

Canalway TRAIL TIMES



Spring 2010

Issue #22

Champlain Canalway Trail Initiative gathering momentum

The Champlain Canalway Trail Initiative is gathering momentum as multiple local and regional plans are developed, construction projects are funded and events promoting the trail are being held.

One of the forces helping to generate this momentum is the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group, comprised of federal, state and local municipal government officials and non-profit groups. The Working Group has been meeting since 2008 to help promote completion of the 58-mile Champlain Canalway Trail from Waterford to Whitehall. The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service is providing outreach and planning assistance to the Working Group.

Action Plan underway

The primary goal of the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group is to develop an Action Plan to facilitate local and regional action for completing the Champlain Canalway Trail. To the extent possible, an off-road multi-use trail on public lands is envisioned along the corridor. Sections of separated bike lanes along parts of Route 4 (New York State Bike Route 9) and low-volume roads in communities such as Mechanicville will also be necessary to complete the trail route.

Kicking off the Action Plan process, approximately 100 people attended Champlain Canalway Trail workshops conducted by the Working Group in Schuylerville and Fort Ann in 2009 to gather local input, identify trail-related

opportunities and ways local communities can work together to capture trail benefits. Utilizing the information obtained at the workshops, a planning matrix has been developed by the Working Group that will serve as the basis for the Action Plan. A grant from the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share program has been obtained to facilitate layout and design of a print version of the Action Plan. The Action Plan is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Other local efforts taking place

The Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group is coordinating Champlain Canalway Trail Corridor planning efforts, including the Historic Washington-Saratoga on Hudson Partnership Stewardship Plan and several projects funded by the New York State Department of State. The group has also been fostering and supporting local projects including:

- Completion of a one-mile segment of Canalway Trail along the old Champlain Canal in the Town of Saratoga, built by the Town of Saratoga with a Canal Corporation Greenway Grant.
- A one-mile extension of existing trail along the old Champlain Canal in the Town of Halfmoon, using a federal Recreational Trails Program grant and creation of a non-motorized connection between the existing Champlain Canalway Trail and the town's waterfront park on the Hudson



A federal Transportation Enhancement grant will rehabilitate the Dix Bridge as a trail crossing the Hudson River and linking Saratoga and Washington Counties. In addition to being a bicycle and pedestrian crossing, the bridge will provide an important snowmobile trail linkage.

River/ Champlain Canal using a grant from the New York State Department of State.

- Rehabilitation of the Dix Bridge near Schuylerville as a trail linking Saratoga and Washington Counties.
- Planning for a route linking the Champlain Canalway Trail and Saratoga County's Zim Smith Trail in Mechanicville/ Halfmoon.

National Trails Day events in Halfmoon and Hudson Crossing Park, as well as an inaugural triathlon hosted by Hudson Crossing Park and utilizing the Champlain Canal and a section of the Champlain Canalway Trail, are also helping to bring the Champlain Canalway Trail to life.

For more information about the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group or to learn how to get involved, contact Janet Kennedy at Lakes to Locks Passage at 518-597-9660 or janet@lakestolocks.org.



Who's on the Canalway Trail?

Annual Count estimates up to 174,000 visitors on Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail section

The 2009 annual Canalway Trail Count confirms what most residents have always known, the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail near Lions Park and the old train station in Niskayuna is a very popular place for walking and biking in the Capital Region. Estimates of Canalway Trail usage of up to 174,000 persons per year at the Niskayuna train station were based on counts conducted by Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail volunteers during July and August 2009.

Counts were conducted at four trailheads located within a paved, 12-mile stretch of Erie Canalway Trail in Schenectady and Albany Counties. Parks & Trails New York used the data obtained to calculate annual trail traffic estimates ranging from nearly 174,000 persons at the Niskayuna train station at Lions Park to almost 57,000 persons at

rural Kiwanis Park in the Schenectady County town of Rotterdam. Annual trail traffic was estimated at approximately 106,000 persons for an urban trail head adjacent to Schenectady Community College and 95,000 persons for the trail head at Colonie Town Park in suburban Albany County.


