



In partnership with the National Park Service



2014  
*Annual Report*

Established in 2000 by an Act of Congress, the Corridor spans 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York. It includes the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain canals and their historic alignments. The Corridor encompasses 4,834 square miles in 23 counties and is home to 2.7 million people.

# *Writing Our His*

*Lyons, 1921*





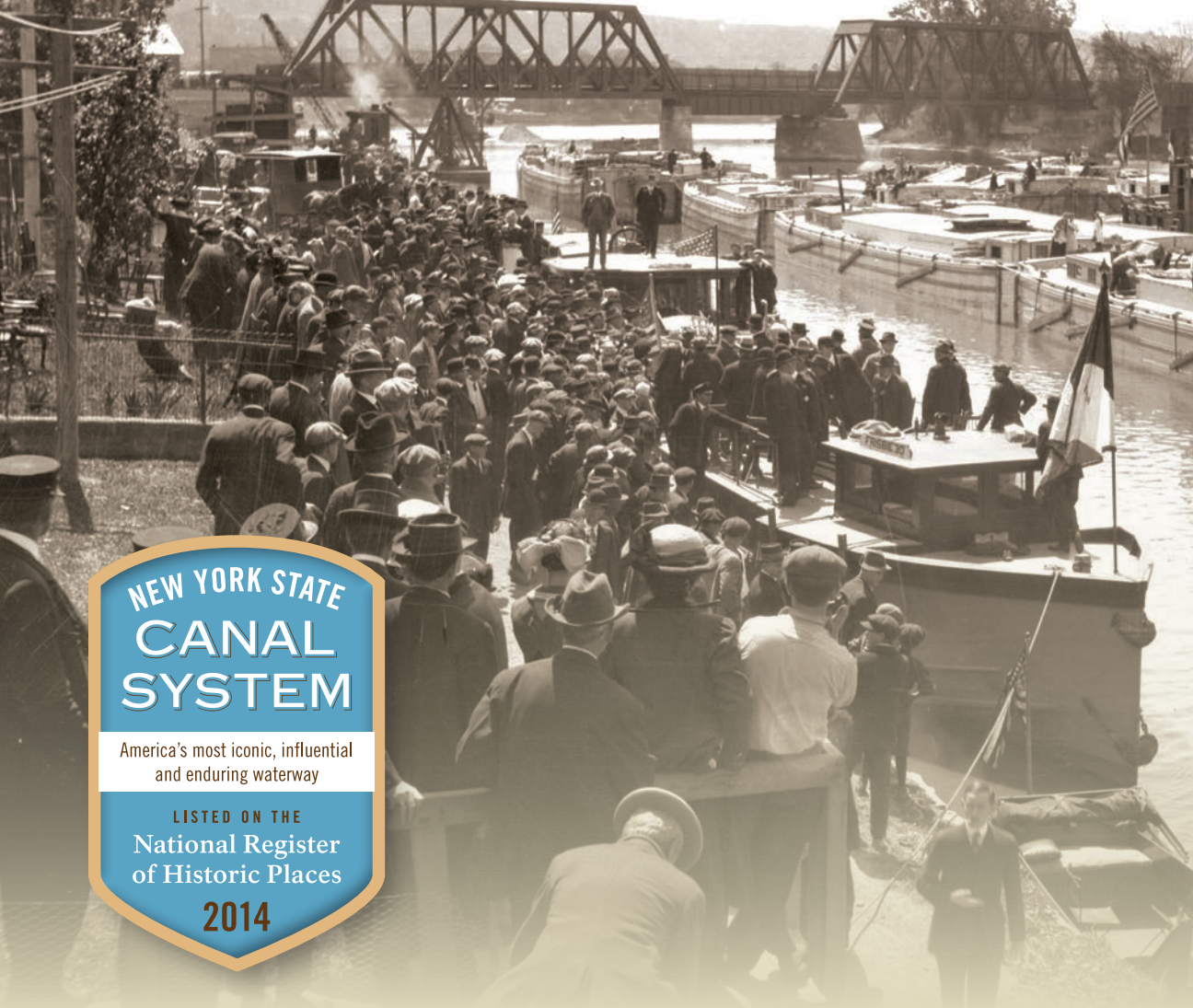
# story



Nearly 200 years ago, New Yorkers had the audacity to dig a canal through rugged wilderness. The Erie Canal provided the first all water route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, opening the young nation and expanding ideas of what it might achieve with great vision ingenuity, and drive.

