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Brighton and Pittsford sprucing up for canal season

By **Dan Goldman**, staff writer

Brighton-Pittsford Post

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Brighton, N.Y. — It must be spring if Brighton and Pittsford are getting ready for the statewide Canal Clean Sweep.

Local groups and residents will take part in a community cleanup of public spaces throughout the canal areas in Brighton and Pittsford.

"I think we've seen for a long time that people have taken ownership in the canal and do a great job of cleaning it up," said Pittsford Supervisor Bill Carpenter.

Brighton and Pittsford are two of dozens of communities along the state's four-canal system that will be participating in the fourth annual Canal Clean Sweep weekend on April 18-19. The event coincides with Earth Day (April 22) and will get the canal for the 184th consecutive navigation season, which opens May 1.

The Genesee Waterways Center invites volunteers to clean up around Lock 32 in Pittsford on Saturday, April 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those interested can contact Andrew Cook at 747-8478 or acook@bluefrog.com

On Saturday, April 18, McQuaid Jesuit's crew team — along with their families and alumni — will clean up along the canal from West Henrietta Road to the I-390 crossover.

On the same day, Compeer Rochester, Inc. will hike along the Canalway Trail from Meridian Center Park to East Henrietta Road and do some sprucing up.

"We love getting people out and about on the trail," said state Canal Corporation Director Carmella Mantello. "It's another example of folks raising awareness of the canal — not just as part of the past, but as part of our future."

The Rotary Club of Pittsford and Interact clubs of area high schools are cleaning up the Pittsford Canalway Trail area on Sunday, April 19. Mantello noted that both Brighton and Pittsford are very involved in the effort.

"The supervisor (Sandy Frankel), she does a great job in Brighton," Mantello said. "We partner with lots of folks in Brighton."

"Supervisor (Bill) Carpenter, he really knows how to inspire his community; and Bob Corby, the mayor," she added.

To recognize participation, the Canal Corporation and Parks & Trails New York is promoting all events with a comprehensive listing on its Web site at www.ptny.org/canalway/sweep/index.shtml, including 19 events in Monroe County alone.

"We have a very exciting season ahead of us," Mantello said. "We believe the canal is going to be vibrant, alive and hopping. The upcoming season is going to be a very good season. We believe more and more folks are going to turn to inexpensive things to do."

This article includes reporting from Messenger Post staff writer Denise M. Champagne.

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