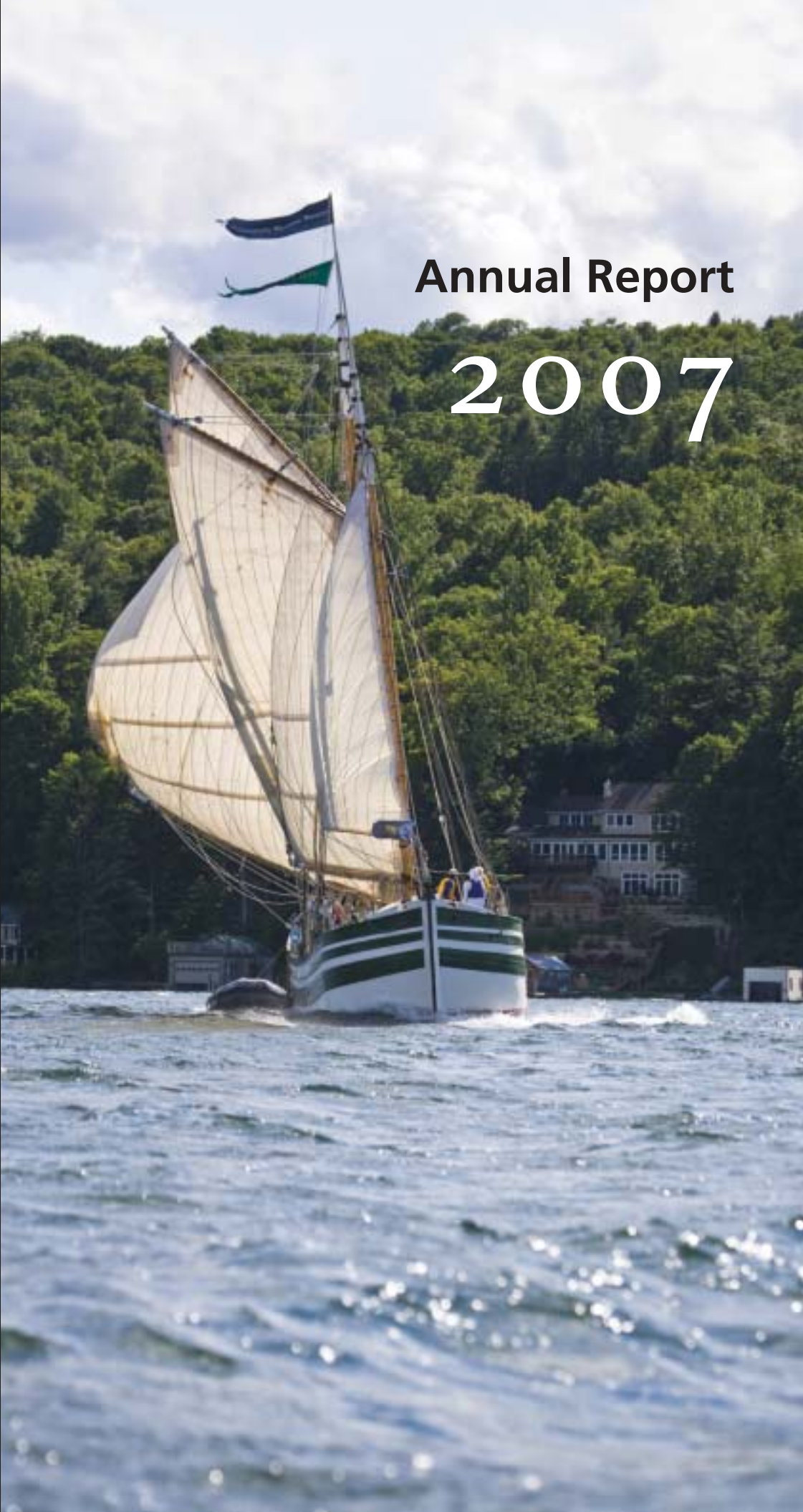


Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Annual Report

2007





Think big.

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, established in 2000 by an Act of Congress, stretches 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York. It encompasses 234 diverse communities connected by a waterway that changed not just the landscape of our state, but also our nation and its history.

Reinforcing the Canalway Corridor's distinctive sense of place—and building awareness and understanding of its national significance—are among the top management priorities for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's 27-member federal commission and its staff. Like our Erie Canal forebearers in the 1800s, the Commission, canal communities and organizational partners are combining vision, ingenuity, and hard work to achieve our aims.

