

Erie Canalway News Release

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Canal Events on Tap for 2016

Festivals and recreational events kick off the 192nd opening of the Erie Canal

WATERFORD, NY- The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and the New York State Canal Corporation have teamed up to sponsor **28 festivals and events** in 2016 to showcase the Canalway Corridor's nationally significant heritage and the tremendous recreational appeal of the waterway and trails today. Events include cycling and paddling tours, canal festivals, and concerts at the waterfront. The canal system is **scheduled to open May 1**, weather permitting.

"We are proud to partner with communities and organizations to ensure a lively and fun season along the canal," said **Bob Radliff, Executive Director** of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. "Starting in May and going right through the fall, these events offer great ways for people to explore and enjoy the canal."

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 is expected to be matched nearly 10:1 by local sponsors and attract 64,000 people. Sponsored events are just a few of the more than 400 events that take place each year along New York's canals.

"We are pleased to once again support a wonderful season of local events along the canal system," said **Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton**. "The world-class festivals and sporting events held on the canals attract thousands of visitors to upstate New York and are a boon to local economies. From mariners and cyclists, to food and wine enthusiasts, there is something for everyone to enjoy this season."

This year's **event highlights include**: *Low Bridge, High Water*- a canal opening celebration in Brockport in May, the *Little Falls Cheese Festival* in June, *Canal Days* at Schoharie Crossing SHS in July, *Towpath Day* in Camillus in August, and the *Waterford Tugboat Roundup* in September.

Visit www.eriecanalway.org/explore events for events sponsored.

ABOUT THE ERIE CANALWAY

Nearly 200 years after its construction, the Erie Canal remains an iconic symbol of American ingenuity and determination. The **Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor** preserves our extraordinary canal heritage, promotes the Corridor as a world-class tourism destination, and fosters vibrant communities connected by more than 500 miles of waterway. We achieve our mission in partnership with the National Park Service, New York State agencies, non-profit organizations, local residents, and more than 200 communities across the full expanse of upstate New York.

www.eriecanalway.org

ABOUT THE NEW YORK STATE CANAL CORPORATION

The New York State Canal System is owned and operated by the New York State Canal Corporation. The canal is typically open for boating from May 1st through November 15th. For current information on locking fees , up-to-date Notices to Mariners, or to order the official *Cruising Guide to the New York State Canal System,* visit www.canals.ny.gov or call 1-800-4-CANAL-4 (1-800-422-6254).