For nearly 200 years, that same waterway has carried both people and cargo, given rise to cities, towns, and villages, and spurred industry and innovation. Through boom and bust and rebirth, the canal has endured as America's most iconic and influential man-made waterway.

We recognize that the next chapter of the canals' long and auspicious history is currently being written. We are proud to play a central role in ensuring that this generation leaves a strong and indelible mark on its pages.



## NEW YORK STATE CANAL SYSTEM

America's most iconic, influential  
and enduring waterway

LISTED ON THE  
National Register  
of Historic Places

2014

# NATIONAL REGISTER DESIGNATION

In October 2014, the National Park Service listed the “New York State Barge Canal” on the National Register of Historic Places, the Nation’s official list of the historic places worthy of preservation. The designation recognizes the currently operating Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca, and Oswego Canals (known today as the NYS Canal System, but named the NYS Barge Canal when opened in 1918) as nationally significant works of early twentieth century engineering and construction that impacted transportation and maritime commerce for nearly half a century.

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor spearheaded the nomination in partnership with the National Park Service Heritage Documenta-

tion Program, NYS Canal Corporation, and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The multi-year effort involved visiting and writing descriptions for hundreds of structures, evaluating their historic integrity and significance, and amassing maps and images. The comprehensive documentation now serves as a valuable public record, available to scholars, students, community planners, and canal enthusiasts.

National Register listing laid the groundwork for us to pursue designating New York’s canal system as a National Historic Landmark. We will be working toward that goal over the next two years with the NHL Program of the National Park Service.





*Waterford, 1915*



**"Our waterways connect thousands of residents and visitors to the fascinating history and awesome beauty of Upstate New York. National Register designation will inspire new generations to safeguard and celebrate engineering marvels that changed the course of American history and helped make New York the Empire State."**

*Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-19)*

**"All New Yorkers should take great pride that the canal system, now in its third century of operation, remains as a symbol of ingenuity and progress for many throughout the world."**

*Congressman Paul Tonko (NY-20)*

#### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Built between 1905 and 1918, the Barge Canal is the direct descendant of the Erie Canal and a network of connecting waterways that have been in continuous operation since 1825. For nearly 200 years, commercial and pleasure vessels have used the canal system to pass from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes.

The Barge Canal National Historic District is remarkable in its span, scope, and historical integrity. It includes 450 miles of navigation channels and 563 contributing structures and buildings that operate today largely as they did when the system went into operation in 1918.

You can access detailed information on the National Register District, including historic and current photos at [www.eriecanalway.org](http://www.eriecanalway.org).



*Designation ceremony, 2014*

# *Preserve and Share* OUR EXTRAORDINARY CANAL



## ERIE CANALWAY TICKET

**E**very 4th grader in New York State learns about the Erie Canal, but few ever see it. Ticket to Ride is turning that around, so that we teach students firsthand about the innovation, perseverance, and vision that have long been drivers of our state and nation.

The Erie Canalway Ticket to Ride Program expanded dramatically in 2014, enabling 8,500 school children from 85 schools in 35 school districts to participate in exceptional education programs on the Erie Canal. The six-fold increase over 2013 was the result of increased funding, aggressive outreach, word-of-mouth about the program's benefits, and a tripling of the number of canal education sites hosting students.



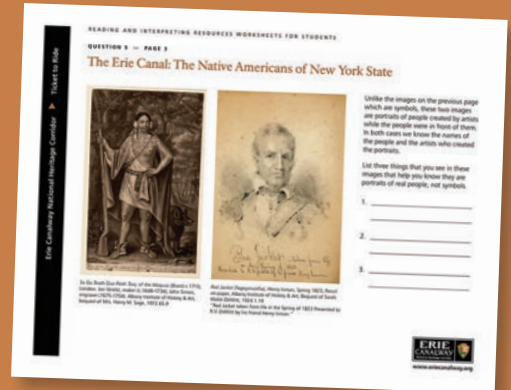
# HERITAGE



Medina, 1914

# TO RIDE

Erie Canalway Ticket to Ride offers transportation and educational program funding to schools to facilitate field trips, free of charge, to significant Erie Canal related historic sites throughout the 524-mile National Heritage Corridor. The program will continue in 2015, thanks to grants from the National Park Foundation and M&T Bank Charitable Foundation (Capital Region) and in kind support from the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT).



