



## Erie Canalway News Release

**For Immediate Release, March 8, 2016**

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### Grants Boost Erie Canal Education and Preservation

WATERFORD, NY – Ten innovative education and preservation projects will get off the ground this year with funding support from Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Congressman Paul Tonko joined New York State and local officials along with representatives from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to announce **\$43,870 in grants**, which will leverage an additional \$164,889 in private and public project funding raised by grant recipients.

**Three organizations in the greater Capital Region** are among the grant recipients:

- **Cohoes Local Development Corporation** was awarded \$7,000 to develop interpretive signs at the City of Cohoes' Visitor Center and at important canal sites along the city's walking trail.
- **Waterford Historical Museum & Cultural Center** was awarded \$3,200 to develop a walking tour at Lock E-2 for the museum's *Canalways Program* for students.
- **The Friends of Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site** was awarded \$6,500 to design and develop a model of the significant canal features on site to use for educational purposes.

Recipients accepted big checks for their grant awards at a press conference at Cohoes' Visitor Center on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 10 am.

**U.S. Congressman Paul Tonko** said, "I am very pleased the effort put in each and every day from our local organizations is being supported on a federal level with this funding. Our system of canals helped drive economic growth and cultural development in New York for years, and these grants will bolster our efforts to further advance the region, drive tourism, and celebrate our rich history."

**Erie Canalway has awarded nearly \$500,000 in small grants since 2007, which has leveraged an additional \$1.65 million in project funding.**

**Erie Canalway Director Bob Radliff** said, "We are proud to support these exciting new projects. By partnering with proven organizations, who offer unique assets and expertise, we are able to spur learning about New York's legendary canals and attract more visitors to the Corridor."

**NYS Canal Corporation Director Brian Stratton said:** "The programs supported by these awards represent the enduring spirit that has kept New York's Canal system a vital part of the state's history and character for nearly 200 years; each community embracing, celebrating and preserving its own unique relationship with the Canal. It is through local efforts such as these that the Canal remains a vital part of our communities, our identity and our sense of place."

#### **ABOUT THE ERIE CANALWAY**

The **Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor** preserves our extraordinary canal heritage, promotes the Corridor as a world-class tourism destination, and fosters vibrant communities connected by more than 500 miles of waterway. We achieve our mission in partnership with the National Park Service, New York State agencies, non-profit organizations, local residents, and more than 200 communities across the full expanse of upstate New York.

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

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