



THE MULE

SPRING 2022

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Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park - Founded 1972

Meet Lisa Wiles

We are pleased to introduce **Lisa Wiles** as the new coordinator of the **Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park**.

Lisa is originally from the Rochester area where she spent approximately 20 years working in non-profit organizations. How lucky that she happened to hear of the opening at our park just at the time she was job hunting. She comes to us with experience working with volunteers of all ages, an interest in education, and also in the history of NY and the Erie Canal. Her special interest is the social aspect of history and how it explains how many of the events and people of past times influence how society works today.

She has worked at the Seneca Park Zoo, The Humane Society of Rochester, Special Olympics, and Children Awaiting Parents (an organization supporting foster children awaiting adoption) among others. Lisa's interests revolve around outdoor education in non-classroom settings. For instance, at the Humane Society, she involved adult and child volunteers, and started a Lollypop Farm Camp where kids worked with the animals and helped care for them. Lisa created a number of events where organizations partnered with business and volunteers for the benefit of children and animals. She hopes to continue those efforts here to involve more local kids at the canal.

Lisa most recently worked as a pharmacy tech at Fairmount Wegmans during the worst of the pandemic. Her experience, vast and varied, with people in any number of settings, will serve us well as she organizes and directs visitors and volunteers alike to continually work and play along our piece of canal.

Lisa is married to Dan Wiles. He is the director of the Port Byron Erie Canal Park which she sees as an opportunity for collaborative activities. She worked with the Wiles family on their canal boats carrying guests along the Erie Canal. She understands first hand seasonal trends and how it affects tourism along the canal.

Lisa is working on getting to know all aspects of the canal park. Since she is technically an employee of the Town of Camillus, she also serves as the liaison between the two.

The experience, interests and skills Lisa brings seem to be a perfect match to our mission statement which lists the purpose of the park as preservation, recreation, and education. Lisa has an interest and experience in every one of these areas. We hope to use her talents to further all of these goals.

Contact information for Lisa Wiles

Email: lwiles@townofcamillus.com

Phone: 680-800-5298

Facebook: Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park

Tuesdays on the Towpath



Join us for a beginner ride starting at Sims' Store. The first ride of the season will be 2 miles with rest stops on the towpath. Beginners and returning cyclists are welcome.



Tuesday, June 7 ~ 6:30 pm

Orientation Day ~ April 9

Orientation Day began with a social hour and a chance for those who attended to meet and chat with our new coordinator, **Lisa Wiles**.

Activities took place in 3 groups: viewing the World Premier of the new and exciting Education committee movies, museum information, and outdoor exhibits. Those involved were **Ken Neijstrom, Jean Thomas, Barbara Brady, Diane Cross, Mary Ellen and Dave Hoag, Helene McNeer, Linda Vishnesky, Remo Bianco, Janet Conners, Debbie Dilg, Pat Powers-Burdick, Bob Randall, Bill Kunkle, Joe Menzel, Leon Graves, Carol Cossick, Warren Baldwin, Richard Seubert, Pat Baker, and Dave and Liz Beebe**.

The education videos, written by members of the education committee and produced by our local **Channel 9**, are an excellent overview of our park. They can be used either for an introduction before a field trip or as a virtual visit. They can also be found on You Tube by searching for "Liz and Dave Camillus Erie Canal Park". The following is a link to the first video: <https://youtu.be/cflnlnxnm8> (More about those videos in the next issue.)

The museum information centered on how the canal came to be and what life was like at the time. Volunteers demonstrated an interactive display of artifacts available to visitors to experience the way laundry was done on canal boats.

On the grounds, there was an overview of the **Catherine** boat, the gardens, the buoy boat, the lock pavilion, the lock gates, and the lifeboat from the **Dave Peckinpaugh**.

It was an informative and fun day.

Visit to Jordan ~ April 9

Dave Beebe led a group over to **Jordan Lock 51** on Route 31 just outside the village where it is maintained by NYSDOT. The group walked through the limestone walled chamber while Dave recounted significant features of this lock. Perhaps most important is its excellent condition, remarkable since it was watered in 1845. In the 1880's, a Garley turbine was installed in the overflow channel that powered a rod with loose lines attached to help pull the boat out of the lock. Rope wear marks and lifting holes are evident at the west end of the lock. One reason why the lock was so well preserved is that someone who watched over it lived in its lock shanty for a number of years.

The next stop was at the **Brambly Library** where the **Jordan Historical Society Museum** is nestled in the library in the **Horace W. Whitley Community Center**. **Gary Klink**, one of our volunteer boat captains, was our host. He and his colleagues have been working hard to ready the displays for a new season of visitors. Among the most interesting displays is one of the original lanterns which was mounted on the lock for night lockages. Jordan was known for manufacturing wheelbarrows, many of which were used while building the canal. A dumping wheelbarrow can be seen at the museum. There was an excellent collection of Jordan pottery. They actually have the 7 lb. cannon ball which was fired as a salute to Lincoln's funeral train as it passed through Jordan on April 27, 1865. It became embedded in a tree, a section of which is located in this treasure of a museum.

From the Library the group walked to nearby Skaneateles Creek. The stream swept by under the arches of the Jordan Aqueduct. Further on they were able to view more of the canal bed and see a small dry dock. In the distance was the Jordan Lock shanty. Finally, they visited the **Veterans Memorial** on Main Street to view the canal murals commissioned by **Jean Carrington**, one of our benefactors.

