

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



In partnership with the National Park Service

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.

New York's canal system and the great cities, charming villages, and rich natural lands along its shores are a nationally-significant resource of historic and recreational value. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor provides the critical link that unites them.

With a 524-mile long Corridor that is home to 2.7 million New Yorkers, our organization is tasked with looking at the big picture. How can we ensure that our canals drive economic development and stimulate cultural innovation in the 21st century? How can we draw national and international attention to our distinctive heritage, our communities, our waterways, and our trails?

The answer lies in our ability to reach across the distance and bring diverse partners together. We are in a unique position to leverage federal, state, and local resources and focus public and private investment to benefit the entire region.

And the answer lies in you. Whether you contribute financially or offer volunteer services, expertise, or community and organizational leadership, your involvement is vital.

Take a look at what we achieved together in 2013.

Thanks to you, we are preserving and sharing New York's legendary canal heritage, promoting the entire Corridor as a world class tourism destination, and fostering vibrant communities connected by our treasured waterways.

TOGETHER,
WE CAN ACHIEVE
GREAT THINGS.



"Thank you so much for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Calendar! The imagery is extraordinary and it helps me relate to my children the splendid place New York State is—with its incomparable scenery, history, culture, and natural resources."

David B. Bookless, AICP, Planning & Economic Development Administrator, City of Bridgeton

PRESERVE AND SHARE

OUR EXTRAORDINARY CANAL HERITAGE



More than 2,600 students from 11 school districts experienced exceptional education programs at three historic canal sites thanks to Erie Canalway's Ticket to Ride Program.



Nine innovative preservation and education projects got off the ground this year with funding support from our Grants Program. Our investment of \$45,800 in grants was matched by \$101,230 in additional project funding.



Eleven canal-related museums and historic sites made needed technology upgrades, improved outreach, or engaged in long-range planning, thanks to \$34,000 in Erie Canalway Capacity Building Grants for Partners.



Tuesdays on the Towpath, a series of guided bike rides, introduced 85 people, aged seven to 70, to the history, nature, and geology of the Old Erie Canal in Central New York. Our partners at Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum and the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse spearheaded the project, with funding provided by Erie Canalway.



With the help of libraries and visitor centers throughout the Corridor, we distributed 15,000 Erie Canalway Calendars free of charge to enthusiastic patrons. Images in the calendar showcase the Corridor's historic and distinctive sense of place and were selected from more than 300 entries to our 8th Annual Photo Contest.



100,000 youth will have the opportunity to play with a working lock model in 2014 at the Rochester Museum & Science Center, thanks to a \$6,250 Erie Canalway grant and the work of dedicated RMSC volunteers who logged 1,200 hours building the model.

"THANK YOU for the opportunity to participate in Ticket to Ride! My students LOVED IT! YOU ROCK!"

Shelly Crowley, North Broad Elementary, Oneida, NY

CAPITALIZING ON HERITAGE



Bravo, Village of Canastota!

This village of 4,000 residents in central New York is showcasing its canal heritage with two new murals depicting how the canal fueled prosperity in Canastota during the 1800s, as well as interpretive signs and a pocket park along the Old Erie Canal. The project kicked off with an Erie Canalway grant of \$7,000 for the murals, which served as the catalyst for \$24,000 in additional investment.

More than 200 people attended a ceremony in August to unveil the new murals. The highlight of the celebration was a team of mules pulling a small boat with hops grown nearby for the town's newly opened Erie Canal Brewing Company.

"This project has been awesome for the Village. We've had lots of traction and people from all over looking at the murals."

Larry Carpenter, Administrator,
Village of Canastota



But the murals aren't only intended as a history lesson. They are part of Canastota's plan to capture the attention of more than 33,800 drivers that pass through the village each day, more than 500 cyclists who come through during Cycling the Erie Canal each summer, and thousands of visitors to the International Boxing Hall of Fame and Canastota Canal Town Museum each year.

