

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**19th CENTURY WILLOWBROOK VILLAGE, NEWFIELD, MAINE
Closing in Newfield at the end of the 2016 Season
and
Relocation of Willowbrook's Collections**

19th Century Willowbrook Village has offered unforgettable educational, cultural and historic knowledge of rural life in Maine and New England during the 19th and early 20th centuries to over 430,000 visitors and school children since 1970. Many adults whose children now visit Willowbrook came to Willowbrook themselves as children.

This is Willowbrook's 47th season and, due to financial considerations, its last in Newfield. The last day of opening will be October 10, 2016.

Willowbrook's Board of Trustees is working with a select number of non-profit museums in Maine to relocate and give new life to as much of Willowbrook's collections as possible. Major gifts of the collections will be offered to: The Curran Homestead, Boothbay Railway Village and Skyline Farm. Smaller gifts will be offered to the Maine State Museum, the Newfield Historical Society, the Sanford/Springvale Historical Society, the Brick Store Museum, Washburn-Norlands Living History Center and the Maine Antique Power Association. In making these gifts, Willowbrook's collections will remain on view to the public, and the educational and historic awareness programming that has been central to Willowbrook's mission will continue as part of its legacy.

Willowbrook's themed collections include: Trades (printing, barber, harness maker, shoe maker, broom maker, pump maker, ice harvester, canoe maker, blacksmith, wheelwright, farmer, logger, carpenter, carriage maker, tinsmith, orchardist and cider producer, cooper, syrup maker, metal worker and teacher); Domestic Labor (cooking, sewing and lace making, weaving and spinning, laundry, creamery, and domestic living); Entertainment (musical instruments, street music, bandstand, dancing, photography and motion pictures, and carousel); Recreation (sledding and sleighing, ice skating, bicycling, boating, hunting and fishing, and horse racing); Transportation (carriages, wagons, sleighs and utility vehicles); and Other Exhibits (Hands-on-History, early gas engines and tractors, lawn mowers, civil war and hunting artifacts).

Donald King, the founder of Willowbrook, first lived in Newfield in the 1960s. He loved collecting mechanical antiques (engines, tractors, gas-powered pumps and an extensive number of hand tools) as well as artifacts of 19th century rural Maine (carriages, wagons, coaches, snow rollers, farm implements, bicycles, and period furnishings) which he exhibited in two historic homesteads and barns he had acquired. Over the years, other buildings were added including: a carriage house; a cooperage shop; a printer's shop; two blacksmith shops; a one-room schoolhouse; various open sheds; and finally a structure to house a working, 1894 Armitage Herschell traveling carousel.

In 1980, Mr. King created a not-for-profit entity to which he donated his collections with the hope that Willowbrook would survive forever to educate and enhance the historical

understanding of our past for future generations. During recent years, the museum has created enhanced interactive exhibits and currently uses many of its artifacts to demonstrate how they worked in earlier times.

Willowbrook is indebted to its staff, volunteers, members and supporters, and especially to its Directors—Georgia Perry (1970-2003); Amelia Chamberlain (2004-2011); John Michalowski (2012-half 2013); Robert Schmick, Ph.D. (half 2013-2016)—each of whom have had an important impact on the museum.

During the remaining of this 2016 season, exciting and varied events are planned including the National Glidden Antique Auto Show on Tuesday, September 13th at which over 200 antique and vintage autos will be on view.

If you have never been to Willowbrook, or haven't visited recently, the next few weeks will afford you a great opportunity to view its collections again in Newfield. Willowbrook is open Thursday through Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday) from 10am to 5pm. The museum's program of events can be viewed on its website at www.willowbrookmuseum.org.