Recent accomplishments include hosting a 1,000-mile Grand Canal Journey of a replica 1862 canal schooner, the *Lois McClure*, which visited 28 cities and towns and attracted more than 30,000 visitors aboard the vessel.

The Commission leveraged \$1.2 million to fund a variety of projects this year, and its grants program is helping canal communities to build upon their strengths. Among projects funded in 2007 are interpretive signs, waterfront planning, trails, events, and Web-based resources.

In addition, the Commission is facilitating connections among communities to spread the flow of ideas, to solve common problems, and to collaborate on matters of economic advancement. It has co-sponsored numerous workshops and conferences, and is building a new website to connect historic, cultural, and recreational resources within the larger framework of the Canalway Corridor.

We look forward to 2008 with a continued sense of both purpose and promise. By recollecting our heritage and building partnerships that advance our shared goals, we enhance and celebrate the Erie Canalway for all to use and enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Mower".

Eric Mower

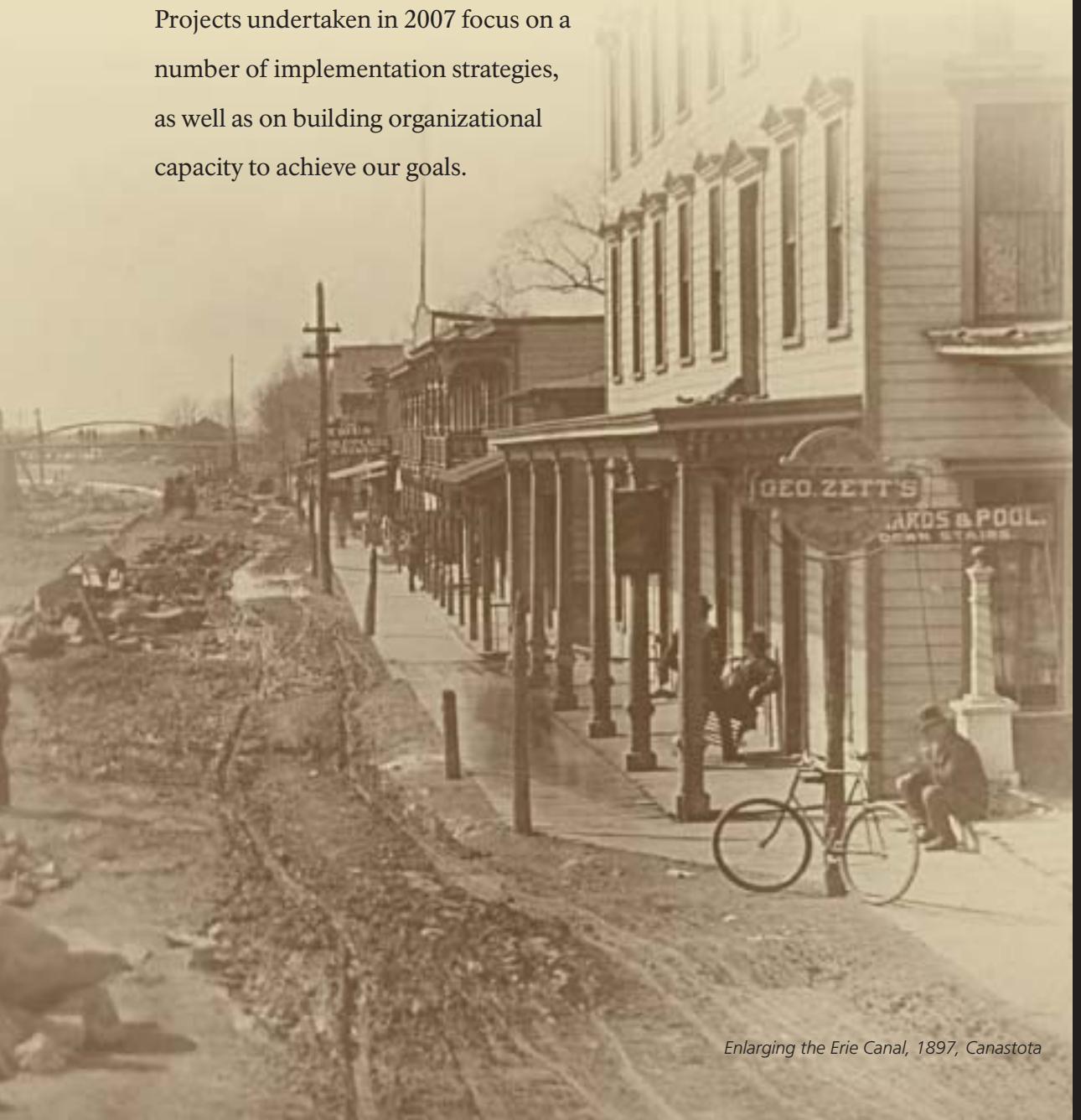
Commission Chairman

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Dig in.

