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In partnership with the National Park Service





No small thing

Resurrecting an 843-ton vessel and sending her out on a 600-mile voyage is no small thing. The same holds true for surveying more than 250 structures along the entire length of the canal system...or building a network of outstanding historic and cultural sites that reinforce the national significance of the Erie Canalway.

Yet in 2009 we did all of these and much more.

The sheer size of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor—4,834 square miles in 23 counties with 524 miles of navigable waterways at its heart—is, of itself, no small thing. At every turn, protecting and enhancing the Erie Canalway for all to use and enjoy requires big thinking and creative partnerships and funding. It demands exceptional dedication, not just on our part, but on the part of people and communities from Buffalo to Albany to Whitehall.

We couldn't be more fortunate to have so many people in so many places who care so much about making the Erie Canalway the best it can be.

And when it comes down to it, that's no small thing. It's the most important thing of all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe M. Callahan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Joseph M. Callahan

Commission Chair

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor



Left: *Day Peckinpaugh*, 1921.

Right: Schoharie Creek Aqueduct, 1970.

On the cover: The *Day Peckinpaugh* motors up the Champlain Canal on its 2009 Quadricentennial Legacy Voyage. See page 6.



2009

"The Erie Canal holds a special place in New York State's history, and the legislation that passed today will make sure it has a special place in its future, too."
Senator Charles Schumer

"These federal dollars will go a long way to help preserve the Erie Canal Corridor, promote our natural heritage, and maintain access for our communities and tourists alike."
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Authorization Extended to 2015

Thanks to the support of our congressional delegation, the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, which included language to extend the authorization of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor for five years, was passed and signed by President Obama in March. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand supported the legislation, as did eight members of the House of Representatives whose districts overlap with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. This extension provides the heritage corridor with access to federal resources and National Park Service technical assistance and expertise through 2015.

Reinforce

the canalway corridor's distinctive sense of place

The Corridor's historic and cultural resources deserve protection on their own merits, but also as contributors to a distinctive sense of place that appeals to residents, tourists, and others making place-based investment decisions.

Village of Fairport

"The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is working to protect and enhance the rich historical, recreational, and scenic amenities that make our canal towns such wonderful places to live, work and visit."
Congressman Dan Maffei, representing NY's 25th District

2009

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

National Register Listing for New York State Canal System

Working in partnership with the NYS Canal Corporation, the NYS Museum, and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Erie Canalway spearheaded efforts to move forward with listing the New York State Barge Canal System on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2009, Erie Canalway directed two National Park Service historians with the Historic American Engineering Record in documenting more than 250 canal structures and sites to complete a critical part of the nomination. The team visited, photographed, and wrote descriptions of every lock, lift bridge, guard gate, building, and dry dock on the four operating branches of the canal system.

Data from the survey are now being summarized and compiled to support the National Register nomination. The fieldwork, combined with GIS mapping and archival research at the New York State Archives and Canal Corporation offices, will result in a comprehensive list of historic features throughout the system. Written reports for each site will eventually be housed at the Library of Congress for permanent care and public access.



Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence

This award honors and celebrates the great places that make up the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and recognizes excellence in advancing the goals of the Erie Canalway Preservation and Management Plan. Staff and commissioners facilitated an independent jury who selected finalists based on written applications and rigorous site visits involving not only project sponsors, but community members, stakeholders, and municipal leaders. Now in its second year, the awards program is proving to be an excellent way to build relationships with community leaders, promote model projects, and inspire others to get involved in heritage development.

2009 Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence

- Village of Brockport

2009 Honorable Mention

- Erie Canal Discovery Center and Lockport Visitor Center, Lockport
- Spencerport Depot and Canal Museum, Spencerport

Photo Contest and 2010 Calendar

Sunrises, sunsets, celebrations, and everyday scenes from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor were among the winning images of the 2009 Erie Canalway Photo Contest. Judges selected twelve winners from 525 entries submitted by 138 photographers from seven states. Winning images are featured in our 2010 Erie Canalway Calendar, distributed free throughout the Corridor.

Build awareness and understanding



Raising awareness and understanding of the region's nationally significant history and diverse cultural and recreational assets is among the primary strategies for ensuring that current and future generations of residents and visitors will value and support preservation of the Corridor's heritage.

