



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **WALDAMEER & WATER WORLD'S 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

The 2021 amusement park season marks **Waldameer & Water World's** (Erie, PA) 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a historic feat commemorated by only a handful of facilities. Of the more than 4,000 amusement parks which have existed in the United States, Waldameer is only the 14<sup>th</sup> park to celebrate this milestone. Only eleven of these “century and a quarter” parks still operate.

This landmark achievement will be commemorated by the **National Amusement Park Historical Association (NAPHA)**, at 2:30pm on Saturday, August 28, 2021, at the amusement park during the Flying High event hosted by the Western New York Coaster Club and the American Coaster Enthusiasts' Western Pennsylvania region.

“We are thrilled to be able to share this historic occasion with Waldameer,” stated Jim Futrell, NAPHA's Historian, who will be making the presentation. “Waldameer & Water World is very special in the industry, not only for surviving for 125 years, but for remaining a family owned and operated amusement park at a time when the industry has been increasingly dominated by corporate owned chains.” Currently three generations of the Nelson/Gorman family operate the park, one of only of handful of amusement parks in the country with three generations involved in the day-to-day operations.

First opened in 1896, Waldameer Park is a true industry survivor, adapting to changes that have closed hundreds of other amusement parks. The park has survived wars, economic downturns, pandemics and a declining regional population, to remain a popular destination. In the last 50 years, 40 amusement parks within 100 miles of Waldameer Park have closed, while Waldameer has undertaken a major expansion that has transformed the park from a local picnic park into a regional destination.

The 11th oldest operating amusement park in the United States, Waldameer & Water World is one of only six that has not missed a season in at least 125 years of operation. The park is also one of the last dozen trolley parks in operation in the United States. Hundreds of these amusement parks were opened around the turn of the twentieth century by trolley companies seeking to generate evening and weekend ridership and while most are distant memories, Waldameer & Water World continues to thrive.

Organized in 1978, the National Amusement Park Historical Association is an international educational and enthusiasts' organization dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the heritage of the amusement park – past, present and future. Membership is open to anyone interested in amusement parks and includes individuals from all over the world. In addition to enthusiasts, many amusement parks, manufacturers and other attractions industry-related businesses are NAPHA members. Follow NAPHA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit [www.napha.org](http://www.napha.org) for more information.