It took nearly eight years to construct the Erie Canal. We're not laboring in the same hard trenches, but we are tackling the bold vision set forth in our award winning Preservation and Management Plan, adopted in 2006, with equal vigor.

Projects undertaken in 2007 focus on a number of implementation strategies, as well as on building organizational capacity to achieve our goals.



Enlarging the Erie Canal, 1897, Canastota

Strengthen Community Capacity

Numerous communities are contributing to the preservation and enhancement of the Corridor's heritage resources and economy. Our job is to build upon those strengths. Accomplishments in 2007 include:

Grants Program Awards \$200,000

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor awarded \$200,000 in grants in 2007 to assist canal communities across the state. As a result, thirteen recipients are undertaking projects and programs that protect and celebrate the Corridor's distinct sense of place, while boosting heritage tourism and recreational opportunities.

The Grants Program seeks to advance the goals of our Preservation and Management Plan by engaging partners who can leverage additional resources and encouraging collaboration. Though the total amount awarded is relatively small, the program helps to fill a gap in small grant funding in the Canalway Corridor.

2007 Grantees

- Canal Society of New York State, Cayuga County
- The Corn Hill Waterfront & Navigation Foundation, Monroe County
- Chamber of Schenectady County, Schenectady & Montgomery Counties
- Erie Canal Museum, Onondaga County
- Historic Palmyra, Wayne County
- Landmark Society of Western New York, Wayne, Monroe, Orleans, Erie & Niagara Counties
- Parks & Trails New York, All counties (Corridor-wide project)
- Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Tompkins County
- Valley Community Association, Erie County
- Village of Fairport, Monroe County
- Village of Fort Ann/Town of Fort Ann, Washington County
- Village of Jordan, Onondaga County
- Village of Phoenix, Oswego County



The Grants Program is helping canal communities fund projects that protect and showcase the Corridor. Pictured (from left): Mayor of the Village of Fort Ann Richard Foran, Erie Canalway Community Planner Hannah Blake, and Supervisor of the Town of Fort Ann Gayle Hall.

Fundraising Organization

The Commission obtained tax exempt status from the IRS and began to establish a board of directors for the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, established in 2006 as a fundraising organization. The new organization will work in close cooperation with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission to raise additional funds for projects and programs that benefit communities throughout the Corridor.



The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor received the Peter Wiles Sr. Canal Achievement Award for excellence in canal education and preservation from the Canal Society of New York State. Accepting the award on behalf of the Commission (from left): Peter Wiles, Frank Dean, Duncan Hay, Tom Grasso, and Vicky Daly, with Dave Wahl of the Canal Society.

Build Awareness and Understanding

Eighty percent of upstate New Yorkers live within 25 miles of the canal system. Yet some residents and visitors express surprise that the canal is still in operation. The Commission and its partners are putting the Erie Canalway back on the map with projects and programs to raise awareness and understanding of this national and state asset.



New Gateway Signs

Motorists along the NYS Thruway from Albany to Buffalo, the I87 Northway, and a number of state roads are seeing new gateway signs to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, thanks to federal transportation dollars secured by Congressman James Walsh. The 162 brown and white signs, which include the National Park Service arrowhead logo and the words “Entering Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor,” present a unified and consistent image that draws attention to the Corridor by the approximately 50 to 60 million people who will see them each year.