2009

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

National Parks: America's Best Idea

An estimated 135,000 television viewers were introduced to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor this year, thanks to public television stations WMHT and WCNY. In concert with the airing of Ken Burns' new documentary series on the National Parks, Erie Canalway collaborated with National Park Service colleagues from other upstate New York national parks and heritage areas and local PBS stations to create one-minute segments highlighting local stories and introducing viewers to national parks and heritage areas within each station's viewing area. The segments aired in advance of and during the Ken Burns series.

Interpretive Exhibits

Erie Canalway is telling the story of the canal at several new sites this year with the installation of outdoor interpretive exhibits. Exhibit panels at Guy Park in Amsterdam, installed in partnership with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, New York State Canal Corporation, and Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor, explain the Mohawk River's key role as a transportation corridor. We also installed two additional exhibits at Falls View Park in Cohoes to show how the need to navigate around New York's second largest waterfall contributed to the development of the Erie Canal. At the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, exhibit panels to be installed in the spring of 2010 describe digging a ditch through the mire of the Montezuma marshes, and share the value of wetland restoration and management at the refuge for migratory birds.



Underground Railroad—Network to Freedom

Erie Canalway hosted five regional round-tables to kick off efforts to link together significant Underground Railroad sites within the Corridor and pursue inclusion in the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The designation will formally acknowledge the significant role New York's canals and canal communities played in fostering the Underground Railroad and abolitionism. This initiative continues in 2010 as we work with our Underground Railroad partners to develop a network of sites and programs, submit an application to the Network to Freedom, and promote these resources to regional, national, and international audiences.

Eriecanalway.org

Erie Canalway launched a new website in October 2008 and continued to build links and networks throughout 2009. Average monthly visitation jumped from 1,600 per month to our former site to 17,000 per month to the new site; the total number of yearly visitors grew tenfold to nearly 200,000 in 2009.



"The Erie Canal is a key part of our history both nationally and in Western New York in particular. This legislation (Omnibus Public Lands Management Act, 2009) ensures the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor program has the tools it needs to continue its mission of protecting this historic waterway and promoting economic development in our region."

Congressman Chris Lee, representing NY's 26th District

The Quadricentennial Voyage of the *Day Peckinpaugh*



"The voyages of the Day Peckinpaugh in 2009 and beyond will reinforce the linkages among the communities along the canals and other waterways of the State. Indeed, for many years, the *Peckinpaugh* extended that network from the Atlantic seaboard to the interior Great Lakes, fulfilling the dreams of Hudson and Fulton."

Dr. Clifford A. Siegfried, Director of the New York State Museum

BY THE NUMBERS

600

Miles
traveled

14

Number
of Ports

8,000

Number of
Visitors (from
12 states and
6 countries)

40

Number of
Organizations
Involved

25

Number of
Volunteers

1,500

Number of
Volunteer Hours

The *Day Peckinpaugh*—the first of a generation of canal boats to operate on their own power and the last remaining of her kind—traveled nearly 600 miles along the Hudson River, Champlain Canal, and Lake Champlain in August and September to commemorate the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial with thousands of New Yorkers. The impressive 259-foot long vessel visited 14 ports-of-call for events and free tours and welcomed aboard 8,000 people.

The voyage was organized by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, in conjunction with the New York State Museum, the New York State Canal Corporation, Saratoga National Historical Park, and tour community partners, with funding secured by Congressman Maurice Hinchey. The tour marked the vessel's first voyage since being retired from hauling freight in 1994.

Now the largest single item in the collection of the New York State Museum, the *Day Peckinpaugh* will continue to share New York's world renowned canal history and inspire future visitors as it travels along the waterways of the Empire State.



Clockwise from top left:

> The intrepid crew of the *Day Peckinpaugh*, led by Captain John Callaghan, worked tirelessly to prepare the boat for its Legacy Voyage, and continued restoration efforts while on the journey.

> Twenty-five volunteers dedicated 1,500 hours to welcoming people aboard and sharing stories of the *Day Peckinpaugh*'s incredible journey from freight hauler to traveling museum.

> Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor staff worked with the New York State Museum to produce interpretive exhibits for the vessel's enormous hold. Ten four-by-eight-foot hanging panels told stories of the central role New York's waterways have played in shaping the state and nation for more than 400 years.