Carmella R. Mantello, Director of the New York State Canal Corporation, said, "The Canalway Trail provides multiple tourism and recreational opportunities, as well as an economic boost to hundreds of canal communities. The volunteers who conducted the trail counts this year along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail did a superb job, and I would like to thank them for the countless hours of work that went into collecting this important information. We would like to commend Parks & Trails New York for their continued partnership and ongoing efforts

to support and enhance this recreational, tourism and economic asset."

Bicyclists in the majority

The counts demonstrated that the majority of trail users were bicyclists, a finding that has been consistent since 2005 when the Canal Corporation and Parks & Trails New York first began working with Canalway Trails Association New York members and trail volunteers to tally the number and types of Canalway Trail users. In 2009, 53 percent of trail users were bicyclists, 30 percent were walkers, 12 percent joggers, and four percent in-line skaters. Counters also noted that 65 percent of all bicyclists counted were wearing helmets.


The trail count information can be used in trail design and management to help determine trail surface and width, to factor whether stop lights at intersections are warranted and in determining mowing frequency. Trail counts can also be used to guide trail funding and marketing.

More information can be found in the report, *Who's on the Trail? The Erie Canalway Trail User Count 2009*, prepared by Parks & Trails New York for the Canal Corporation and available on the Parks & Trails New York's website at www.ptny.org under publications. 



Results of the 2009 Canalway Trail Count estimated annual trail traffic of 174,000 persons near the old train station at Niskayuna's Lions Park in Schenectady County.

Canal Clean Sweep Five Years & Growing

The 5th annual Canal Clean Sweep, held over the weekend of April 16-18 to recognize Earth Day, again demonstrated the growing pride residents have in their communities with 95 events stretching from Tonawanda to Albany and Whitehall to Waterloo. Hundreds of volunteers braved cool and unpredictable weather to give the NYS Canal System and Canalway Trail its annual "spring cleaning." This statewide series of events is sponsored by the New York State Canal Corporation in partnership with Parks & Trails New York, the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, and the NYS Consumer Protection Board. 

CANALCLEANSWEEP



Canal Clean Sweep volunteers from SPAN (Strategic Planning Action Network) in the Village of Clyde (Wayne County) cleaned up along the Clyde River/Erie Canal.

Dedicated Halfmoon volunteer selected as Trail Tender Award winner for 2009

The New York State Canal Corporation has selected Henrietta O'Grady of the Town of Halfmoon as the 2009 Canalway Trail Tender Award winner. The award was presented to Ms. O'Grady by Canal Corporation Director Carmella R. Mantello during a Halfmoon Town Board meeting in February. Henrietta O'Grady was recognized for her outstanding efforts and commitment to promoting, developing and enhancing the Canalway Trail.

Director Mantello said, "For the past several years, Henrietta O'Grady has been a staunch advocate and steward of the Canalway Trail. The Corporation is pleased to recognize Ms. O'Grady's diligent efforts with the Canalway Trail Tender Award."

Town of Halfmoon Supervisor Mindy A. Wormuth said, "Henrietta O'Grady is a community advocate whose actions have directly influenced the availability of parks and trails in Halfmoon. Actually, Henny's impact goes beyond Halfmoon and includes Saratoga County and the Region. We are pleased and gratified that the Canal Corporation recognizes Henny's contributions with the Trail Tender Award."

Henrietta O'Grady has been a staunch advocate and steward of the Canalway Trail. –

*Carmella Mantello
Canal Corporation Director*



Trail Tender Award winner Henrietta O'Grady flanked by (l to r) John Dimura, NYS Canal Corporation; Fran Gotcsik, Parks & Trails New York; Carmella Mantello, NYS Canal Corporation; O'Grady; Melinda Wormuth, Supervisor, Town of Halfmoon; Marcia Kees, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

due to Ms. O'Grady's trail advocacy. Ms. O'Grady was appointed the Trails Committee's inaugural chair that year and served in the position until 2009. In 2002, the Town created a line item in the Town's general operating budget to support the planning and development work of the Trails Committee. That same year, Ms. O'Grady joined forces with the neighboring Town of Clifton Park in preparing the "Join Us" Mohawk Towpath Trail Plan. Today, nearly six miles of the Mohawk Towpath Trail is either constructed or under contract through these two Saratoga County towns bordering the Mohawk River and the historic Erie Canal.

