



# THE MULE

WINTER 2022

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



*Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park - Founded 1972*

## AIR CONDITIONING!!!

Last spring, the decision was made to air condition **Sims' Store** and museum in order to protect the volunteers and artifacts from the ever-increasing summer heat. We elected to air condition the lunch room, the upstairs storage room, the mural room and the dollhouse room with units that allow us to direct airflow down the stairs and from the mural room down into the gallery.

Of our three bids, **Barth Heating and Air Conditioning**, a small firm with a very good reputation, provided the best proposal, offering the best product at slightly more than the lowest bid. We approached the town for funding, but were advised that because of our other financial priorities (principally funding a new, full-time coordinator) it was very unlikely that the board would approve the \$16,000 needed. This fall we kicked off a fundraising campaign and in a very short time we received enough donations to cover the inflated price of \$19,500. On December 20 and 21 the system was installed. Since it is a heat pump as well as air conditioner, we are currently heating most of the building at one third the cost of the old baseboard heat system. We wish to thank all who contributed and are looking forward to increased comfort for volunteers and visitors to the museum!

**Gail Banks**, our treasurer, would like to share some of the nice comments that were included with the donations:



*"So happy to make a donation to the air conditioning fund ... it will help to make the museum a cooler place for volunteers, visitors and preserve the artifacts! Thanks for doing this!!"*

*"It is important to preserve the artifacts and to make it more comfortable for all. Love the park!"*

*"Been a longtime fan of the park - glad I could make a contribution to the air conditioning! Keep up the good work!"*

A note of gratitude: We thank **Bob Randall** for his technical knowledge in investigating and supervising the installation. We are all enjoying the benefits!

## JIM MURPHY RECEIVES HONOR

On December 5, **Jim Murphy** was given an **Immaculata Award** by the **Catholic Diocese** at the **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**. **Immaculata Awards** were instituted in December 2011 as a component of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic Diocese in Central New York. The award recognizes and honors "those who generously and unselfishly give of themselves to their parishes and whose love for the Church has been shown through their devotion to the **Holy Father**, as well as to our Diocese. They are the unsung heroes in our midst who build up our parish communities by extraordinary service in parish ministry in volunteer service." This recognition is truly well deserved!

We are also pleased to announce that Jim has been appointed **3rd Vice-President** of the **Camillus Canal Society**.

**HOLIDAY PARTY**



***"IT WAS BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE..."***

To usher the holiday season **Pat Cooper** decked the outside of the museum with colorful wreaths and roping. In the Gere Lock room area Pat also set up an array of decorations depicting small villages and towns "dressed in holiday style." **Fran and Jay Logan** and **granddaughter Shannon** trimmed the **Christmas tree**. **Barbara Brady** and **Nadine Watson** decorated the gift shop area. Garlands of twinkling lights outlined the counters. **Debbie Dilg** and **Sue Paddock** enjoyed decking the halls upstairs.

**Judy Porter** spread holiday cheer in arranging the serving tables with lovely lanterns. We set up serving stations in the snack bar and the Gere Lock area as well as upstairs. **Ken Neijstrum** and **Dave Hoag** greeted the volunteers. Tables were overflowing with tantalizing favorite treats. **Mary Ellen Hoag, Sue Paddock, Janet Conners, Barbara Brady** and **Jean Thomas** hosted the festivities. **Jim Thrall** provided us with a wonderful afternoon of music. **Pat Cooper** and **Eileen Ordinetz** arranged a beautiful raffle basket. Through their efforts about \$90 was contributed to the A/C fund.

We were very pleased to host **Joan Cofrancesco** for a book signing of her great new children's book entitled, **BILLIE BUNNY GOES TO PARIS**. **Janine Bartolotti**, the book's illustrator, was also with us. Joan is a gifted, prolific writer, and you may enjoy her other works.

Out in the pavilion **Joe and Vickie Menzel** served hot chocolate to hardy merrymakers by the blazing fire built by **Fred Cossick**. Everyone enjoyed the s'mores.



**Tom Barba** took very nice photos of the holiday party.

To continue the holiday spirit hand decorated candy bowls by **Sue Paddock** and **Debbie Dilg** were presented to the Highway Department, Parks Department, Town Clerk, Comptroller's Office and Town Hall Maintenance Police, WAVES, and the Fairmount Fire Department. **Kandi Ladd** and **Michelle Graveline** made our signature canal cakes and delivered them to the Police, WAVES and the Fairmount Fire department.

We are indebted to the Wednesday and Saturday work crews who brought the decorations in from the barn. We especially want to thank **Jim Murphy, Warren Baldwin, Bill Kunkle, Tony Lasinski, Ron Cottet, Don Mosher, Richard Seubert** and **Hayden Jones**.

