



THE MULE

A quarterly newsletter of Camillus Erie Canal Park and the Camillus Canal Society
Town of Camillus, 4600 W. Genesee St., Camillus, NY 13031
Visit our website www.eriecanalcamillus.com

Fall Edition

October 2011

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP...

VISIT 5 MUSEUMS IN PALMYRA...Friday, October 14, 11AM – 4 PM. There is an opportunity to visit all 5 of Palmyra's museums during an open house of the CSNYS field trip to Palmyra. Entrance fee \$7.00 for all museums. Carpool from Sims Store at 11:00 AM.

William Phelps Store and Home-General Store constructed in 1826 has also been a tavern and a bakery for local people and those traveling the canal.

Palmyra Historical Museum – The former hotel and tavern is the home of 23 themed rooms.

Alling Coverlet Museum-has an outstanding collection of hand-woven coverlets.

Erie Canal Depot-portrays what it was like to purchase a ticket for a ride on a packet boat.

DON'T MISS THIS: TRIP TO PORT BYRON...Saturday morning, October 22, 10-12 program in Port Byron area. **Sue Paddock**, a retired fourth grade teacher, will be taking us to points of interest. We will visit the cemetery and , hopefully, the Erie House. Car pooling from Sims Store at 9:15 AM.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, October 22 at 2:00 PM **Daughters of the American Colonists** are presenting to the museum a very lovely plaque celebrating the Aqueduct. Cider and donuts will be served.

SNIPPETS AND TALES – SAVE THIS DATE – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2011...Our very special guest will be noted author **Miriam Monfredo** who combines mystery thrillers with history. Most of her writings occur in the Seneca Falls area. She will speak about her TRILOGY involving intrigue and the Civil War plus a new book she is preparing about the Erie Canal.

Time: 1:30-3:30 pm **Place:** CAMILLUS TOWN HALL, LOWER LEVEL, Entrance Male Avenue.

Information on any of these events go to web site: www.eriecanalcamillus.com or phone 391-7020.

Summer 2011 projects...reported by Hank Miller

Problem: severe erosion caused by water going over the overflow west of the aqueduct.

Solution: fill in the eroded area with riprap encased in gabion cages.

Twenty tons of stone was delivered to a point on the northside of the canal, which was then transported via Camillus Erie to the south side and held in place in wire baskets (gabions).

As you can imagine, this was a tedious, time consuming project, but under the direction of Joe Menzel, was accomplished in good order, with help from Fran Ezzo, John Braundel, Keith Barnes, Fred Cossick, Jim Thrall, Tom Ropchak and several others.

Ed Morgan built and installed a beautiful new kiosk in the aqueduct area. Fran Ezzo, George Eschenfelder and Tom Ropchak set the pavers in place. A picture of the completed aqueduct, with a narrative, will soon be hanging in the kiosk.

Dan Willis and Larry Hammontree recently changed the oil and lubricated the steering linkage on the Iroquois, and continue to keep on top of all the necessary things that are required to keep our new flagship in working order., with assistance from Lois Cogovan.

Clyde Ohl, ably assisted by Dick Grobsmith, has kept our gardens looking great all summer. An ordinary 55 gallon drum has been converted to a mobile watering system, which is now used to carry water to the "pocket parks" which have been created at various points along the trail.

In an effort to prevent leakage, Dave Beebe, Hank Miller, Jim Thrall & Dick Grobsmith spent some time caulking under the cap board along the northeast section of the aqueduct.

Paul Bertan has spent countless hours waging war against this summer's greater than usual weed growth in the canal, using the weed cutting vessel "Aquaduck". Dan Willis and Jim Thrall have offered their expertise to keep the Aquaduck's engines running.

Our most photogenic boat, the Ontario continues to receive TLC from Jim Thrall and Hank Miller . Several of the batteries were replaced this spring and she served us well on Towpath Day, Kudos to Paul Bertan for going into the water to clean weeds and about fifty yards of fishline from the propeller shaft.

Pole barn roof leakage has been kept in check by Kevin Milcarek and Tom Ropchak.

Ed Morgan and Tony Russo designed and built a safety barrier to prevent anyone, especially kids, from falling between the stonework and trunk wall on the towpath side of the aqueduct.