## NEW TEACHER RESOURCES

In conjunction with our Ticket to Ride Program, Erie Canalway released new document-based questions (DBQs) on the Erie Canal for use by fourth grade students. Nine worksheets were developed in partnership with the Albany Institute of History & Art, using resources of the Institute's collections and library.

## ERIE CANALWAY

### TICKET TO RIDE PARTNERS

**Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany**

**Arkell Museum, Canajoharie**

**Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango**

**Erie Canal Discovery Center, Lockport**

**Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse**

**Historic Palmyra, Palmyra**

**miSci, Schenectady**

**Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, Fort Hunter**

**Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry, Seneca Falls**

**Waterford Historical Museum, Waterford**



## GRANTS

**E**rie Canalway's grant program enables us to work with strong partners who can mobilize the Corridor's extraordinary heritage assets to create long-term value for our communities and locally-based economies.

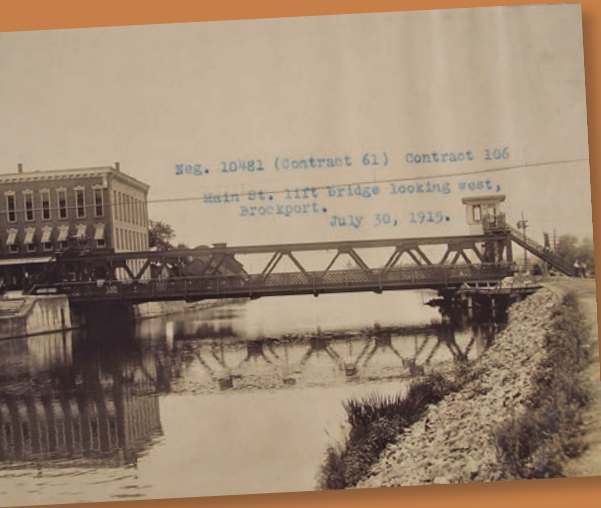
Erie Canalway has awarded more than \$350,000 in grants to date to help communities and organizations preserve and share New York's canal heritage and attract residents and visitors to the waterfront. In 2014, eleven innovative education and preservation projects received funding totaling \$72,534 from Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The grants were matched by an additional \$478,000 in private and public project funding raised by grant recipients.

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**"Thanks to the generosity of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, we will be able to develop public programming that emphasizes the important role immigrant populations played in forming the urban fabric of upstate cities such as Buffalo."**

*Stanton Hudson, Executive Director, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation*





## LOCKPORT FLIGHT RESTORATION

Locks 69 and 70, originally completed in 1849, are restored and working, thanks to longtime advocacy by the Lockport Locks Heritage District Corporation and collaboration between the City of Lockport and the NYS Canal Corporation. The \$2.6 million restoration completed Phase I of the Lockport Flight of Five restoration project. The twin engineering marvels are an important heritage tourism asset; Lockport is now the only location in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor where working locks from the 1800s can be viewed alongside currently operating locks. We were honored to play a supporting role by identifying resources at the onset of the project, spreading the word about progress, and attending the dedication ceremony.