Ms. O'Grady's policy advocacy and planning efforts have resulted in many Canalway Trail accomplishments, including the completion of a Trails Master Plan in 2006; purchase of the old Champlain Canal and Towpath within the Town of Halfmoon; construction of nearly two miles of the Champlain Canal Trail and construction of more than two miles of Mohawk Towpath Trail. In addition, another mile of the Champlain Canal Trail and of the Mohawk Towpath Trail are under contract.

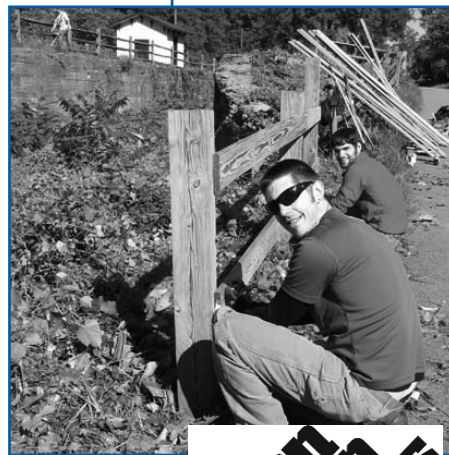
Ms. O'Grady has also organized annual Canal Clean Sweep and National Trails Day/ Canalway Trail Celebration activities in the Town of Halfmoon and recruited scores of volunteers and other groups such as scouts to participate in these annual events.

The Canalway Trail Tender Award was established in 1998 to honor the efforts of volunteers that have demonstrated exemplary and significant contributions to the development, promotion and enhancement of New York's Canalway Trail.

Parks & Trails New York honors Niskayuna Eastern Mountain Sports for Canalway Trail contributions

Parks & Trails New York has selected the Eastern Mountain Sports Mohawk Commons Store in Niskayuna as the winner of its 2010 Corporate Partnership Award for its multiple years of financial and employee support of clean up and beautification of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike/Hike Trail in Schenectady.

"We are very excited to have our efforts recognized with the Corporate Partnership Award," said store manager Matt Sims. "We have enjoyed working with Howard (Halstead), the Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail, and the Schenectady Chapter of the ADK on numerous projects that have



The Mohawk Commons Eastern Mountain Sports store celebrated the company's 40th anniversary by joining Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail to brush out the trail and old Lock 32 in Rotterdam.



improved the experience of everyone who uses the trail. We would like to also recognize the hundreds of members of the community who have participated in these projects by either volunteering their time or participating in our raffles to raise money for the projects we have completed. We are looking forward to working on more projects along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail in the future."

The award is one of Parks & Trails NY's five Greenway and Community Trail Awards presented biennially to recognize the leadership, creativity, and donation of time, talent, and materials behind many of New York's trails.

News from Canalway Trails Association New York

7th Annual Canalway Trail Celebration: June 5th Explore Your Canalway Trail!

The 7th Annual Canalway Trail Celebration is just around the corner. Coinciding with National Trails Day on June 5 and designed to increase awareness and enjoyment of the Canalway Trail system as a world-class recreation resource and tourist destination for New Yorkers and visitors alike, the Celebration is a coordinated series of events in communities all along the trail.

This year more than 40 events, ranging from family bike tours, interpretive history walks and trail clean-up activities to interpretive programs, and canoe and kayak excursions, will draw thousands of trail and canal enthusiasts. Events are planned across the state from Tonawanda and Lockport to Schenectady and Cohoes, and from Schuylerville to Waterloo.

Check out the full list of planned events at www.ptny.org/canalway/celebration and join the fun!

The Canalway Trail Celebration is sponsored by Parks & Trails New York, the New York State Canal Corporation, and the Canalway Trails Association New York (CTANY), with additional support from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.



