MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT THE WESTMORLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1967, the Westmorland Historical Society is a registered charity dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Westmorland County and the wider Tantramar region. The Society operates Keillor House Museum and St. James Textile Museum and stewards the historic Bell Inn and Payzant Building. Through museum tours, collections, the Graydon Milton Library and Genealogical Centre, educational programs, publications, youth outreach, and community events, the Society helps connect residents and visitors with the stories that shaped the region.

Website: <https://keillorhousemuseum.com>

Editor's Note

Media interviews, photographs, historical background information, and site visits to Keillor House Museum are available upon request.