## 2014 GRANT RECIPIENTS

**Albany Institute of History and Art,** Albany,  
Erie Canal in the Classroom

**Connective Corridor (Syracuse University),**  
Syracuse, Interactive Public Art Mural

**Corn Hill Navigation,** Rochester, Erie Canal Boat  
Tours for Rochester City School District

**Explore & More Children's Museum,** Buffalo,  
Planning for Moving Waters exhibition

**H. Lee White Maritime Museum at Oswego,**  
Oswego Canal Photo Essay Exhibit

**Montezuma Historical Society,** Montezuma,  
Organizational Planning

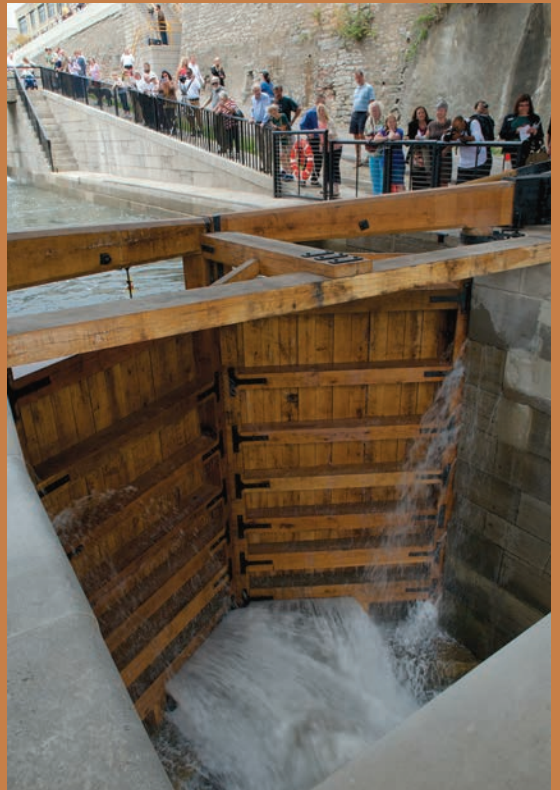
**New York Folklore Society,** Schenectady,  
Music and Dance in Brockport

**New York State Archives Partnership Trust,**  
Albany, Digitization of Erie Canal Records

**Preservation League of NYS,** Albany, Industrial  
Heritage Reuse Project

**Rochester Museum and Science Center,** Rochester,  
Canal Challenge for RMSC's Inventor Center

**Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation,**  
Buffalo, Immigration Patterns in Buffalo



# *Promote the Corridor*

## AS A WORLD CLASS TOURISM



## EVENT SPONSORSHIP

**F**rom large festivals to more intimate events and specialty programs, we're helping to ensure that there are plenty of reasons for people to head to the waterfront again and again.

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and the New York State Canal Corporation teamed up to sponsor 28 events in 2014 to showcase the Canalway Corridor's nationally significant heritage and the tremendous recreational appeal of the waterway and trails today. Our federal-

state partnership provided financial assistance to more communities and expanded the number of sponsored events from 20 in 2013 to 28 in 2014.

Events are a significant contributor to the \$380 million in economic impact generated annually by canal-related tourism. Erie Canalway and NYS Canal Corporation's investment in event sponsorships was matched nearly 50:1 by local sponsors and attracted a half million people in 2014.



# DESTINATION



Syracuse, ca.1890



Oswego Canal Paddlefest



## ERIE CANALWAY TRAIL

An **economic impact report of the Erie Canalway Trail**, released in 2014 by Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), demonstrates an annual trail traffic volume of more than **1.58 million visits per year**, generating approximately \$253 million. The study was supported in part by funding from the NYS Canal Corporation and Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

We also continued to sponsor **Cycling the Erie Canal**. The annual 400-mile, eight-day tour from Buffalo to Albany, organized by PTNY, introduces more than 500 riders to the trail each July. This year, several staff and commissioners participated in the ride as well. It was a perfect venue for assessing needs for additional tourism development. The scenic beauty, historic assets, and hometown hospitality of the Canalway Corridor combined to make the tour a world class experience.



## VISITOR INFORMATION

Each year, we help hundreds of thousands of visitors find their way to the best of what the National Heritage Corridor offers. Not only do we want people to have a great trip—we are striving to develop a more integrated system of historic, cultural, and recreational resources that collectively constitute the Corridor’s national significance.

### ERIE CANALWAY SITE DIRECTORY

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor produced a new directory of canal sites and museums to introduce residents and visitors to more than 45 sites all along the NYS Canal System. Each site showcases a different part of the canal’s legacy—from its famous locks and low bridges, to its transformation of New York State, to the prominent role it continues to play in shaping communities along its shores. The

directory also includes a map to show the location of each site and information about things to see and do along the canal. It is available free of charge at numerous canal sites and visitor centers.