" Oswego Advertiser & Times  
|| Monday, November 20, 1871



" In The Canal. - This morning a disconsolate team, used for propelling purposes on the raging canal, made a " bold strike for freedom from the galling servitude of the driver's lash and the discouraging tow-line, by run- ||  
" ning away at full speed down the tow-path below the lock just above the bridge. They were having a success- " ||  
" ful run of it, and bid fair to accomplish their purpose, when the tow-path came to an abrupt termination near " ||  
" the foundation of the new building being erected on the east end of the bridge. " ||

|| As they were running lively it was found impossible to stop suddenly, and as a consequence they sheered. The " ||  
" sheer resulted in one of them being thrown into the canal. The other was soon in a like predicament. A crowd " ||  
" collected. Nothing like a horse in the canal and a dog fight to attract a crowd. The horses struggled frantically. " ||  
|| It was a cold bath, why shouldn't they struggle? " ||

" A benevolent individual seized a gangway, and with the help of the crowd the animals were reinstated to their " ||  
" former position in the community. Moral, applicable to all canal horses; you can't make the foundation of a " ||  
" building get off of your track when you run away. " ||  
*Thank you to Richard Palmer for the report.* " ||

**TUPELO GROVE**

For many years we have had a tupelo tree salt pipe exhibit on the edge of our main parking lot at **Sims' Store**. It attracted little attention as visitors parked their cars and went elsewhere in the park. These wooden pipes carried the brine from the Tully salt wells to the salt processing area at the foot of Onondaga Lake. There it was either boiled off or evaporated in the sun.

Our work party crew decided to relocate the exhibit to a newly cleared space near the pavilion. They carefully used as much of the old material as was in good enough condition to reconstruct on the new site. With considerable effort they dug new postholes for placing the uprights in concrete. Most of the old roof was useable. The crew are constructing a graded pipe holder to support the tupelo pipes. **John Meldrum** spearheaded the effort with expert precision, with great assists from **Jim Murphy, Joe Menzel, Dave Holzauer, Bill Kunkle, Don Mosher, Richard Seubert, John Winks, Ed Morgan** and **Hayden Jones**.

Our two large salt kettles will be moved so they flank the exhibit. The area will be known as the "**Tupelo Grove**". It will be a welcoming area for visitors, either to enjoy the exhibit or to just relax in the shady grove. **Ron Cottet** has begun to refurbish the **Tupelo Exhibit** signs.

Members of the Hamann family have generously donated to the completion of this project. A plaque in memory of their parents will read:

*"In honor and remembrance of our dedicated volunteers Dick and Eileen Hamann".*

**Calendar of Events - 2022**

~~March 19~~ Volunteer Dinner— *to be rescheduled*

**April** Training Month  
**April 9** Orientation Day  
**April 23** Clean Sweep

**May 1** Opening Day  
**May 4** School Tours Begin  
**May 30** Memorial Day Parade and Picnic

**July 13** Cycle The Erie  
**July 23** Chicken BBQ

**August 13** Towpath Day

**JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH**

This is your invitation to renew your membership or become a new member in the **Camillus Canal Society**. We count on you! We continually write grant requests, and the organizations issuing the grants need to see that we are supported by the community. We thank current members in advance for sending in your renewal, and we look forward to welcoming new members.

The past year has brought exciting new adventures, challenges, and opportunities. We were hosts to the traditional **NYS Parks "Cycle the Erie" Tour**. We led cycling tours to explore Onondaga Lake. We participated in a symbolic ceremony of the "**Wedding of the Waters**", an official opening of the trail between Camillus and DeWitt. We have maintained our museum hours and operated our boat tours. A new salt pipe display is being developed. We were able to complete six Educational **Camillus Erie Canal** Videos in partnership with **Solvay Bank, CNY Arts** and **NewsChannel 9**. We are happy to report that we have reached our goal and have installed dual air conditioning units for the museum. All this occurred in spite of covid! Thank you for your support!

Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park  
 5750 Devoe Road  
 Camillus, NY 13031

<b>Camillus Canal Society, Inc.</b>	
New Membership or Renewal Application	
Please Circle:    New    Renewal	
Individual Adult - \$15.00	Sustaining - \$50.00
Senior Citizen (60 and Over) - \$10.00	Sponsor - \$100.00
Family - \$35.00	
Make check payable to Camillus Canal Society, Inc.	
Name:	
Address:	
City, State Zip:	
Phone:	Cell Phone:
E-mail Address:	
Please Contact Me About Volunteering	
Mail To: Pat Cooper, 2633 Brickyard Road, Warners, NY 13164	
New Memberships Received after June 1 Will Pay Half Price for That Year. The Half Price Feature Does Not Apply to Renewals.	