Trail Adopter in the Spotlight – Glens Falls Feeder Canal Alliance

When Howard Raymond, President of the Board of Trustees of the Glens Falls Feeder Canal Alliance (FCA), checked over the Feeder Canal Towpath Trail recently, he was surprised to find that there was almost no litter or garbage clinging to the landscape and, for the first time, no discarded appliances or bicycles in the canal water itself. The FCA is the Trail Adopter for the popular 7-mile National Recreational Trail running along the Glens Falls Feeder Canal in Warren and Washington County.

“Many people use the trail as an alternative means of getting to work. We’ve discovered that the more it is used, the neater the trail is being kept. As a result, the annual Canal Clean Sweep this year was focused more on clearing brush and raking the woods along the trail than on actual clean up,” said Jeanne Williams, Executive Director of the Feeder Canal Alliance.

FCA was organized in 1987 to preserve, promote and maintain the historic Feeder Canal that carried water and commerce from the Upper Hudson

River to the Champlain Canal from the 1820s to 1928. Since it was founded, the group has served as a Trail Adopter, clearing brush and litter from the towpath trail. This year, a local industry and civic organization are also joining FCA in their trail adoption efforts.

FCA has also undertaken many projects that enhance the trail user’s experience including new interpretive signage and a resurfaced trail in Warren County, funded in part by a New York State Canal Corporation Greenway Grant and local matching support made possible through FCA’s efforts. Flowering bulbs, donated last year by area merchants, delighted the trail’s walkers and bicyclists this spring. FCA is also working with a local garden shop to develop a master plan to re-introduce New York State native wildflowers along the trail.

To get involved with this industrious group, contact FCA at 518 792 5363 or info@feedercanal.com. But if you’re looking to help out this spring along the Feeder Canal Towpath Trail, bring your rake and native NYS flowers—our friends using the trail have taken care of the litter!



Photo Credit: Diane Collins

After being abandoned since 1928, the Glens Falls Feeder Canal and towpath were given new life more than 20 years ago when the NYS Dept. of Transportation refurbished the waterway and the NYS Canal Corporation developed a recreational trail along the old towpath. The Feeder Canal Alliance has served as a Trail Adopter ever since.



The Adopt-a-Trail program helps keep the Canalway Trail clean and in good repair by encouraging volunteers to care for sections of the trail in their communities. More than 30 groups perform activities such as litter pick up, brush cutting, removing weeds and mowing grass, and adding plantings and landscaping. Adopt-a-Trail signs recognizing adopters are erected at each end of the adopted trail segments. The program is administered by the New York State Canal Corporation and Parks & Trails New York in cooperation with the Canalway Trails Association New York. For more information on becoming a Canalway Trail adopter, contact Parks & Trails New York at 518-434-1583 or ptny@ptny.org.

Cycling the Erie Canal – What goes on behind the scenes

Again this summer, Parks & Trails New York will be leading more than 500 bicyclists on an eight-day tour along the Erie Canalway Trail from Buffalo to Albany. Now in its twelfth year, Cycling the Erie Canal (CTEC) begins in Buffalo on July 11 and ends in Albany on July 18. Participants spend their days riding leisurely across the state, learning the history of the Erie Canal, and visiting the communities that sprouted up to provide goods and services to travelers along this world-famous route. Meanwhile, a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes to make the tour a truly memorable experience.

A travelling circus

With a convoy of 20-25 vehicles including six support vehicles; five trucks carrying rider gear and supplies; and even a trailer truck with 11 showers, CTEC is often likened to a travelling circus. Overseeing it all is Ride Director Al Hastings who has led the tour for almost a decade.

Al is the “ring leader” for more than 50 volunteers. A large part of the ride’s continued success is attributed to the expertise and dedication of these volunteers, some who return year after year, and come from as far away as Alaska to participate in the event.