Those attending included the **Randalls, David and Mary Hoag** and their grand-daughter, **Grace**, the **Vicarros, Carol Cossick, Mary Henda, the McNeers, Janet Conners, Joe Menzel and Sprocket, Leon Graves, Lisa Wiles, Diane Cross, Linda Vishnesky, Barbara Brady, Pat Powers-Burdick, Richard Seubert, Mike Seubert, and Dave and Liz Beebe**.

Regardless of the weather it was a fine trip. As **Lisa Wiles** stated so well, "a canal trip would not be complete if it did not rain, snow, hail or sleet!"

Sims Store Museum is open for the season!

Free

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays ~ 12-4

Sundays ~ 1-5

Boat Rides

Wednesdays, Sundays ~ 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm

\$5 ~ adults

\$3 ~ kids 5-12 (under 5 free)

\$15 ~ max for a family

CLEAN SWEEP ~ April 23

Over 130 groups from across the Erie Canal corridor came together to collectively pick up litter in their respective parks on a cool and sunny Saturday. **Lisa Wiles** drew out local workers using a Facebook notice. Camillus had a group of at least 35 volunteers who were directed to all the places that needed work.

Thanks to the following people:

- ◇ **Richard Allen** and **Charlie Hallinan** cleaned the barn and *Daisy* the mule.
- ◇ **Charlie Hallinan** cleaned the Lock Tenders Shanty including washing windows.
- ◇ **Linda Vishnesky** organized the cleanup efforts. She and another family cleaned the Lock Demonstration building.
- ◇ **Jim Murphy, Joe Menzel** and others got the plumbing working in the Lock Demonstration.
- ◇ Family groups cleaned the Towpath and the Berm side.
- ◇ Several volunteers led by **Dan Willis, Warren Baldwin** and **Richard Seubert** cleaned the boats and boathouses.
- ◇ A group including **Don Mosher** and **Remo Bianco** mowed lawns, raked leaves, and spruced up around plantings.
- ◇ **Victor Clovis** worked on cleaning out the gardens that border the canal.
- ◇ Inside the *Sims Store Museum*, an army of volunteers led by **Mary Ellen Hoag** washed floors upstairs, dusted and washed the displays, and organized the exhibits.
- ◇ Downstairs in the museum store, **Barbara Brady** and Nadine Watson took down all the glass kerosene lamps, glass bottles, etc. and washed them.
- ◇ **Dave Hoag** washed windows in the Sims Store.

The Camillus Erie Canal Park was buzzing with happy smiling people having a good time catching up with friends. Miraculously all this work was done by 12:30. **Dan** and **Roxanne McMasters** provided a wonderful baked ziti lunch. Thanks to all of these volunteers, the ***Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Canal Park*** is ready for the season.

Those who couldn't be present that day will make additional efforts on another day:

- ◇ **Camillus Town Shop** volunteers led by **Debbie Ancelloti** will clean up the *Clyde Ohl* exercise trail.
- ◇ **Camillus Girl Scout troop 60030** will clean up, weed, and plant in the *Blue Star Garden* honoring our veterans. This troop has received one of the highest honors in scouting for the Blue Star veterans.

Obituaries

Pat Allen — For over 25 years Pat, together with Richard and their beloved pets, would walk the canal both in the morning and afternoon. They served as our First Ambassadors. You would find them here often chatting with other dog owners or telling complete strangers the story of the canal. They cared for our canal mascots, Midnight and Toby, providing food and treats. We will miss Pat's wonderful smile and stories that made our day and that of thousands of visitors throughout the years.

Ann Ezzo — Ann would accompany and volunteer with husband, Fran, for all our social functions. She always brought goodies from her kitchen. Last summer they made a special effort to attend the Chicken Barbecue despite the pouring rain. Ann made her faith and family the center of her life. She was active in the community, volunteering for Catholic Charities, Meals on Wheels and Community General Hospital. She enjoyed spending time at the family summer camp on Hinckley Lake.

Hank Miller — Hank was a longtime friend of the canal. He served on the Canal Society Board and as our Historian. He enjoyed showing visitors around the museum and engaged them in interesting stories concerning our park and Erie Canal history. He was responsible for putting together some of our displays celebrating anniversaries and special occasions. He was always willing to lend a hand. On one memorable occasion, he portrayed Benjamin Franklin in the Memorial Day Parade.

Shirley Ridler — Shirley was an organizer. You would find her right in the kitchen in the middle of any social function. Shirley worked tirelessly in any endeavor she undertook, both here at the canal and in her church. She scheduled the Wednesday and Saturday cooks and helped them with their meal plans. She kept track of our needs in a small book which we still use. She loved to make handmade ornaments, and we treasure ours.

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



2022 marks the 75th anniversary of our local parade

Dedicated to our Veterans



Please join us for the **Memorial Day** parade. We will gather at **Sims Store** at **8 am** sharp and ride in our decorated wagon to the parade line on the West Hill in the Village of Camillus. We also will be advertising that it is the park's 50th Anniversary. Get out your canal duds (jeans and colorful shirt for the gents, and a skirt, blouse or dress with apron for the gals). Clothes can be borrowed from the 1800's room, or wear an Erie Canal t-shirt. Some hats are available. We need walkers as well as those wishing to ride in the wagon. If you would like to help decorate, please come on **Saturday** morning, **May 28**, at **9:30 am**.

Calendar of Events

- May 1** Opening Day
- May 4** School Tours Begin
- May 30** Memorial Day Parade
- June 7** Tuesdays on the Towpath — *Beginner's Ride*
- July 13** Cycle the Erie
- July 23** Chicken BBQ
- August 13** Towpath Day