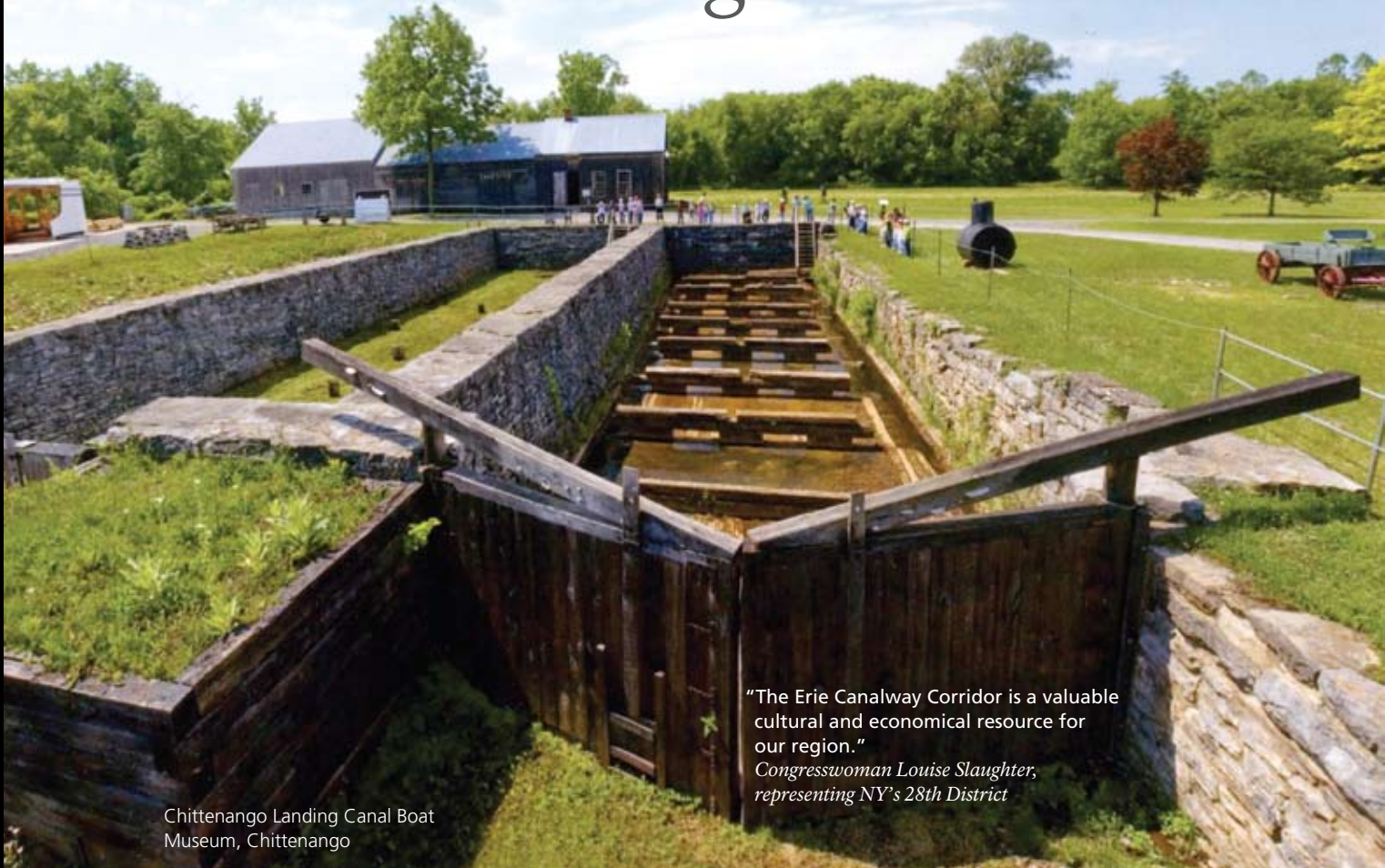
> Communities from Plattsburgh to New York City welcomed the *Day Peckinpaugh* with fanfare. New York State Assemblyman Robert Reilly and other dignitaries addressed the crowd at our final tour stop in Waterford.