Four volunteers drive the 16 ft-trucks that transport gear and supplies to the overnight “tent cities,” located at local schools or parks. These volunteers also load and unload luggage and tents for all 500 plus riders. That’s why the luggage limit is only two bags. A fifth volunteer drives the truck with snacks and food (like 6,000 bananas!) served at the rest stops.

The Vehicle Support Team volunteers drive the “SAG wagons” which patrol the route from the road. (SAG stands for support and gear). If weary or lost riders need to get refreshed, SAG wagons give them a lift. If a bike

breakdown requires a visit to John the Mechanic, a SAG vehicle takes bike and rider to John’s blue VW van where he soon fixes the problem while his dog watches intently from the passenger seat.

Most visible are the peddling CTEC volunteers called bike SAGs. Each day before dawn two SAG riders, called Route Checkers, scout the previously marked route. At the end of the day, two SAG riders “sweep” the route making sure they are absolutely the last ones to come in from the day’s segment. Throughout the day, bike SAG volunteers assist with the occasional flat tire or simple bicycle repairs and radio a SAG vehicle if a pick-up is needed.

Local community benefits

To ensure that the Canalway Trail communities directly benefit, PTNY contracts with local caterers, schools, and not-for-profit organizations such as the Elks, Kiwanis, and YMCA to prepare the tour’s eight breakfasts and six dinners. All lunches and two dinners are on your own so riders can further contribute to the local economies by visiting shops, restaurants, and other attractions along the route.

“We’ve been part of the tour for a decade,” said Jim Trapini of the Glenville-Scotia Elks. “We do a spaghetti dinner and then a big bacon, eggs and French toast breakfast the next morning. It provides some extra funds for our organization’s projects, but most importantly it’s a great team-building experience for the 40 members who participate. We start preparing days before the event to make meatballs and



Photo Credit: Michael Huchko

Tent City — Riders enjoy local musical entertainment as they relax among the sea of tents on the grounds of Rome’s Fort Stanwix.

sauce and ten sheet cakes. Local restaurants help us by preparing appetizers and donating cooler space. It’s intense feeding more than 500 riders dinner and a 6 a.m. breakfast, but the camaraderie that develops makes it well worth the effort.”

Warm welcomes filled with pride

All along the 400-mile route, the Chambers of Commerce, village and town governments, and civic groups volunteer to warmly welcome, entertain, and assist the riders at the eight overnight and two daily rest stops. The Village of Seneca Falls plans an especially full series of events. As riders arrive in the late afternoon, they offer Seneca County wines, cheeses and ice cream at their village park. Shops and museums stay open late and buses are available to take riders to restaurants and swim at the state park. Later in the evening, riders can enjoy a local storyteller and a community band concert.

Adriene Emmo, Director of the Seneca Falls Heritage Area Visitor Center, summed up the feeling of most communities on the tour, “We try to welcome the riders in a big way, not only because we are just that kind of community, but because we know they come from all over the country and we want them to learn about our village and especially want them to come back.”

Register Today
Cycling the Erie Canal
12th Annual Cross-State Bicycle Tour
Along the Erie Canal
July 11-18
www.ptny.org/canaltour

Erie Canalway Trail – Great adventures for kids

The Erie Canalway Trail is not just for adults! It presents a great, safe opportunity for kids and families to exercise, learn, and discover some of New York's best treasures. And what better way for kids to study canal history than for them to see the real thing! Cycling along the Canalway Trail gives children background experience and knowledge that round out what they learn from textbooks and classroom studies.

The trick to cycling with kids is going far enough to have fun, without pushing it beyond what kids can handle. Plan short rides initially and lengthen them as your kid's interest and stamina grow. Choose a destination where you'll turn around. This gives kids a sense of accomplishment and a point to shoot for as they ride. Be prepared with snacks and water or plan on an ice cream stop to celebrate the end of the ride.

Here are a few suggested short rides for kids that visit a number of the sites within

the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Find more kid-friendly rides at www.eriecanalway.org/explore.htm. Use Parks & Trails New York's *Cycling the Erie Canal* guidebook and online maps at www.ptny.org/canalway for additional details or to plan your trip.