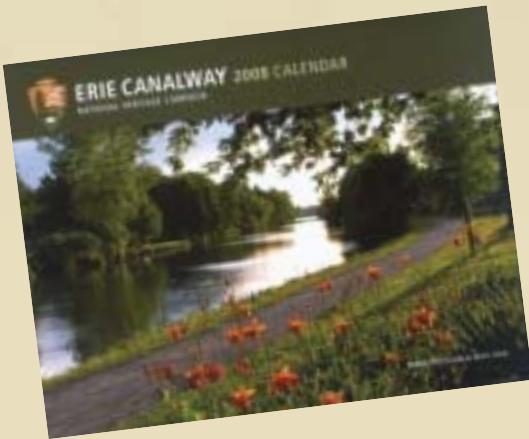


Photo Contest and 2008 Calendar

A panel of judges selected 24 photos taken by upstate New York residents for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor’s 2008 calendar. The second annual photo contest drew nearly 100 entrants and a total of 288 photographs. Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor printed and distributed 4,000 free calendars to showcase the beauty, history, people, and character of New York’s canals and canal communities.

Trails & Rails Program

The Trails & Rails Program—an educational partnership between Amtrak and the National Park Service to offer a unique and interactive travel experience on trains throughout the country—continued to gain momentum in 2007. Our network of volunteer guides grew to 40, thanks to new orientation and training offered this year. Interpretation on Amtrak’s Maple Leaf train heading west out of the Albany-Rensselaer train station covers the rich history of the Mohawk Valley, including the story of the Erie Canal. Programming on the Adirondack train heading north includes local Revolutionary War history and stories of the Hudson River.

Day Peckinpaugh

The *Day Peckinpaugh*, an operational historic canal motor ship owned by the New York State Museum, is one step closer to becoming a water-based traveling exhibit and classroom. Thanks to continued collaboration among the Museum, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, NYS Canal Corporation, and Canal Society of New York State, restoration continued on the vessel and the first phase of National Park Service interpretive exhibits were installed. The partners are working toward having the *Peckinpaugh* fully operational and out on tour during the 2009 navigation season as part of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration.

Seasonal Park Rangers

Two seasonal park rangers provided programs and assisted with the Grand Canal Journey of the *Lois McClure* and travels of the *Day Peckinpaugh*. They also staffed the visitor center at the southeastern gateway to the Corridor at Peebles Island State Park in Waterford.

Stimulate Economic Revitalization and Heritage Tourism

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor seeks to be a catalyst for economic revitalization that protects and showcases the best of upstate New York's rich heritage. Accomplishments in 2007 included:



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PBS film on New York's Canals

Erie Canalway collaborated with PBS station WCNY-TV on the production of a one-hour documentary on New York's canals, *Dream Destinations: New York's Contemporary Canals*. Interviews with Erie Canalway Commissioner and Director of NYS Canal Corporation Carmella Mantello and Erie Canalway Executive Director Frank Dean weave together historical and present day perspectives on the canal's national significance. The television program, first aired on November 12, is designed to motivate tourists to visit canal communities and attractions.

Canal Events & Conferences

The Commission joined forces with its partners to boost tourism and recreation, as well as promote community planning and preservation of heritage resources. Co-sponsored events and conferences in 2007, included:

- **Erie Canalway Trail Celebration—** Thirty-four events in 16 counties were held in conjunction with National Trails Day in June, and sponsored by Parks & Trails New York, the NYS Canal Corporation, and the Canalway Trails Association New York, with support from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.
- **Cycling the Erie Canal—** Five hundred cyclists participated in Parks & Trails New York's annual eight-day, 400-mile recreational bike tour from Buffalo to Albany.
- **Canal Splash!** One hundred events drew an estimated 35,000 participants to this NYS Canal Corporation event.
- **Conference presentations and exhibits:** Upstate New York Chapter-American Planning Association Conference, New York Conference of Mayors, International Heritage Development Conference, and Healthy Trails, Healthy Communities Conference.



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Events like *Cycling the Erie Canal* and *Canal Splash!* invite residents and visitors to explore and enjoy the Canalway Corridor. (*Cyclists crossing Schoharie Creek; Cardboard Boat Race, Schuylerville*)

Initiate a Signature Canal-wide Event

The Grand Canal Journey of the *Lois McClure*

New Yorkers and visitors were invited to explore and celebrate the nationally significant Erie Canalway in 2007, as the 1862 replica canal schooner *Lois McClure* voyaged across the Empire State on a 1,000 mile Grand Canal Journey.

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, in partnership with The New York State Canal Corporation and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, sponsored the voyage to showcase the many historic, cultural, natural, and recreational assets of today's canalside communities. In the course of the *Lois McClure's* travels from July through September, more than 30,000 people from 40 states and 10 countries stepped aboard for free tours offered in more than 25 communities in the Canalway Corridor.

