



THE MULE



WINTER 2023

www.eriecanalcamillus.org

Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park - Founded 1972

AQUEDUCTS

Have you ever wondered which aqueduct on the Erie Canal first enlargement was the longest and which one had the most arches?

There were 32 aqueducts, 31 of which had wooden trunks. The Rochester aqueduct was constructed of stone to avoid washing out by the Genesee River. It had 10 spans and was 800 feet in length.

The longest aqueduct was the lower Mohawk Aqueduct at 1,137 feet in length and 26 spans. The Seneca River Aqueduct (Richmond Aqueduct) near Montezuma New York was 840 feet in length and had 31 arches.

Interior widths varied also. Our Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct has four arches and is 144 feet in length. It is the only aqueduct in New York State to be restored with a wooden trunk. The Cowassalon Creek and Chittenango aqueducts were poured in concrete in 1946.

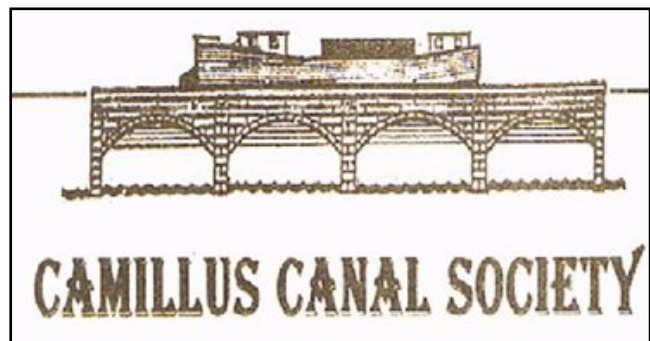
A very interesting field trip would be to visit the Durhamville Spillway, which is southeast of Oneida Lake. As you approach Durhamville from the west, note the waterway to the north which is the end of the new Oneida Lake connecting canal. It has six locks and a 62 foot elevation difference.

See you in the next edition of the mule - **Dave**

***Information based on Aqueducts by Nobel E. Whitford - "Hail Whitford"**

Calendar/Save the Date

- 1/22/23 **Snippets and Tales:** Discover Treasure in Your Backyard by **Dr. Beebe**
With all new content! ~ 1 - 3 pm ~ Camillus Town Hall, Male Ave. entrance
- 2/26/23 **Snippets and Tales:** History of Midlakes Navigation by **Dan Wiles**
- 3/19/23 Volunteer Dinner
- 3/26/23 **Snippets and Tales:** Camillus Cutlery Company by **Adolph Kastor**
- 4/8/23 Orientation
- 4/22/23 Spring Clean Up
- 5/6/23 Opening Day
- 5/29/23 Memorial Day Parade
- 7/12/23 Cycle the Erie
- 7/22/23 Votilla
- 8/12/23 Towpath Day



CPR



We were honored to have a visit from **Kristin Thompson Henry** from the National Heart Association on November 29. Kristin presented the updated CPR procedure to 27 of our dedicated volunteers. She provided child size dolls on which to practice. Those who took the class, even those who had trained before, remarked on how much energy it takes and how long it might take until rescue personnel might be available. Since many of our volunteers are seniors and we have thousands of visitors of all ages each it's important for as many volunteers to have this training as possible. Recently Lisa Wiles was able to procure an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the park which will arrive sometime this spring. Learn how to easily use this device at

<https://www.cardiacdirect.com/how-to-use-an-aed/>

Covey



If you are at the Canal Park often you probably have seen the Park's mascot duck, "**Covey**". We thought you might want more of her "back story" & how the money you donate for duck food goes to a wonderful member of the Canal team (& her friends!).

Covey appeared at the Canal Park in late Summer, 2021. She's a Muscovy duck which is a domestic species. We don't know where she came from or how she got here but she is happy to show up for the morning feeding every day. She wintered over with the wild ducks and when they migrated on, she stayed. She was very popular with the school kids in the Spring! In May she disappeared and we feared the worst. After all, at this point she had become the Canal mascot! But she was found by a volunteer in the back of one of our boats sitting on 15 eggs!