The team of Freddie Cossick and Joe Menzel masteminded a plan to move the woodshed from the south side to the northside of the "Toro"Barn, ably assisted by George Eschenfelder on the tractor, Fran Ezzo, Tony Russo and a contingent of "sidewalk superintendents" who were more than generous with all kinds of meaningless advice. This will allow for expansion of the "Toro Barn" to the south.

Jay Logan has been invaluable in keeping the tractors, mowers, golfcarts and other motorized equipment humming all summer long.

Our mowing crew of Craig Nunneker, Fred Cossic, George Eschenfelder, Bob Coombs, etal have kept the park trails in great shape.

Our major work parties are on Wednesday & Saturday, but there is work done on other days as well and we would be remiss not to mention the Tuesday duo of Gary Tyler and Tom Kehoskie who have been responsible for construction of most of the beautiful memorial benches that you see along the park trails. They also drag the crushed stone trails on a weekly basis

It's been a busy summer - I know I haven't included (or remembered) every person, or every project, so even if

you don't see your name here, you know that your efforts are appreciated and we couldn't do it without you.

DINNER CRUISE UPDATE...

Another successful summer at the Canal with our Dinner Cruise – 162 dinners were served as the Iroquois causally went down to the Aqueduct and returned. It is always so rewarding to see so many smiling faces upon the return to the Sims Store – and the compliments warm our hearts!

We couldn't do it without many, many helping hands...so a BIG THANK YOU to the following volunteers for making this possible: Pat Baker, Tom Baker, Sherry Barnes, Marge Becraft, Liz and Dave Beebe, Noreen Belfie, Donna Car, Lois Cogovan, Pat Cooper, Carol Cossick, Sandy Cutler, Dawn Daggett, Liz Harris, Irena Jemetz, Barbara Jock, Del Klein, Chris Kotula, Fran Logan, Hank Miller, Marilyn Morgan, Craig Nunneker, Sue Paddock, Shirley Ridler, Martha Scriver, Linda Snow, Barbara Spencer, Jim Thrall, Marge Tyler, Gary Tyler, Mary Weatherup, Oglia White, Martha Williams, Dan Willis, as well as the Wednesday morning and Saturday morning Work Groups. A SPECIAL THANK YOU goes to Bill and Bonnie Hastings who ably guides the volunteers.

TOWPATH DAY a BIG SUCCESS...

Beautiful weather, wonderful activities, terrific volunteers made our annual Towpath Day an event to remember for the many people who participated. A Circus Theme represented the travelling circus that used to tour the Erie Canal.

Balloons and wonderful circus posters created the circus atmosphere. A banjo player, juggler, Bluegrass music, popcorn, cotton candy all added to the enjoyment. Many displays, crafters, boat rides, wagon rides gave folks much to do while with us. The food court was a big success as always – the aroma of sausage, hamburgers and hot dogs cooking is always mouth-watering. The day ended with the Soda Ash Six playing as they moved about the area in one of our canal boats – what a treat!

This event could not have happened without over 100 volunteers graciously helping. There are just too many to name (and lest we forget someone) so a HUGE THANK YOU to each and everyone who helped to make this a “day to remember”!! We couldn't have done it without YOU!!

DATES FOR CALENDAR YEAR...

Holiday Party, Sunday, December 4, 2-4 PM, Sim's Store
Volunteer/Member Annual Dinner, Saturday, March 10, Senior Center - 40th Year Celebration
Orientation Day, Saturday, April 21, 2012
Saturday Clean-up Days, April 7, 14, 28, 9:00-12:00 Noon
Opening Day, Sunday, May 5, 1-5 PM
Memorial Day Parade & Picnic – May 28
Annual Picnic, July 21st at 12 Noon
Towpath Day, Saturday, August 11, 10-4

**“The Mule”
Town of Camillus Erie Canal Park
109 East Way
Camillus, NY 13031**

**CAMILLUS CANAL SOCIETY, INC.
NEW MEMBERSHIP or RENEWAL APPLICATION**

Yes, I want to be a member Please renew my membership
 I am enclosing my check Please contact me about volunteering

<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen (Age 60)	\$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Adult	15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	100.00

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone number _____

Make check payable to Camillus Canal Society, Inc. and mail to:

Dottie Nunneker, 637 Cherry Road, Syracuse, NY 13219

New memberships received after June 1 will pay half price for that year.

The half price feature DOES NOT apply to renewals.