### ERIE CANALWAY MAP & GUIDE

The site directory complements our annual Map & Guide. We distributed 60,000 copies this year at 75 visitor centers, cultural heritage sites, and tourism trade shows.

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TRAILS & RAILS PROGRAM

2,727 Amtrak passengers got a window on Erie Canal history as they traveled between Albany and Utica, thanks to 43 Trails & Rails volunteer guides. Guides are instrumental in telling the great stories of events and people that shaped the nation’s history and pointing out unique sights that might otherwise be missed.



*Near Clyde, ca. 1920*



#### **PHOTO CONTEST AND CALENDAR**

Since 2006, our popular photo contest and calendar of winning images shares the Corridor's beauty and heritage with residents and canal enthusiasts all year long. With the help of 75 libraries and museums, we distributed 15,000 calendars in 2014.

#### **VISITOR READINESS & CULTURAL HERITAGE FAMILIARIZATION TOUR**

In collaboration with the NY Cultural Heritage Tourism Network, we continued our Visitor Readiness Workshop series. Representatives from more than 25 organizations participated in mobile workshops that included tours at three museums: Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse, Chittenango Canal Boat Landing Museum in Chittenango, and William Seward House Museum in Auburn. Each site showcased best practices for hospitality and welcome, communications, orientation, and planning for the future.





# Foster Vibrant Comm

CONNECTED BY

## DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT FORUM

Efforts to leverage historic assets and revitalize communities are driven by partnerships. Erie Canalway plays varying roles, from fully involved project catalyst to convener of key stakeholders to support and information sharing.

Erie Canalway hosted its 2nd annual downtown investment forum, *Where Canal Meets Commercial Corridor: Unlocking Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Your Downtown*. Held in Buffalo, the full-day

session brought together investment experts, entrepreneurs, community leaders, and developers to discuss successes, challenges, and models for downtown investment, with special emphasis on the Maker Movement.

“Makerspaces” with 21st century manufacturing equipment, education, and a spirit of cooperation are already providing unprecedented access to the tools of innovation in several canal communities. The forum enabled us to convene





Joe Cascio

experts and facilitate dialog among 100 enthusiastic attendees interested in fostering innovative development and reusing downtown industrial spaces.

Many thanks to our event sponsors (listed on page 17) and to Preservation Buffalo Niagara and the Western Erie Canal Alliance for their assistance with logistics and outreach.



Andrew Lauren

## 2017 WORLD CANALS CONFERENCE COMING TO SYRACUSE

A successful pitch from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, NYS Canal Corporation, and Syracuse Convention and Visitor Bureau led Inland Waterways International to select the City of Syracuse as the location for the 2017 World Canals Conference. The conference will bring together hundreds of canal professionals, scholars, and enthusiasts from around the world to focus on issues related to canals. We're excited to shine the spotlight on our world class heritage and the bicentennial of the construction of the Erie Canal in 1817.

## 2014 NEW YORK STATE CANAL CONFERENCE

Erie Canalway served on the steering committee for this year's state canal conference, spearheaded by the New York State Canal Society. The conference brought together more than 160 canal stakeholders for two days of workshops and tours. We also hosted a pre-conference paddling trip along the Cayuga-Seneca Canal to introduce participants to paddling resources and the potential for an expanded water trail along the canal system.