The murals, park, museums, and canal reinforce one another and invite visitors to stop and explore the village, rather than pass by. What a great return on our investment.

2013 Erie Canalway Grant Recipients

American Locomotive Company Heritage Museum, Schenectady • Collaboration and Competition: Early Canals and Railroad Exhibit

Capital Repertory Theatre, Albany • On the Go: Friend of a Friend—African American Heroes of New York's Freedom Network Performance

History Center in Tompkins County, Ithaca • Creation of a Canal Collection

H. Lee White Marine Museum, Oswego • Derrick Boat 8 Structural Survey Project

Hoag Library, Albion • Erie Canal Display

NYS Bicycling Coalition, multiple locations • Bicycle Tour Loop Maps: From the Canal to the Interior

Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester • Interactive Canal Lock Exhibit

Village of Canastota and the Canastota Canal Town Museum • Canal-scape Enhancements and Mural Project

Village of Spencerport • Walk Through History Tour and Guide

"These grants do more than remind us where we've been—they show us where we have the potential to go."

Congresswoman Louise Slaughtor, NY-25

PROMOTE THE CORRIDOR

AS A WORLD CLASS TOURISM DESTINATION



An estimated 43,000 people attended 20 community festivals and events sponsored by Erie Canalway to promote heritage, recreation, and community pride. Nearly 700 events took place along the canal corridor in 2013.



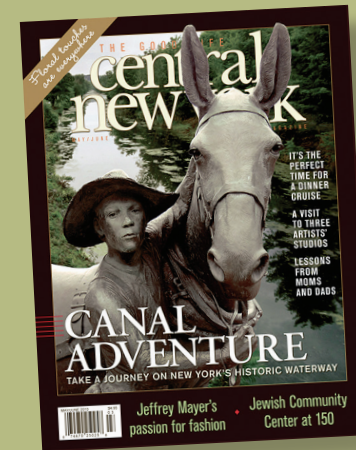
We sponsored four corridor-wide events during the summer season to help link canal communities and promote unique ways for visitors to experience the best of the Erie Canalway. Events included: Journey Along the Erie Canal, Cycling the Erie Canal, Canal Splash Weekend, and the Schooner *Lois McClure* 2013 Tour.



Residents and visitors are finding their way to the waterway with the help of the Erie Canalway Map & Guide and new video “*Take the Road Less Travelled.*” We distributed 60,000 copies of the guide at 75 visitor centers and cultural heritage sites in 2013; nearly 3,000 people viewed the video on YouTube.



2,585 Amtrak riders got a window on Erie Canal history as they traveled from Albany to Syracuse, thanks to our 47 Trails and Rails Program volunteer guides. Thousands more learned about the NYS Canal System thanks to a special feature in *New York By Rail* magazine, developed by Canal New York, with assistance from Erie Canalway and the NYS Canal Corporation.



Numerous organizations and publications reached out to us in 2013 to provide maps, images, and content for magazines, travel guides, videos, and websites that feature the Erie Canalway. Nearly 100,000 people visited our own website this year.



Ninety-seven representatives from heritage sites, museums, and businesses attended *Are You Visitor Ready*, a day-long workshop in Syracuse presented by Erie Canalway and the NYS Cultural Heritage Tourism Network. The workshop provided guidance on marketing, visitor orientation, and hospitality to help sites capitalize on trends in cultural heritage tourism.

