FLYING ON WATER
A Celebration of innovation, Imagination & Persistence

“One of the most interesting of the strange things that have come from Dr. Graham Bell’s laboratories is a weird looking glider that recently has been tearing up the peaceful Bras d’Or Lakes at the rate of 70 miles per hour.” (Annual Report of the Board of Regents of The Smithsonian Institution, 1919)


On September 9 1919, Alexander Graham Bell and Casey Baldwin broke the world speed records on water – the HD-4 travelled 70.86 (113 km) per hour skimming across the Bras d’Or Lake – and Nova Scotia became the site of some of the most advanced technological testing and experimentation with hydrofoils in the world.

Join Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site/Parks Canada, the Alexander Graham Bell Foundation, Alexander Graham Bell Museum Association, Theatre Baddeck, Penguin Random House, the International Hydrofoil Society and other partners and funders as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the HD-4 speed records achieved in Cape Breton and the recreational and commercial development and use of hydrofoils over the last 100 years.

From September 9 to 11 2019 there will be community celebrations for all ages at the National Historic Site in Baddeck that will include the launch of a new book about Casey Baldwin, staged readings of Eric Walter’s The Hydrofoil Mystery by Theatre Baddeck along with presentations by the author, interactive exhibits and lectures, and a virtual reality experience of the HD4. And throughout the celebration new and unique products celebrating hydrofoils, invention and innovation will be available at the Museum Store – onsite and online.

Stay tuned for more details to follow in the coming months.