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TOP STORIES
Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Erie Canal Clean Sweep
Updated: 04/18/2009 04:04 PM
By: Jim Gibbons

VERONA, N.Y. - With rakes and chainsaw's in hand, this group of volunteers set out on a mission to cleanup the banks of Oneida Lake where it meets the Erie Canal.



"A lot of debris and everything floats through the canal and off the lakes and it just clutters up the shoreline," said Assemblyman David Townsend.

These people were just a hand full of the hundreds who spread out across the entire waterway, doing the same type of work from Albany to Buffalo.

"You get some community minded people together who have a common interest in making their town a better place," said Verona Town Councilman Ken Regner.

It wasn't easy work on a Saturday morning, but rewarding ridding the water of the garbage and debris that had been floating around.

"I've been picking up some logs and driftwood. I'm looking for the proverbial diamond ring or stash of cash, but I haven't found that yet," said Tom Angelone of Sylvan Beach.

This group did find one piece of treasure so to say, a message in a bottle from a child in Taberg.

"It's actually dated so it's been floating around out here now for about three and a half years," said Townsend.

Treasure or trash, it's certainly better not having it in the water. And those doing the hard work say they'll be back for another round.

"I'm definitely going to do it next year and try to put a bigger team together and maybe cover more of the canal and more of the lakefront," said event coordinator Ashley Baker.

As there most likely will be more to cleanup a year from now.

More than 85 locations were set up from Albany to Buffalo as part of the fourth annual Canal Clean Sweep program.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Erie Canal Clean Sweep
The ice is long gone, but the remnants of winter and even seasons before remain scattered along the Erie Canal. All across the state people came out Saturday to try and clean up some of that debris. Our Jim Gibbons was at one of those locations in Verona.

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