LET FREEDOM RING

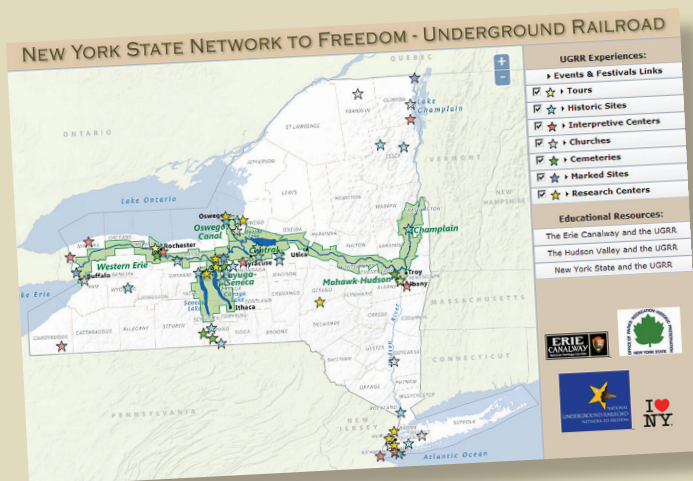
In the 1800s, the Erie Canal not only transported people and products, it was a conduit for ideas and social reform movements. Now, with the help of capable and talented partners and resources from Erie Canalway, we are telling the story of the canal's influence on the national movement to end slavery.

Thanks to a new online map and mobile app, New Yorkers and visitors to the state can now more readily walk in the path of freedom seekers and prominent abolitionists. The New York State Network to Freedom interactive map includes publicly-accessible Underground Railroad sites, programs, and tours that have been approved by the National Park Service

Network to Freedom Program or the New York State Underground Railroad Heritage Trail.

Spearheaded by Erie Canalway, in partnership with I LOVE NEW YORK and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the map links sites and stories and shows the movement of people and ideas statewide.

In 2013, we also connected students to the struggle for freedom that took place along the banks of the Erie Canal. With funding provided by Erie Canalway, 6,400 students at 36 schools in 16 cities in the greater Capital Region were treated to performances of *Friend of a Friend-African American Heroes of New York's Freedom Network*, performed by Capital Repertory Theatre.



"The grant we received from the Erie Canalway made a real difference for our production of *Friend of a Friend*. We received press coverage for the show and sold out our tour! We couldn't have done that without the prestige of your organization."

Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill, Capital Repertory Theatre

GRANBY FULTON VOLNEY SCHROEPEL HASTINGS PHOENIX CENTRAL SQUARE WEST MONROE CONSTANTIA CLEVELAND
CAMILLUS GEDDES SOLVAY SALINA CLAY NORTH SYRACUSE SYRACUSE CICERO DEWITT EAST SYRACUSE MINOA



JOE SCHUYLER



NO ORDINARY JOURNEY

Until 2012, 45-year-old John Robinson had never ridden a bicycle. In 2013, Robinson, who was born a quad amputee, and his colleague Doug Hamlin, who became a paraplegic at age 23, led a team of cyclists on a 350-mile, 17-day *Journey Along the Erie Canal* from North Tonawanda to Albany.

Along the way, they touched the lives of 2,500 people who came out to hear them speak or who rode alongside them for parts of the journey.

“The Erie Canal still reminds us to dream big and persevere,” said Robinson. “We thought it was the perfect backdrop for achieving our goal to raise awareness about the ability of all people to achieve what they set their mind to.”

Robinson is founder of Our Ability, Inc., an organization that mentors and inspires people with disabilities through positive video stories. The idea for the ride sprung from Robinson’s desire to help people celebrate their abilities and overcome obstacles. Our Ability’s cameras chronicled the tour for a television documentary and provided daily video and blog updates.

Erie Canalway staff helped Robinson and Hamlin put together a team from NYS Canal Corporation and Parks & Trails New York to assist with trip planning. In addition to cycling, the team spent a day paddling and also traveled short sections of canal by tour boat to test the accessibility of various modes of travel. Erie

Canalway also provided financial and logistical support, assisted with outreach to communities, and helped to promote the journey.

“Erie Canalway’s support made a critical difference,” shared Robinson. “From the first phone call when I proposed to them this crazy idea to when we finally crossed the finish line, Erie Canalway was there for us.”