Retired AP photographer Jim McKnight generously donated his services to document the journey.



"The Erie Canal is a national treasure and we must protect and preserve it."
Congressman Eric Massa, representing NY's 29th District

Stimulate economic revitalization and heritage tourism



Chittenango Landing Canal Boat
Museum, Chittenango

"The Erie Canalway Corridor is a valuable cultural and economical resource for our region."

*Congresswoman Louise Slaughter,
representing NY's 28th District*

Each of the 234 cities, towns, and villages in the 4,834-square-mile National Heritage Corridor has a unique contribution to make to the Erie Canalway. Each has its own stories to tell, history to preserve, and places to celebrate. But the resources to make it happen are often beyond what is available locally. By working with communities and connecting individual sites to the larger Corridor, we are accomplishing more than single sites can do alone.

2009

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Passport to Your National Parks

Millions of people visit national parks and NPS-affiliated areas nationwide each year and record their experiences with free cancellation stamps. Erie Canalway commissioners and staff spearheaded efforts to bring the popular passport program to the Corridor in order to link significant sites and stories throughout the Erie Canalway, encourage multi-day excursions, and offer visitors a more complete experience. Visitors to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor can now collect stamps at 16 cultural heritage sites and five national park sites participating in the Passport to Your National Parks® program.

Event Sponsorship

In 2009, Erie Canalway co-sponsored four Corridor-wide events and 19 community-based events that brought more than a half-million visitors to the canal, the Erie Canalway Trail, and canal communities. Partnerships with New York State Canal Corporation, Parks and Trails New York, Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and community partners were essential to the success of these events. Canal-wide events included: Canalway Trail Celebration, Cycling the Erie Canal, Hudson-Champlain Kayak Paddle, and Canal Splash!

Events and festivals throughout the National Heritage Corridor were counted as a key factor in boosting overall canal traffic in 2009. Cultural, heritage, and recreational events deliver significant tourism and economic benefits to communities, including more than \$209 million each year in direct sales revenues in the Erie Canalway (2007 *Economic Impact Study*, New York State Canal Corporation).



Alling Coverlet Museum, Palmyra

Inventory of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Destinations

The arts are known to provide multiple benefits to communities by sparking and fostering creativity, improving quality of life, attracting new and repeat visitors, and offering economic development opportunities. In an effort to better assess and promote the rich artistic and cultural expression inspired by and resulting from the development of the Corridor's historic canals, the Commission contracted with the New York Folklore Society to complete a selected Inventory of the Arts and Cultural Destinations in the Erie Canalway. A team of folklorists, historians, and a photographer visited Canalway communities in 2009 and is now analyzing data. Results will be made available in 2010.

Expanded New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit

The Commission provided financial support to the Preservation League of New York State to complete an economic impact study of an expanded New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit, expected to benefit many Erie Canalway communities. Legislation to expand the program (A.9023-Hoyt/Destito/S.6056-Valesky), signed by Governor Paterson in July, provides more effective incentives and program features for developers and homeowners seeking to rehabilitate historic structures. Our funding will further enable the Preservation League to educate a broad range of communities about the advantages of this community and neighborhood revitalization incentive.



Strengthen community capacity

Investing in partnerships yields larger returns. In 2007, the Commission awarded \$200,000 in small grants to thirteen communities and organizations. The funds were matched dollar for dollar by grant recipients for projects that build awareness of the region's rich history and contribute to the Erie Canalway Corridor as a world class tourism destination. Seven of the initial 13 projects have been completed, with much activity occurring during 2009, including those listed on the opposite page.



"Preserving and protecting the history and natural resources of Upstate New York is essential to our economic growth and development in the future."

Congressman Michael Arcuri, representing NY's 24th District



Erie Canal Narrated Cruises, Rochester

Narrated cruises offered by Corn Hill Navigation on the Erie Canal and Genesee River attract an increasing number of visitors to Canalway waterfronts in the Village of Pittsford and Corn Hill Landing in downtown Rochester. This grant enabled Corn Hill Navigation to develop new interpretive scripts for its touring vessels to highlight the cultural heritage of the Erie Canal in the greater Rochester area. Corn Hill offers narrated cruises to 15,000 passengers each year, including the general public, school groups, and tour groups visiting Monroe County.