The voyage achieved a number of goals detailed in our Preservation and Management Plan. It reinforced the Canalway as a living and working system, promoted regional collaboration, educated the public on the historical significance of the canal, and helped communities market their cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities. Extensive media coverage of the *Lois McClure's* journey appeared in every major newspaper outlet throughout the state, as well as on numerous television and radio stations.

As the primary sponsor, the Commission raised over \$300,000 from state and corporate partners to underwrite voyage expenses and marketing. Our thanks go to our partners and to the following voyage sponsors, whose generous support made the Grand Canal Journey possible: National Grid, KeySpan, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets-Pride of New York, Cabot and McCadam Cheese, Brookfield Power, and Saratoga Water. In addition, we extend our thanks to Mid-Lakes Navigation Company in Skaneateles for generously donating a two-day cruise on the Erie Canal and Red Mill Inn in Baldwinsville for donating a two-day stay to *Lois McClure* raffle winners.

Communities responded to the Lois McClure with numerous gifts and acts of kindness. The crew was presented with baskets of peaches and cherries in Western New York, ten pounds of garlic in Brockport, and a block of Medina sandstone—cargo reminiscent of what would have been carried on canal boats in the 1800s.



The crew educated 30,425 visitors, including 550 school children.



The Lois McClure transformed into a traditional canal boat with mast and sails lowered to accommodate the Erie Canal's famous low bridges. Her trusty tug, the Churchill—the modern equivalent of mules or horses that towed canal boats in the 1800s—pulled her from port to port.



During the Lois McClure's arrival in Medina, the boat was towed by mules for the first time, enabling the crew to interpret the experience and pass on this knowledge firsthand.





Corridor Commission

Officers

- Chairman** Eric Mower, *Syracuse*
Vice Chair Joseph Callahan, *Syracuse*
Secretary Alan Vincent, *Little Falls*
Treasurer Peter Welsby, *Lockport*
Ex Officio Chrysandra Walter, *National Park Service*

Commissioners

- Russell Andrews, *Syracuse*
 Clinton Brown, *Buffalo*
 Mayor Victoria Daly, *Palmyra*
 Rocco DiVeronica, *Canastota*
 Thomas Grasso, *Rochester*
 Carol Greenough, *Whitehall*
 Lynn Herzig, *Geneva*
 Christopher Lindley, *Rochester*
 Ken Lynch, *Syracuse*
 Carmella Mantello, *Director, NYS Canal Corporation*
 NYS Assemblyman Robert Reilly, *Newtonville*
 Judith Schmidt-Dean, *Schuylerville*
 Robert Shibley, *Buffalo*
 Pieter Smeenk, *Fairport*
 Stuart Stein, *Ithaca*
 Peter Wiles, *Macedon*

Staff

- Frank Dean, *Executive Director*
 Hannah Blake, *Community Planner*
 Rosemary Button, *Administrative Assistant*
 Mary Cunningham, *Office Manager*
 Denise Davis, *Seasonal Park Ranger*
 Lori Duell, *Project Manager*
 Duncan Hay, *Cultural Resources Manager*
 Jean Mackay, *Director of Communications and Outreach*
 Beth Sciumeca, *Program Manager*
 Ryan Steininger, *Seasonal Park Ranger*



From left: Jean Mackay, Rosemary Button, Frank Dean, Mary Cunningham, Beth Sciumeca, Duncan Hay, Lori Duell, Hannah Blake

Financial Report 2007

Income:

Federal Appropriation \$768,524

Expenses:

Heritage Development \$306,674
 Public Outreach \$268,305
 Interpretation and Education \$113,373
 Administrative \$80,172

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor also leveraged and matched these Federal appropriations with \$1.2 million in non-Federal funds by working with our state and nonprofit partners on numerous preservation and recreation projects in the Corridor.

Formal Partnerships

- American Labor Studies Center
 Canal Society of New York State
 Lakes to Locks Passage
 Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway Coalition, Inc.
 Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission
 New York State Canal Corporation
 New York State Education Department
 New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 Parks & Trails New York
 Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Commission

2007 Congressional Delegation

U.S. Senators

- Charles Schumer
 Hillary Rodham Clinton

U.S. Representatives

- Michael Arcuri
 Kirsten Gillibrand
 Brian Higgins
 Maurice Hinchey
 Randy Kuhl
 John McHugh
 Michael McNulty
 Thomas Reynolds
 Louise Slaughter
 James Walsh