



## Erie Canalway News Release

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Contact: Jean Mackay, Director of Communications and Outreach

518-237-7000, ext 222

jean\_mackay@partner.nps.gov

### Schedule Announced for 2009 Quadricentennial Legacy Tour of Historic Canal Motorship

#### *Day Peckinpaugh will retrace steps of Hudson and Champlain*

WATERFORD- The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor today announced details of a two-month tour of the historic canal motorship *Day Peckinpaugh* in conjunction with the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration.

The 259-foot long *Day Peckinpaugh* will travel the Champlain and Hudson Corridor during the months of August and September 2009, stopping at ports from Burlington, Vermont, to New York Harbor. Visitors will be able to step onboard and discover the Empire State's singularly compelling tale of 400 years of maritime progress and advancement.

"The tour is a fantastic opportunity to discover the great legacy we have inherited—not only from visionary explorers like Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain, but from the working men and women of New York whose labors along our canals and rivers built the Empire State," said Joseph Callahan, Chairman of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission.

The *Day Peckinpaugh* is a 1921 historic canal motorship owned by the New York State Museum as a traveling museum and classroom dedicated to sharing New York's world renowned canal history. The vessel transported cargo from the Great Lakes to New York City from 1921 to 1994. Rescued from the scrapyards in 2005, the *Day Peckinpaugh's* restoration is a joint effort of the museum, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, New York State Canal Corporation, Canal Society of NYS, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

According to Callahan, "The discoveries we celebrate this year are inextricably linked to the amazing legacy of the Erie Canal, a story the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is uniquely suited to tell." The *Day Peckinpaugh* will carry exhibits and information related to the history of both the Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor and the quadricentennial.

## Planned Itinerary and Public Visitation Schedule

### August

8/1-2	Matton Shipyard, Cohoes
8/5	Mechanicville
8/8	Whitehall
8/11-12	Plattsburgh
8/15-16	Burlington
8/19	Crown Point
8/21	Whitehall
8/23	Fort Edward
8/28-29	Schuylerville

### September

9/5-7	NYC Pier 84
9/12-13	NYC Pier 84
9/19-20	Kingston
9/22	Hudson
9/25-26	Albany
9/27-28	Troy
9/30	Cohoes, Welcome Home

The Quadricentennial Voyage of the *Day Peckinpaugh* is organized by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, in conjunction with Saratoga National Historical Park, the NYS Museum, and the NYS Canal Corporation. Funding was secured by Congressman Maurice Hinchey who, along with Congressman John McHugh, authorized legislation to create the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission in 2002.

Congressman Maurice Hinchey said: “I’m very pleased to see the federal funding I secured in Congress for the quadricentennial is being put to good use with this comprehensive tour for the *Day Peckinpaugh*,” Hinchey said. “The events surrounding the quadricentennial celebration will generate tourism and other revenue for businesses and the state and provide residents and visitors with interesting and exciting opportunities to explore these important historical moments that took place in our backyard.”

Tara Sullivan, Executive Director of the New York State Quadricentennial Commission, said: “What better way to celebrate the lasting impacts of discovery and commerce along the Hudson and Champlain than having the *Day Peckinpaugh* out on the water this summer.”

Dr. Clifford A. Siegfried, Director of the New York State Museum, said: “The voyages of the Museum’s *Day Peckinpaugh* in 2009 and beyond will reinforce the linkages among the communities along the canals and other waterways of the State. Indeed, for many years, the *Peckinpaugh* extended that network from the Atlantic seaboard to the interior Great Lakes, fulfilling the dreams of Hudson and Fulton.”

Carmella Mantello, Director of the New York State Canal Corporation, said: “As we commemorate New York’s 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the two month voyage of the historic *Day Peckinpaugh* will highlight not only the waterways discovered by Hudson and Champlain, but also the role the Erie Canal played in shaping the nation. The Corporation is pleased to partner on this project and to have its flagship vessel, the *Tug Urger*, join the *Peckinpaugh* and dozens of other vessels for Working on Water – Celebrating 400

Years of Maritime History. I encourage everyone to stop at one or more of the tour stops this summer to explore the vessels of yesterday on our waterways of today.”

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Carol Ash said: “The voyage of the *Day Peckinpaugh* will provide New Yorkers across the state with a glimpse into the unique and exciting history of the Erie Canal. Beginning with its voyage from the Matton Shipyard at Peebles Island State Park in Waterford, New York, the *Day Peckinpaugh* will certainly delight many visitors throughout this Quadricentennial year with its stories and visions from New York’s remarkable maritime history.”

Thomas Grasso, President of the Canal Society of New York State, said: “The *Day Peckinpaugh* is as much about the future as it is about the past. This iconic vessel is a monumental instrument of education, marketing, and celebration all along the New York State Canal System and beyond.”

### **Working on Water**

The *Day Peckinpaugh* will be accompanied at various parts of the trip by other historic vessels participating in “Working on Water – Celebrating 400 Years of Maritime History.” This tour of over two dozen historic vessels will represent different eras of commerce and industry along our inland waterways, and tell the compelling story of the area’s evolution of maritime technology since the voyages of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain in 1609.

In addition to the *Day Peckinpaugh*, the tour will feature four other vessels listed on the National Historic Register, including: the tugboats *Urger*, *Chancellor*, and *Pegasus*, and the 1930 fireboat *John J. Harvey*. Other historic and replica vessels participating in parts of the tour include: the *Halfmoon*, the canal schooner *Lois McClure*, the sailing barge *Golden Re’Al*, the sloop *Clearwater*, the Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge #79, the gunboat *Philadelphia II*, Coast Guard Cutter *Wire*, and the tugboats, *Cornell*, *W. O. Decker*, *Buffalo*, *Governor Cleveland*, *Gowanus Bay*, *Elise Ann Connor*, *8<sup>th</sup> Sea*, and *Churchill*.

### **For more information and tour updates:**

[www.eriecanalway.org](http://www.eriecanalway.org)

[www.exploreny400.com](http://www.exploreny400.com)

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**The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor** is one of 40 federally designated National Heritage Areas. Its purpose is to help preserve and interpret the historical, natural, scenic, and recreational resources reflecting its national significance and to help foster revitalization of canal-side communities.