Robinson and Hamlin’s journey spread the word that the Erie Canalway Trail and the National Heritage Corridor is for everybody. We were proud to support them and will continue working to ensure that America’s legendary waterway invites and inspires the dreamers and doers of today and in years to come.

Watch for the return of the Our Ability team as they build on their success with a second *Journey Along the Erie Canal* in July 2014.



"National Heritage Areas are places where small investments pay huge dividends, providing demonstrable benefits in communities across the country and in partnership with our national parks."

National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis

FOSTER VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

CONNECTED BY THE WATERWAY



Erie Canalway presented the Heritage Award of Excellence to Enlarged Erie Lock 60 and Gallup's Change Bridge #39 in Macedon. The award honored volunteers and the Town and Village of Macedon for their 25-year effort to preserve and showcase this authentic and irreplaceable part of our nation's canal heritage.



Bushnell's Basin Boat Dock and Canal Amenity Center in the Town of Perinton received an Honorable Mention award in recognition of canal access improvements and amenities that have made Bushnell's Basin a destination for residents and visitors to the Erie Canal.



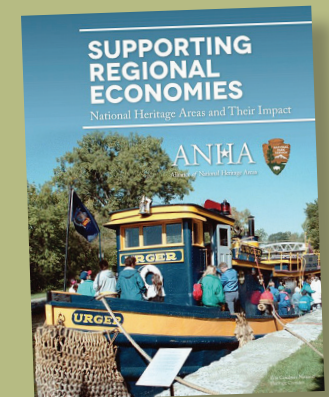
The Trail of Hope in Lyons received an Honorable Mention award in recognition of outstanding community efforts to create a remarkable trail and gardens that serve both residents and visitors to Lyons.



Commercial shipping on the NYS Canal System experienced its busiest year in two decades. Approximately 95,000 tons of cargo—the equivalent of roughly 4,500 tractor trailers—moved via the canal.



Erie Canalway joined other National Heritage Areas to reach out to members of Congress and the National Park Service to share our accomplishments. From left: Commission Chair Judy Schmidt-Dean, Director Beth Sciumeca, Congressman Paul Tonko (NY-20), NPS Director Jon Jarvis, and Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (MA-3) in Washington, D.C.



Erie Canalway is proud to be part of a network of National Heritage Areas that contribute an estimated \$12.9 billion annually to the national economy. National Heritage Areas in the Northeast Region support more than 66,880 community-based jobs.

DANUBE DOLGEVILLE MANHEIM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

MINDEN

ST. JOHNSVILLE

FORT PLAIN

NELLISTON

AMES

PALATINE BRIDGE

PALATINE

CANAJOHARIE

ROOT

FONDA

SARATOGA COUNTY

FULTONVILLE

GLEN

CLIFTON PARK

FORT JOHNSON

HALFMOON

AMSTERDAM

SARATOGA

HAGAMAN

MOREAU

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

SOUTH GLENS FALLS

PRINCETOWN

NORTHUMBERLAND

GLENVILLE

WHERE CANAL MEETS COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR

Vibrant canal downtowns are coming back! From Buffalo's Canalside District to the revitalization of State Street in Schenectady, investments in downtowns are reversing years of urban flight and manufacturing decline that left many Main Streets underused. Communities are now capitalizing on their waterfronts and distinctive historic architecture to attract new businesses and invite people to live downtown once more.

The Erie Canalway is playing a valuable role as a catalyst and convener to help fuel this positive trend. In 2013, our Downtown Investment Forum in Schenectady brought together nearly 100 planners, economic development groups, private developers, and community leaders to share investment strategies.

Participants from across the canal corridor learned from leaders in the field as guest speakers, panelists, and participants shared insights, successes, and challenges to downtown renewal. Kennedy Smith, a national expert on Main Street revitalization and principal of The CLUE Group, LLC, kicked off the day with a look at recent economic trends in retailing, leisure, housing, and travel and addressed how these trends impact private mixed-use real estate investment. Journalist and author Amy Cortese delivered the luncheon address on crowd-funding and other local investment strategies.