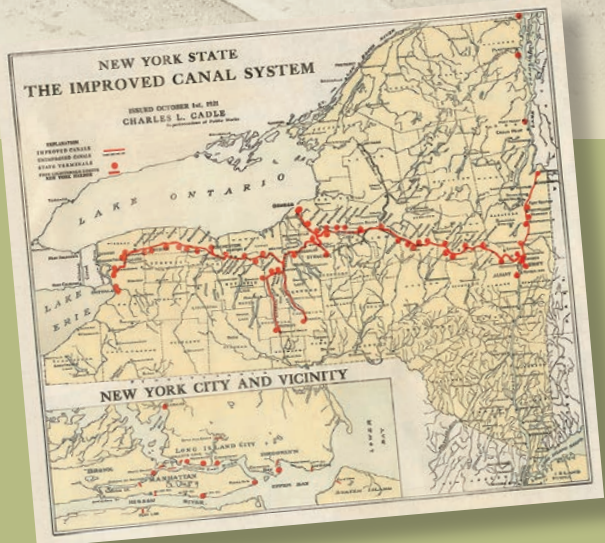
## ECONOMIC IMPACT

According to a 2014 study commissioned by the New York State Canal Corporation, the NYS Canal System supports over **\$6.2 billion annually in non-tourism economic activity**, including: renewable power generation, industrial uses, public and agricultural water supplies, research and development, and commercial shipping. ([www.canals.ny.gov](http://www.canals.ny.gov))



# *Sustaining Our Work*

Lyons, ca. 1917



“The Erie Canal Corridor is one of America’s richest treasures, and holds enormous potential that we are still unlocking. The extension of this National Heritage Corridor is an important step to continue garnering the national recognition it deserves.”

– Senator Kirsten Gillibrand



#### **ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION EXTENDED**

Thanks to the leadership of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-26), Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-19), and many other upstate New York representatives, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission has been extended to September 30, 2021. We are grateful for such strong support and will continue to work closely with the National Park Service, New York State agencies, and local municipalities and organizations to implement our award-winning Preservation and Management Plan.

#### **CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS**

Erie Canalway Commission Chair Russ Andrews and Director Bob Radliff joined representatives from other National Heritage Areas in Washington, D.C. to brief members of Congress and the National Park Service about significant advances and accomplishments. The annual meetings provide an invaluable opportunity to emphasize how public-private partnerships are helping to preserve the Corridor's extraordinary heritage, while stimulating community revitalization.



*Champlain Canal*

#### **ERIE CANALWAY HERITAGE FUND GROWING STRONGER**

The Erie Canalway Heritage Fund is the Commission's not-for-profit partner. It helps to manage the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and raise resources for special projects. The partnership fully utilizes the best aspects of the public and private sectors to maximize efficiency, leverage increased resources, and heighten the impact our work.

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**"Continuation of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor provides a federal commitment to promoting and expanding the rich natural and cultural features along the Erie Canal across the state, and supports ongoing momentum along Western New York's waterfront."** – Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-26)

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**"I am proud to say we have a long history of working with not-for-profit organizations dedicated to increasing the quality of life and economic opportunities in the communities we serve. The Erie Canalway Heritage Fund does just that and it has a proven track record of doing it well."** – Robert G. Wilmers, Chairman and CEO, M&T Bank

# FINANCIAL REPORT\*

October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014

## SUPPORT & REVENUE

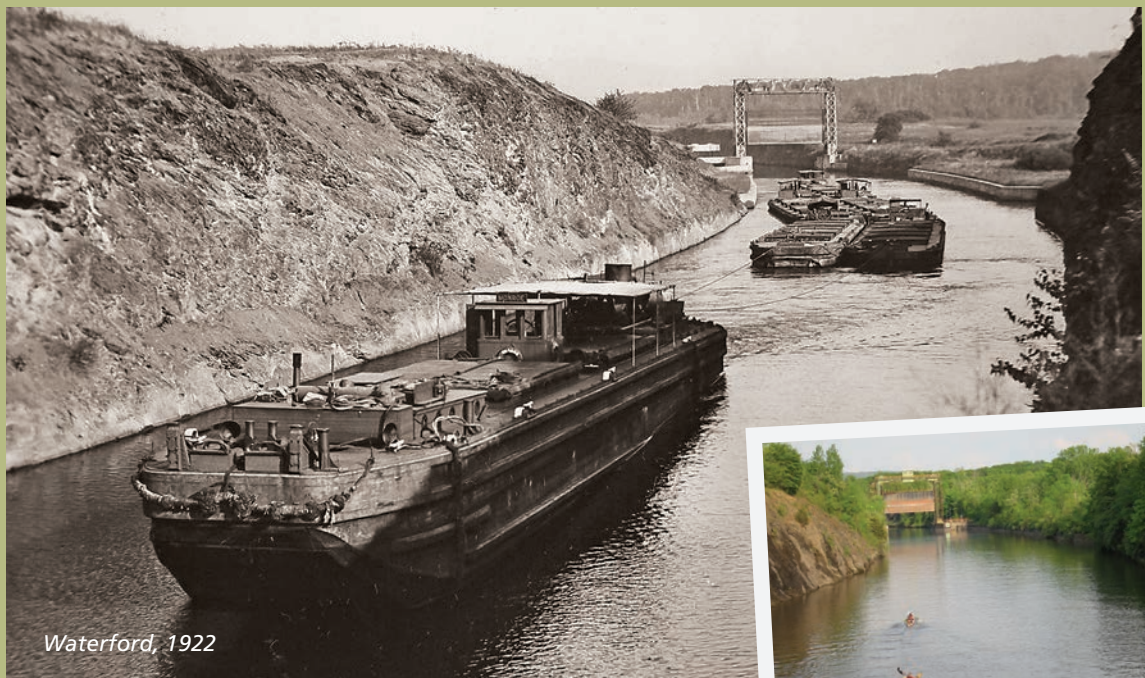
■ Federal & State. . . . .	\$994,685
■ Contributions, Grants & Sponsorships . . . . .	\$79,530
■ In-kind Contributions . . . . .	\$5,654
■ Program Service Fees. . . . .	\$1,705
<b>Total. . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,081,574</b>