Quick fact: all duck breeds in the world derive from either Mallards or Muscovies. They very rarely interbreed but they can, and if the eggs hatch, the resulting babies are sterile and considered the "mules" of the duck world! We would have loved to have baby Mallards (their actual name!) but unfortunately the eggs weren't fertile. **Covey** laid another 6 eggs, also infertile, later in the year.

Covey has had a few adventures since coming to the Canal. Last year she disappeared for a few days. The volunteers were nervous for her and everyone kept an eye out. A few days after her disappearance a volunteer opened the Lock Shanty and found **Covey** upside down in the stove pipe! Luckily the stove is just for show and with the exception of some embarrassment, **Covey** was no worse for wear!

In November **Covey** disappeared again. We were very worried as the weather was quickly becoming colder, but because she could fly there was always a chance she might migrate with the other ducks. We looked for her everywhere! But then local photographer and Canal volunteer Marcia Bower found her across the street in Dill's Pond, not with other ducks, but with a single Canada goose! Scandal! Volunteers began feeding her over there to make sure she was healthy.

A few days later **Covey** returned to the museum-side without her goose friend. She's now back in the flock of ever-increasing ducks (as they migrate in) and hopefully will continue to be a fixture for a long, long time. She has quite the duck life!

Keep an eye out for her on your next visit!

(You can make a donation to our duck food fund in a slot at the front of Sims Store! We purchase special food for the ducks to keep them healthy.)

Snippets and Tales

After a hiatus during the worst of covid, we are pleased to be able to present these talks again. A flyer was sent to members recently with information about the 2023 series. Please come hear the speakers and bring a friend or two. All programs will be at the **Camillus Town Hall, Male Ave. entrance**, at **1 PM**. Please join us for an afternoon of local and canal information followed by conversation and refreshments.



Next date — 1/22/23

Discover Treasure in Your Backyard by Dr. Beebe!

New Membership Incentives!

As we begin 2023 so begins our Annual Membership Drive! Members are very special to the **Camillus Canal Society** because monies raised through this drive go directly to our special **Aqueduct Fund!** The **Camillus Aqueduct** was built in 1841 and was one of 32 aqueducts along the First Enlargement of the Erie Canal. In 1976, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2009 the Camillus Canal Society partnered with many local, state and federal agencies to rebuild it, eventually raising over \$2 million. Using original construction methods and materials, the aqueduct restoration project recaptured not only a piece of history, but long lost engineering knowledge. In August of 2009 boats traversed the restored aqueduct for the first time since 1917, and since then hundreds of boat rides and thousands of riders have been able to enjoy that experience. Your membership will help to ensure this continues for many, many years!

Camillus Canal Society Membership Levels & Incentives - 2023

\$10 Senior Discount	Member receives Mule Newsletter throughout the year
\$15 Single	Member receives Mule Newsletter throughout the year
\$35 Family	Member receives Mule Newsletter 10% discount on Gift Shop purchases 2 Boat Tickets for Public Tour
\$50 Mule Driver	Member receives Mule Newsletter 10% discount on Gift Shop purchases 2 Boat Tickets for Public Tour Invitation for 2 to private walking tour (3 Dates TBA)
\$100 Canal Captain	Member receives Mule Newsletter 10% discount on Gift Shop purchases 2 Boat Tickets for Public Tour Invitation for 2 to private walking tour (3 Dates TBA) 2 Tickets to Private Sunset Cruise (Dates TBA)

Liz and Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park
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 Camillus, NY 13031

New Membership or Renewal Application		
Please Circle: New Renewal		
Senior Discount	\$10	Single Membership \$15
Family	\$35	Mule Driver \$50 Canal Captain \$100
Name:		
Address:		
City, State Zip:		
Phone:		Cell Phone:
Email:		
Please Circle if Interested: Contact Me About Volunteering		
Mail to: Camillus Canal Society, 4600 West Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13219		
PayPal on our website at www.eriecanalcamillus.org (please note for Membership)		