Brockport to Spencerport

Distance: 13 miles round trip

Parking: Brockport Lift Bridge or Brockport Visitor Center.

Cycle: Western New York offers excellent opportunities for "Bridge to Bridge" cycling right along the canal, as well as lots to see and do in each canal town. Cycle east to Spencerport. The Spencerport Depot and Canal Museum is a great destination, where kids can relax and check out the canal exhibits. Ice cream or other treats are available in both Spencerport (if you need it at the half-way point) or Brockport.

Old Erie Canal State Park: Dewitt to Green Lakes State Park

Distance: 10 miles round trip

Parking: Ryder Park, just east of I-481 in DeWitt

Cycle: Heading east, you'll cycle on the old towpath and pass the remains of two aqueducts and several bridges on the old Erie Canal. While water still flows in it, this part of the canal is no longer in use. At about five miles, detour from the trail to Green Lakes State Park, located on the south side of the canal. The park is named for two glacial lakes of an amazing aquamarine color. You can hike around the lakes or swim at the beach before resuming your ride and heading back to the starting point.

Little Falls to Castle Creek

Distance: 9 miles round trip

Parking: Along the Mohawk River by Lock 17 - accessible from Rte. 169.

Cycle: Cycle east from Little Falls. At 2.5 miles, you reach the Herkimer Home State Historic Site, home of Revolutionary War General Nicholas Herkimer. This could be your destination for a very short ride or continue cycling another 2.5 miles to the trail kiosk at Danube by the bridge over Castle Creek. This is a good place for lunch or a snack or as a turn-around point. The creek has a series of small ledges below the bridge and kids will enjoy wading or skipping stones in the creek. Leave time at the start or end of your trip to see Lock 17 in Little Falls, the highest lift lock on the canal and once the highest in the world, and to explore the adjacent Moss Island, a National Natural Landmark.

New! 2010 Erie Canalway Map and Guide

Visitors to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor will have a new resource to help them plan their trip in 2010. The 2010 Erie Canalway Map and Guide is a newspaper-style publication that provides an overview of the National Heritage Corridor with a map, general information, and highlights of things to do and see. Pick up a guide at visitor centers and selected cultural heritage sites or download a copy at www.eriecanalway.org



Step back in time with a ride through Old Erie Canal State Park. Begin by visiting the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum where you will see restored dry docks once used to build 100-foot long canal boats. Then head out on a 14-mile round trip to the Canal Town Museum in Canastota, along the way watching the old canal for the remains of sunken boats. Extra bonus - ice cream is available at Chittenango and Canastota.



Local waterfront revitalization grants to benefit Canalway Trail

Ten of the 90 projects recently awarded matching grants from the state's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program will directly benefit the Canalway Trail System, including three awards to aid construction of the Cayuga-Seneca Trail and funds to plan for improving connections between the City of Little Falls and the Canalway Trail. The Department of State's Division of Coastal Resources administers the awards. Because the Canalway Trail is located adjacent to the canal waterfront for much of its length, Canalway Trail communities have been able to take advantage of these grants to help with the costs of planning and construction and thus allow them to invest in the extra amenities to make their trail and canalside environment attractive to the public.

Cayuga-Seneca Trail

Seneca County, in partnership with the Towns of Waterloo and Fayette, will

Taking advantage of the pleasant spring weather, one of the three former railroad bridges has already been redecked on the Cayuga-Seneca Trail by Eagle Scout candidate Laverne Sessler and members of Troop 81.

receive three matching grants totaling \$176,372 to complete the first 4.5 miles of Cayuga-Seneca Trail between Geneva and Waterloo. Community groups and businesses such as Finger Lakes Leadership, Scouts, Geneva Bicycle Center, and the Waterloo Rotary are rallying in support of the project by volunteering to raise additional funds, build a kiosk, redeck bridges (one that is 110 feet long), and help plan a trail opening celebration.