Outdoor Interpretive Exhibits, Village of Fairport

Residents and visitors can learn the story of the Village of Fairport's rich and authentic history as an Erie Canal village through thirteen new outdoor interpretive signs to be strategically placed throughout downtown next spring. The signs juxtapose historic and present day sites, connecting past to present and people to place. The collection of signs is an integral part of Fairport's main street plan and will help draw visitors from the village's port to its main street and throughout its downtown district.

◀ Lock Island Pedestrian Access Improvements, Village of Phoenix

Lock Island on the Oswego Canal got a boost this year as the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board and the Village of Phoenix together developed a brochure and map to Village recreational trails, installed welcome and interpretive signs, and improved pedestrian crosswalks to increase visitation to this community asset. Interpretive panels highlight the historic resources along this section of the canal, as well as the abundant birds and fish that visitors may spot from the island. As a result of the 2007 Strategic Plan for the Canal Waterfront District in the Village of Phoenix, this project and discussions about Lock Island led to greater community awareness of the benefits of heritage development.

2009

Guide to Ithaca Waterfront, Ithaca

A grant awarded to the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Foundation resulted in Ithaca's *Waterfront Guide & Map*, which includes information about Ithaca's waterfront trail and numerous waterfront destinations on both sides of the Cayuga Inlet. A new interpretive sign and kiosk on this busy trail help reinforce the canal history of this Finger Lakes community, which serves as a major southern gateway to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

Technical Assistance

Our staff offers assistance to help communities and organizations meet their preservation goals. This year, we reviewed several Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans, fielded requests for funding sources, offered advice on planning and preservation issues, and acted as a facilitator for community collaboration. We also served on a team that provides technical assistance to communities engaged in the Western Erie Main Street Program, managed by Western Erie Canal Alliance and the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.

2009

Financial Report 2009**Federal Appropriation . . .** \$757,000**Other Federal Funding . . .** \$578,590**Non-Federal Funding** \$64,087**Program Area Spending:**Interpretation, Outreach,
and Orientation \$360,218Preservation of Historic,
Cultural, and Natural
Resources \$184,234

Economic Revitalization \$167,806

Heritage Tourism and
Recreation \$90,425

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor leveraged \$5.2 million in 2009 by working with our federal, state, and nonprofit partners on numerous projects and programs in the Corridor.

For more information about the programs and projects in this report, visit us online at www.eriecanalway.org.

"The preservation of our parks, heritage areas, forests and public lands is vital to remembering who we are as a nation."

*Congressman Paul Tonko,
representing NY's 21st District*



2009

Corridor Commission

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Vice Chair Russell S. Andrews, Syracuse
Secretary Alan N. Vincent, Little Falls
Treasurer Peter J. Welsby, Lockport
Ex Officio Dennis Reidenbach, Secretary of the Interior designee

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 Judith Schmidt-Dean, Schuylerville
 Robert Shibley, Buffalo
 Pieter W. Smeenk, Fairport
 Stuart W. Stein, Ithaca
 Peter Wiles Jr., Macedon

Many thanks

After years of dedicated service to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, several commissioners stepped down in 2009: Rocco J. DiVeronica of Canastota, Lynn B. Herzig of Geneva, Christopher Lindley of Rochester, and Founding Chair Eric Mower of Syracuse.

STAFF

Beth Sciumeca, Executive Director
 Hannah Blake, Director of Planning and Heritage Development
 Rosemary Button, Administrative Assistant
 Duncan Hay, Cultural Resources Manager
 Andy Kitzmann, Program Manager
 Jean Mackay, Director of Communications and Outreach
 Lori Solomon-Duell, Director of Heritage Tourism

