

# THE MULE



DECEMBER 2023

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

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

## Winter Hours

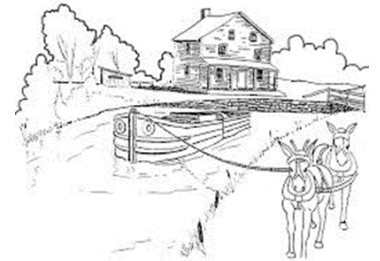
The Sims Store Museum is open Saturdays from 12 – 4 from October through April. We will resume our seasonal hours at the beginning of May.

Please come visit as we have special activities planned for many Saturdays (*see events list*) and wonderful, locally made unique gifts in our gift shop.

## Snippets and Tales ~ 2024

### *NEW LOCATION!*

Camillus Fire Department Community Room  
 5801 Newport Road, Camillus, NY 13031  
 Free to the public, with a reception to follow.



**January 21** ~ Dr. David Beebe, Camillus Canal Society ~ “**Canals of Great Britain**”

**February 18** ~ Canal Society of New York State, Craig Williams & Dan Wiles ~  
 “**The Lois McClure Canal Schooner, Past, Present and Future**”

**March 17** ~ Derrick Pratt from the Erie Canal Museum ~ “**Beer-ie, a History of Beer and the Erie Canal**”

**April 14** ~ Kaitlynn McHenry, Captain of the Maid of the Mist ~ “**From the Canal to the Falls**”

<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Camillus Canal Society Membership Levels</u></b>
<b>\$10 ~ Senior Discount</b>	Member receives Mule Newsletter
<b>\$15 ~ Single</b>	Member receives Mule Newsletter
<b>\$35 ~ Family</b>	Member receives Mule Newsletter 2 Boat Tickets for Public Tour
<b>\$50 ~ Mule Driver</b>	Member receives Mule Newsletter 2 Boat Tickets for Public Tour Invitation for 2 to private walking tour (3 Dates TBA)
<b>\$100 ~ Canal Captain</b>	Member receives Mule Newsletter 2 Boat Tickets for Public Tour Invitation for 2 to private walking tour (3 Dates TBA) 2 Tickets to Private Sunset Cruise (Dates TBA)

## 2023 Retrospective!

### Towpath Day

Despite a threatening weather forecast and the threat of a tornado, **Towpath Day** was a great day! Over 1,500 people were entertained by the **Lock 52 Jazz Band**, **Loren Barrigar** and his son, **LJ**, and the **Soda Ash Six**. Everyone enjoyed the food prepared by **Joe Menzel** and his incredible group of volunteers, and our vendors were happy with the turnout. Raffle basket tickets were very popular. Boat rides were a hit, as always, and the **Sims' Store Museum** was busy all day. We are already planning for 2024!

### Education

2023 was an incredibly successful year for our education programs. Just about 2,000 4<sup>th</sup> grade students learned about the Erie Canal through touring the museum, operating our watered lock demonstration and exploring Clinton's Ditch, as well as taking a boat ride over our famous aqueduct. Schools came from as far away as the North Country and Binghamton for our program! We also hosted a number of Summer Camp programs and Homeschooling groups into the Fall.

We were especially honored this year to be asked by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to have our programming photographed to help promote their "**Ticket to Ride**" program. **Ticket to Ride** is a grant program that pays for bussing and student ticket price for participating schools, and most of our schools enjoy this programming. Look for the Park and our volunteers in advertising across New York State!

We are almost completely booked for schools in 2024, so if you are interested in sharing your love and knowledge of the Canal with young people, we would love to have you! Please contact Janet Conners or Lisa Wiles for more information.

### Boats

Our 2023 Boat Season was one of the busiest to date! Of course our 2,000 visiting school children enjoyed our 45 minute narrated tour, but this summer 1,923 members of the public joined us to take a ride! We ran public boat rides on Wednesdays and Sundays at 1, 2 and 3pm and especially during July and August, and many of the rides went out at full capacity! We also expanded our boat charter programming this year, having many corporate, club, and religious groups charter a private boat for their folks. We even had two bridal showers aboard! Think about our unique boat ride as you plan your events for 2024!

