

THE MULE



SPRING 2021

www.eriecanalcamillus.com

Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park - Founded 1972

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL



The great Empire State Trail is finally open from Canada to Long Island and Buffalo to Albany



Locally, the long awaited trail connecting Route 173 passing Gere Lock to the Onondaga Lake West Shore Trail is open, including a new bridge over the CSX railroad tracks at the southeast end of the lake. The path continues to Hiawatha Boulevard via the Creek Walk to Armory Square. From there the Erie Boulevard East Trail utilizes the median strip to DeWitt, which then connects to the Butternut Creek Aqueduct trail over a new Route 481 bridge. Now riders can easily navigate from Camillus to DeWitt and continue their journey toward Albany.

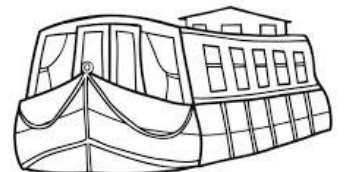
“THE 13 MILE GAP IS OFFICIALLY OPENED FOR BUSINESS”

SPRING BLOOMS

Many newly planted daffodils will welcome visitors to the museum this spring under the new sign and along the edge of the canal. The gardeners worked diligently to prepare these gardens for spring blooms. More gardeners are needed to maintain our many lovely canal gardens. Please join our team on Wednesday or Saturday mornings to make our landscaping even more spectacular. The more hands we have working in the gardens the better. A tree will soon be planted in Marjorie Tyler's honor.

REPAIR OF LEAKS IN THE CANAL

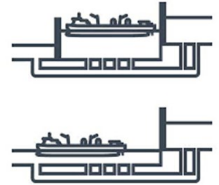
In early December, three leaks in the canal were repaired by the Town of Camillus. The leaks were on the berm side, one located by the aqueduct and the other two located a short distance away from the aqueduct. We are happy to have them repaired to maintain canal water level. Last fall the water was exceptionally low and then the water level had to be lowered even more to fix the leaks. With the help of snow melt and April showers, boat rides have returned on Wednesdays and Sundays.



GERE'S LOCK

We have been leasing the lock area for over 45 years from Allied Chemical and Honeywell. In the past, bulldozers pushed the four top layers of the lock wall into the chamber, to avoid anyone from falling into them. It would have been a better idea to fill in the chambers with dirt, which would have been much easier to restore.

We have submitted partial restoration plans to Honeywell. With our gratitude, they cleared all of the trees from the lock, towpath and berm, which was phase one. Our canal group has constructed a whipple type bridge over the head of the berm lock chamber for access to the trail. Future plans call for an elevated walkway within the towpath and berm lock chambers. The parking lot will be completed and connected to the bike trail. This lock, No. 50 on the First Erie Canal Enlargement (1845), is a prototype lock with many features which we will explore in a future article. We sincerely thank our group for grass cutting and construction, and Honeywell for its generosity.



HOLIDAY PARTY

We brightened the season by distributing bowls of festive candy and our signature canal cakes to WAVES, the Police Department, Parks and Recreation, the Highway Department, and Town Hall officials.

To welcome the holidays, lights twinkled in the pavilion. The museum was gaily decorated. The tree was picture perfect. Kyle Fournier's family donated a stunning gift basket for our raffle. Volunteers enjoyed hot chocolate and beautifully decorated canal boat cookies. Dazzling flames flickered from the glow of the fire. Guests hung out as close as they could to keep warm!



MEMBERSHIP



Have you remembered to renew your membership for 2021?

If not, you can use the membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

Help keep the ***Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park*** a wonderful place for the community to visit and enjoy!

Calendar of Events 2021

- March Dinner - Postponed (will be combined with Chicken BBQ on July 17)**
- April 24 - a successful Clean Sweep took place**
- May 2 - Our season opened, Information on our website**
www.eriecanalcamillus.com
- May 31 - Memorial Day Camillus Parade (postponed by the town)**
- July 17 - Chicken BBQ at the Pavilion**
- August 14 - Towpath Day postponed until 2022**
- September 19 - Snippets and Tales at the Camillus Town Hall (topic to be determined)**
- October 17 - Snippets and Tales at the Camillus Town Hall (topic to be determined)**
- December 5 - Holiday Party at the Park**

OBITUARIES

We will miss the following volunteers who have recently passed away.

In late July we were saddened by the passing of **Bob Seeber**. He loved his family, the outdoors, music and dancing. At the canal we will miss his sense of humor and his ability to fix anything and everything. He was an accomplished carpenter. First he would give you grief, and the next thing you knew whatever needed repair was done. Bob was a great chef who shared some of his trade secrets. We were elated when we found out that we had a resident blacksmith and he generously shared his talents with us on Towpath Day. Thank you Bob. You were the best!!

Marge Tyler and her husband, **Bill**, were longtime volunteers and very good friends with Dottie and Craig Nunneker. We always remember Bill trying to blow out his hat that was riddled with burn holes. Marge and Dottie were instrumental in launching our dinner cruises when they headed west towards Warners. They came up with our signature canal cake which we often use as gifts to the Highway and Fire Departments, NY DOT, and Parks and Recreation. In recent years Marge would join the dinner cruise clean-up crew.

As some of you know, **Nancy Greene** died on Thanksgiving, a victim of Covid. A beloved educator, she was the first teacher to bring her school children down to the canal, first from Camillus Elementary and later East Hill. Basically, the store was in its infancy and the cement floor was just being poured. One of her classes planted a tree for Arbor Day. It still stands diagonally across from Sims' Store. We treasure a wonderful mural drawn by one of her classes. She became a volunteer when she retired, serving on the Education Committee.

Liz Harris was an active volunteer before moving to live in Chico, California with her daughter in 2015. She was very active in the community, belonged to the Camillus Historical Society, followed the band, enjoyed skiing, and was fond of travel. She worked with the Tibbetts Point Light House at Cape Vincent She would partner with Martha Scriver and Eileen Hammann to act as docents at Sims Store. She was full of life and volunteered at all our events. She was very supportive of the canal, and we enjoyed her letters up to this past September.

Olga White was an avid gardener and educator. From her experiences at Baltimore Woods she helped to establish our Nature Trail and provided trail signs. Serving on the education committee she was very fond of telling stories about the lock house and the many types of boats that plied the waters of the canal.

Our condolences to the Sims' Family who have recently lost **Marge Sims** and **Shirley Sims Webster**. Marge Sims, beloved wife of Ralph Sims for 76 years, enlisted in the US Army and rose to the rank of corporal. She served as a censor in Cairo, Egypt. Shirley Webster, Ralph Sims' sister, enjoyed coming to the store and sharing early history of Amboy and stories relating to the canal.

Larry and Sherry **Barnes** mourn the loss of their son, **Keith**, who lived with his wife and young son in Indiana. Just recently his newborn son joined the family. As some of you may know, Sherry was our Dinner Cruise chair for 5 years. Since Larry retired, he has been invaluable as a volunteer, and is now one of our canal coordinators.

Eileen Olejarczk, wife of Ed Morgan, passed away recently, She always greeted everyone at the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy and helped at canal functions when her schedule permitted. Rest in Peace.

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

Camillus Canal Society, Inc.	
New Membership or Renewal Application	
Please Circle: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	
Individual Adult - \$15.00	Sustaining - \$50.00
Senior Citizen (Age 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:
<input type="checkbox"/> Please Contact Me About Volunteering	E-mail Address:
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.	