By working with municipal and nonprofit partners, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor leveraged more than \$1.5 million in FY 2014 in support of program and project activities consistent with our award-winning Preservation and Management Plan.

## EXPENSES

■ Preserve & Share Our Extraordinary Heritage. . . . .	\$463,699
■ Promote the Corridor as a World Class Destination. . . . .	\$216,225
■ Foster Vibrant Communities Connected by the Waterway. . . . .	\$92,502
■ Program Support, Management & Resource Development . . . . .	\$246,421
<b>Total. . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,018,847</b>

\* The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor benefits from the work of two entities—a federal Commission and the nonprofit Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. These simplified financial statements reflect a summary for both entities. The Commission auditor is Testone, Marshall & Discenza, LLP. The Heritage Fund auditor is Cusack & Company, CPAs LLC. More detailed and audited financial statements for each may be requested by contacting our office. In addition, financial statements for the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund may be obtained from the NYS Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10271.





## DONATIONS, GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

### Erie Canalway Leadership Circle (\$10,000+)

First Niagara Bank Foundation  
The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation  
New York State Canal Corporation

### Erie Canalway Legacy Partners (\$5,000-9,999)

Empire State Development/I Love New York  
National Park Foundation  
R.W. Dake & Co., Inc.

### Erie Canalway Heritage Supporter (\$1,000-4,999)

The Krog Corporation  
M&T Charitable Foundation (Capital Region)  
National Grid

### Corporate (up to \$999)

Bergmann Associates  
Cannon Heyman & Weiss LLP  
Ciminelli Real Estate Corporation  
City of Amsterdam  
Community Preservation Corp.  
Eric Mower & Associates  
Goucher College  
Gregory Orr Productions LLC  
Jaeckle Fleishmann & Mugel, LLP  
Philip Scalia Photography

### In Kind Services

2K Design  
NYSUT  
Phil Scalia Photography

### ABOUT THE HISTORICAL IMAGES IN THIS REPORT

Erie Canalway awarded a grant to the New York State Archives Partnership Trust in 2014 to digitize NYS Barge Canal images from the early 1900s in the New York State Archives. We can now more readily share these historical images. Historical image on page 2 courtesy of New York State Museum, Albany, and on pages 8 and 11 courtesy Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse, NY.