"This funding was the spark we needed to finish the job," said Vince Scalise, President of the not-for-profit Friends of the Cay-Sen Trail. "After many months of volunteer work to clear the proposed trail, we needed funds to deck three bridges, purchase stone dust, and, most importantly, to connect Seneca Lake State



Park with the main body of the trail by going under four-lane route 96A. With volunteer labor and county trucks and equipment, the grant monies will allow us to finish all three aspects of the trail construction. We are ecstatic and look forward to completing the trail in time for National Trails Day in June 2010."

Little Falls

In the Herkimer County city of Little Falls, a matching grant of \$324,275 will allow the city to complete a feasibility analysis and construction designs for a pedestrian bridge crossing the Erie Canal and enhancements to Rotary Park in order to improve connections between the City's downtown and the Canalway Trail, Erie Canal and Mohawk River waterfronts. "The enhancement of Rotary Park will make a great venue even greater by adding additional amenities for boaters, hikers and bikers and increase the appeal of Little Falls as a destination for outdoor recreational tourists," said Alan Vincent, Little Falls business owner and Canalway Trails Association New York president. "The eventual construction of the pedestrian bridge will provide a convenient connection to Canal Place and Main St. for South Side residents, boaters and trail users. In addition, this will strengthen Little Falls' link in the chain of pearls that is the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor," added Vincent.

A complete listing of grants can be found on the Department of State website at <http://www.dos.state.ny.us>.

If you are interested in participating in the Canalway Trails Association New York in any way, please fill out the coupon below and send it to the address indicated. You can also email your information to canaltrail@ptny.org.

Yes, I would like to learn more! Fill in and return this portion to the Canalway Trails Association at the address below:

_____ Please put me on your mailing list to receive newsletters and other information.

_____ Please put me in touch with others working to support the Canalway Trail in my area.

Name (legibly, please!) _____

Address _____

Town/state/zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____



CANALWAY TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEW YORK
C/O PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK
29 ELK STREET
ALBANY, NY 12207 (518) 434-1583
www.ptny.org



Parks & Trails
NEW YORK

29 Elk Street
Albany, New York 12207

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 118
Albany, NY

Make this the year you do it!
Cycling the Erie Canal
July 11-18, 2010
www.ptny.org



New Guide a Resource for Canal Communities to Attract Bicyclists

The New York State Canal Corporation, Parks & Trails New York and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor recently announced the availability of *Bicyclists Bring Business: A Guide for Attracting Bicyclists to New York's Canal Communities*. The Bicyclists Bring Business guide focuses on how to attract and profit from the growing number of bicycle tourists along the Erie Canalway Trail. Local business people, elected officials, Chambers of Commerce, Tourism Promotion Agencies, and bicycling enthusiasts will all find the new guide book interesting and helpful.

Governor David A. Paterson said, "The Canalway Trail crosses much of Upstate New York and offers recreational and tourism opportunities to residents and

visitors alike. This Bicyclists Bring Business guide will allow the hundreds of communities linked to the trail to attract more bicyclists and, in turn, increase economic development."

The 365-mile Erie Canalway Trail follows both active and historic sections of the Erie Canal between Buffalo and Albany. More than three-quarters of the trail is off road and at specific locations attracts an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 cyclists for day trips and multi-day excursions each year.

With the combination of the waterway, the Canalway Trail, and an extensive number of attractions, the National Heritage Corridor is becoming increasingly attractive to those wishing to enjoy a cycling vacation in Upstate New York. The Bicyclists Bring Business guide sets forth strategies for enhancing the appeal of communities and businesses along the

Canalway Trail to bicycle tourists.

The guide points to studies that show:

- Bicycling is now the third most common vacation activity
- Bicycle tourists are, on average, well educated older adults from upper income households who typically travel in groups of friends or family members.
- Bicycle tourists spend money. Those who take long, multi-day bicycling vacations spend between \$100 and \$300 per day on food lodging and other items.
- Bicycle tourists will travel further to bike on a multi-use trail or low traffic road than to use roads.

To download a complete copy of *Bicyclists Bring Business: A Guide for Attracting Bicyclists to New York's Canal Communities*, please visit Parks & Trails New York's website www.ptny.org and click on publications. 