2009 Congressional Delegation

U.S. SENATORS

Charles Schumer
 Kirsten Gillibrand

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

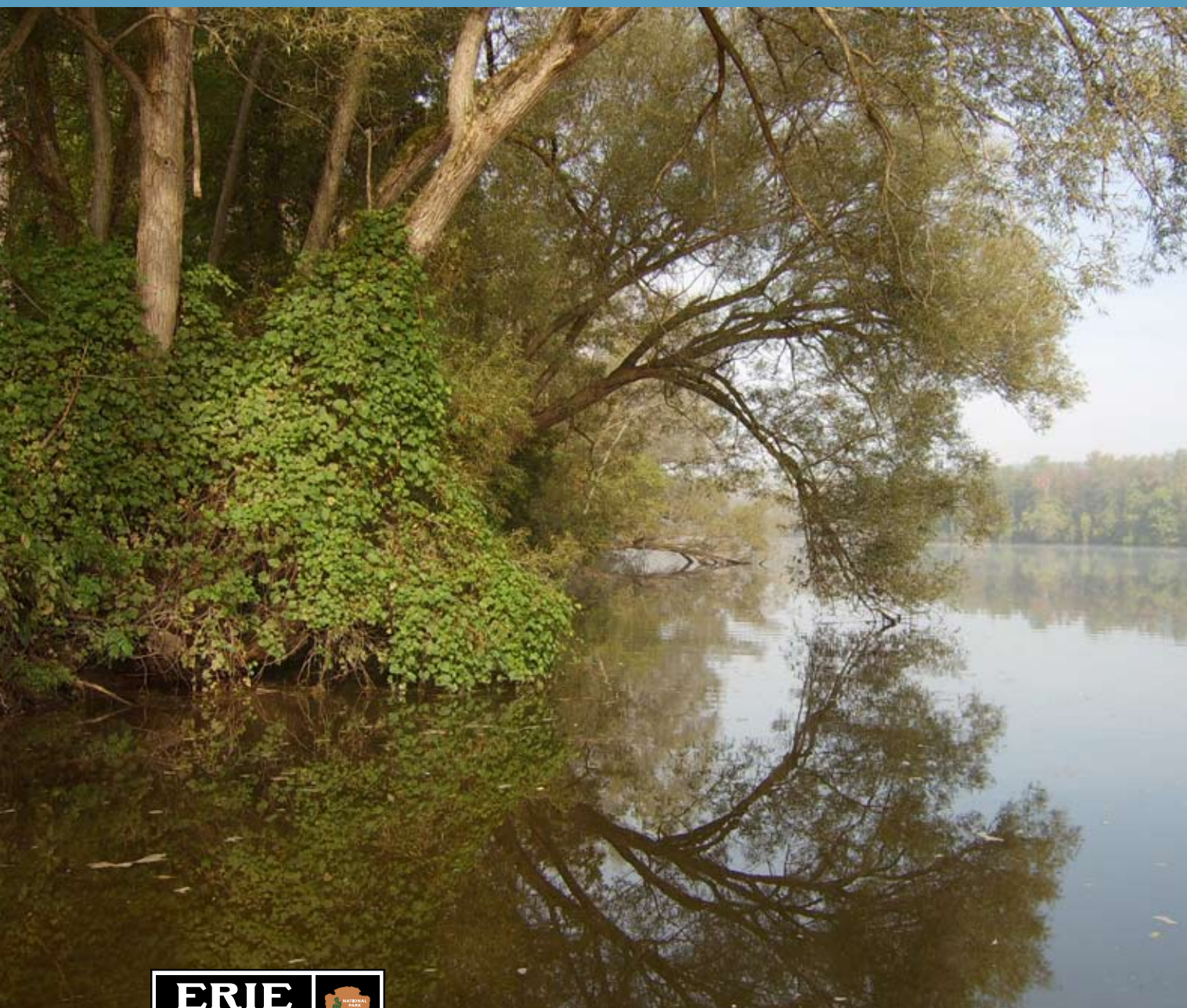
Michael Arcuri
 Brian Higgins
 Maurice Hinchey
 Chris Lee
 Dan Maffei
 Eric Massa
 John McHugh
 Scott Murphy
 Louise Slaughter
 Paul Tonko

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, established in 2000 by an Act of Congress, spans 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York. It includes the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain canals and their historic alignments. The Corridor encompasses 4,834 square miles in 23 counties and is home to 2.7 million people.



Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
 P.O. Box 219
 Waterford, NY 12188
 (518) 237-7000
www.eriecanalway.org

"This legislation (Omnibus Public Lands Management Act, 2009) allows us to protect this important historic and cultural resource for generations to come and to promote the Erie Canal as a tourist destination for today's visitors."
Congressman Brian Higgins, representing NY's 27th District



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