At the end of the day, the forum strengthened professional networks and renewed optimism for those in the trenches of community development work. Participants came away with a better understanding of how projects throughout the canal corridor reinforce one another for the benefit of the entire region.

Stay tuned for a second Downtown Investment Forum in western New York in June 2014!



"Thank you for bringing together so many people... It is always a pleasure to hear others talk about what they have been able to do with much creativity and unrelenting effort. We want to do the same thing. In many ways, for us small village folks, it is a reality check. We aren't that far out after all."

Micki Leiber, Village of Fort Plain



SCHENECTADY BY BRIAN J. MOAK, MOAKFILMS.COM

SUSTAINING OUR WORK

FINANCIAL REPORT

October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013

INCOME

■ Federal Appropriation (National Park Service)	\$627,000
■ Donations and Sponsorships (Individuals, Businesses, & Foundations).	\$52,751
■ NYS Council on the Arts Grant	\$5,000
Total.	\$684,751

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor leveraged an additional \$1.18 million in 2013 to support projects and programs throughout the Corridor by working with federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

EXPENSES

■ Preserve & Share Our Extraordinary Heritage	\$248,149
■ Promote the Corridor as a World Class Destination.	\$205,793
■ Foster Vibrant Communities Connected by the Waterway	\$142,984
■ Administrative, Finance and Resource Development	\$81,339
Total.	\$678,265

Financial Notes

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor benefits from the work of two entities—a federally supported Commission and the not-for-profit Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. These simplified financial statements reflect a summary for both entities. 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.

We can't do it without you. Whether you contribute financially or offer volunteer services, expertise, or community and organizational leadership, your support is vital to our work.

DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS

We thank the many individuals who contributed financially to our work in 2013. We are truly grateful for your support! Special thanks to the **NYS Canal Corporation, Brookfield Renewable Energy Group,** and **I LOVE NY** for sponsoring our publications in 2013.

We are also pleased to acknowledge two significant donations received just after the close of our fiscal year. A \$50,000 grant from **The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation** will allow us to expand our capacity and leverage additional funds in 2014. In addition, the **First Niagara Bank Foundation** provided a \$10,000 grant to support our Ticket to Ride Program, enabling us to serve and inspire more school children from rural and urban environments.

LEADERSHIP

CORRIDOR COMMISSION

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Vice Chair	Russell Andrews, Syracuse
Secretary	Alan Vincent, Little Falls
Treasurer	Peter Welsby, Youngstown
Ex Officio	Dennis Reidenbach, Secretary of the Interior Designee

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Robert Shibley, Buffalo
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Peter J. Snyder, NYS Department of Transportation
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Honorable Ann Thane, Amsterdam
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Vice Chair	Robert Elliott, Croton-on-Hudson
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*Commission representative

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Bob Radliff, Acting 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

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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

Robert Shibley of Buffalo retired from the Commission in 2013. During his tenure from 2006 to 2013, Bob provided leadership in many areas, including strategic planning and the development of the Erie Canalway Heritage Award program. Jonathan Daniels, former executive director of the Port of Oswego also left the Commission. Daniels moved to Mississippi and now serves as the executive director at the Port of Gulfport.

We also said farewell to executive director Beth Sciumeca. Since 2006, Beth's dedicated leadership and expertise advanced both organizational and programmatic capacity of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. She moves on to a new position within the Northeast Region of the National Park Service.

In September, we welcomed Bob Radliff as Acting Director. Bob has more than 25 years of experience raising and managing resources and implementing programs for mission-driven nonprofit organizations. For the last 17 years, he served as the executive director of a nonprofit financial institution with a community development mission. He is a lifelong resident of the Corridor.



Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
P.O. Box 219
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 237-7000
www.eriecanalway.org



OLD ERIE CANAL STATE PARK