### Individuals

James Alden  
John Winthrop Aldrich  
MaryBeth Andersen  
Peter Anderson  
Russell Andrews  
Anonymous  
Michael Aubrey  
Linda Baker  
Kent Barwick  
Nancy Bellamy  
Richard and Jeanne Blake  
Barbara Blanchard  
Thomas Blanchard  
Sandra Blood  
Carol Bradshaw  
John Bricklemeyer  
Adam Bruce  
Elizabeth Burns  
Rosemary Button  
Jennifer Caccavale  
Peter Cammarata  
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Jacqueline Cassaniti  
Clayton Cloen  
Seth Cohen  
Jennifer Cranch  
George Damiano  
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Stephen DeJohn  
Henry Dewey  
Joan DiChristina  
Carolyn and Dan Diduro  
Deborah Diorio  
Judith Doyle  
Richard Drosse  
Robert Elliott  
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George Fitzgerald  
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Deborah Williams  
Susan Williams  
Lynne Williamson  
Peter Zonnevylle

*Our apologies for any errors or omissions.*



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# LEADERSHIP

## CORRIDOR COMMISSION

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**Chair** Russell S. Andrews, Syracuse  
**Vice Chair** Barbara Blanchard, Cohoes  
**Secretary** Alan Vincent, Little Falls  
**Treasurer** Pieter W. Smeenk, Fairport  
**Ex Officio** Michael Caldwell, Secretary of the Interior Designee

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Jackie Czub, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets\*  
Victoria W. Daly, Palmyra  
James Farr, Rochester  
Anthony Giardina, NYS Dept. of State  
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Marilyn Higgins, Syracuse  
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Frank Proto, Slaterville\*  
Judy Schmidt-Dean, Schuylerville  
Harry Sicherman, Lockport\*  
Peter J. Snyder, NYS Dept. of Transportation  
Mary Elizabeth Stewart, Albany\*  
Brian Stratton, NYS Canal Corporation  
Honorable Ann Thane, Amsterdam  
Christopher T. Walsh, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Peter Wiles Jr., Macedon

*\*Secretary of the Interior appointment pending*

## HERITAGE FUND BOARD

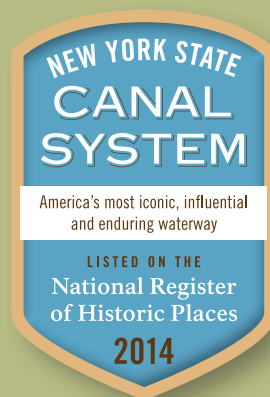
### Officers

**Chair** Thomas D. Blanchard, Buffalo  
**Vice Chair** Robert Elliott, Croton-on-Hudson  
**Secretary** Hon. Kimberly M. Seager, Oswego  
**Treasurer** Peter J. Welsby, Youngstown

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Kent Barwick, New York City  
Barbara Blanchard, Cohoes\*  
Lee DeAmicus, Syracuse  
Timothy Malchow, Buffalo  
Paul Neureuter, East Amherst  
D. Kenneth Patton, New York City  
David S. Sampson, Troy  
Judith Schmidt-Dean, Schuylerville\*  
Pieter W. Smeenk, Fairport\*  
Alan N. Vincent, Little Falls\*  
Dorian Wells, Schenectady

*\*Commission representative*



## STAFF

Bob Radliff, Executive Director  
Hannah Blake, Director of Planning and Heritage Development  
Rosemary Button, Director of Financial Administration  
Duncan Hay, Historian  
Diane Jennings, Director of Administrative Services  
Andy Kitzmann, Assistant Director  
Jean Mackay, Director of Communications and Outreach  
Lori Solomon, Director of Heritage Tourism

## CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

### U.S. Senators

Charles Schumer  
Kirsten Gillibrand

### U.S. Representatives

Chris Collins  
Chris Gibson  
Richard Hanna  
Brian Higgins  
Dan Maffei  
Bill Owens  
Tom Reed  
Louise Slaughter  
Paul Tonko

## TRANSITIONS

Judy Schmidt Dean retired as Commission Chair in 2014. Judy served from 2002 to 2014 and led the Commission since 2010. Her engaging leadership helped the Commission develop a model for collaborative management with the Heritage Fund that has proved critical for advancing organizational growth and sustainability.

Staff member Lori Solomon moved on after more than eight years of service. Lori played a key role in the 2007 Journey of the *Lois McClure*, the 2012 Spare Seat tour, and other cultural heritage tourism initiatives. We thank her for her efforts.

Former Commissioner Stu Stein passed away in June. Stu helped shepherd the Commission through its early development and management planning process, lending his great expertise to help build a firm foundation for organizational success.