### Field Trips

Our own volunteers from the Camillus Canal Society had some exciting learning opportunities to expand their knowledge about the Canals of New York State! Hosted by staff from the Canal Corporation of New York, volunteers received guided tours of Lock E-23 in Brewerton including their Power House, and Lock E-24 in Baldwinsville. That new appreciation of locks and travel on the current Barge (or Erie) Canal came in handy in October when we were asked to help welcome the **Lois McClure**, a replica of an 1862 Canal Schooner, as she arrived back in Central New York to begin her retirement at the Port Byron Old Erie Heritage Park. We will be looking for other places and experiences for the volunteers next year!

### Membership Incentives

We want to send a huge **THANK YOU** to all our Camillus Canal Society members! As you may know, all monies raised through Memberships are reserved to care for the famous Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct and the Canal itself, so every penny is important! This year we added wonderful incentives to our higher-level memberships and are pleased to say they were very successful. Our **\$50** "Mule Driver" members enjoyed a private walking tour of Dill's Landing with our own Dr. David Beebe, and our **\$100** "Canal Captain" members enjoyed that PLUS a private sunset cruise. They were so popular we had to add extra sessions of both! Please keep these fun one-of-a-kind experiences in mind as you renew your membership for 2024!

## Bicentennial

Did you know 2025 will be the Bicentennial of the first Erie Canal, also known as Clinton's Ditch? Because we have so many "parts" of Clinton's Ditch here at the Park, including the prism, a widewater and boat slip, and the remains of an aqueduct and lock, we expect MANY visitors during the 2025 season and we are planning now! If you would like to be part of the Bicentennial Planning Committee, please contact Lisa for more information.

### Erie Canal First Enlargement culverts

Culverts are structures that divert run-off hillside water under the canal prism to a lower area. Run-off water was not allowed to enter the canal because it would cause silting and currents. It was difficult for the mules to pull boats against this current.

In our Erie Canal Park, we have a no-name Culvert, No. 59. It is located between Gere's Lock No. 50 and Jordan Lock No. 51, also called the long level. The culvert has one opening, four feet wide and two feet six inches high and is 135 feet long. The culvert consists entirely of stone. Note the culvert marking stone on the berme. This notifies the dredger to avoid the culvert while dredging.

There are 80 culverts in the Middle Division where our Park is located.

**"GO EXPLORE"      Dave**

### *In Memoriam*

**Richard Allen** discovered the Camillus Canal Park many years ago while he and his wife Pat walked their dogs. When they were prompted to volunteer they both jumped in enthusiastically. After losing Pat in 2021, Richard continued as the Historian on the Camillus Canal Society Board of Directors, a member of the Executive Board and as a weekly docent in the museum year-round. We will miss Richard's smile, his sharp wit, and his dedication to the Park.

We were sad to note the passing of **Tom Kehoskie** in September of 2023. Tom was a loyal member and volunteer at our park for many years. In his role as Director of Parks and Recreation in Camillus he was an integral part of making our dream come true in restoring the aqueduct. Many of our financial grants were due to Tom's efforts. Tom was a longtime resident of Camillus and a member of many other local groups involving local history, softball and model trains. We join his family in remembering him and his legacy. He will be missed.

## Events

**January 21** ~ 1pm – 3pm ~ Snippets & Tales ~ Camillus Fire Department Community Room

**February 3** ~ 12 – 2pm ~ Craft and Story Time with the Maxwell Library ~ Sims Store

**February 18** ~ 1pm – 3pm ~ Snippets & Tales ~ Camillus Fire Department Community Room

**March 2** ~ Canal Society of New York State Symposium ~ Monroe Community College, Rochester

**March 10** ~ Volunteer Awards Dinner at Camillus Elks Club

**March 17** ~ 1pm – 3pm ~ Snippets & Tales ~ Camillus Fire Department Community Room

**April 6** ~ 10am – 2pm ~ Old and New Volunteer Orientation

**April 14** ~ 1pm – 3pm ~ Snippets & Tales ~ Camillus Fire Department Community Room

**April 20** ~ 8am – 12 pm ~ Canal Clean Sweep

**May 4** ~ Opening Day

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

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

