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his has been an exciting year for the Erie Canalway National
Heritage Corridor. Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated
Commission, staff, and consultants as well as our many state and local partners, we have completed a Preservation and Management Plan that we think is unparalleled in its depth, breadth, and comprehensiveness for the Corridor. This plan provides a roadmap for us as we continue to combine our collective talents, resources, and energy to preserve this national treasure while unlocking its tremendous potential to bring cultural and economic renewal to each of the 234 communities across the Corridor.

The making of this plan has been a testament to the passion, dedication, and confidence we all share in this historic waterway. From the very start of initial planning meetings across the state to the enthusiastic response to and thoughtful comments on the draft plan, this has been a grassroots triumph that signals our ultimate success in realizing our shared vision for the Corridor.

2005 was a year for building a solid organizational foundation for Erie Canalway NHC. Along with the grand opening of our new headquarters and visitor center in Waterford, we had the honor of staffing that will take the lead in implementing many of the actions and projects in the Corridor.

Hannah Blake as Community Planner, Duncan Hay as Cultural Resources Manager, Beth Sciumeca as Program Manager, and Mary Cunningham as Office Manager. In September of this year, Marcia Kees returned to her position as Director of the New York State Canal Corporation.

We have three past years of planning for the future of the Corridor has been inspiring and invigorating. I hope you’ll join us as we roll out our plans and get to work making our shared vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Eric Mower
Commission Chairman

Corridor Commission

Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission receives a Federal Congressional Appropriation. At the Commission moves into implementation of the recently completed Preservation and Management Plan, the Commission expects to leverage the Federal Appropriation with state and private funds to implement numerous priority projects.

Income:

Federal Appropriation ............... $690,000
Housing and Urban Development Grant ............... $100,000

Total Federal Appropriation ......... $790,000

Expenses:

Preservation and Management Plan ......... $564,614
Heritage Development ............... $108,681
Public Outreach ............... $250,000
Interpretation and Education ............... $110,250

The Erie Canalway National Heritage
Commission also leveraged and matched these Federal appropriations with an equal amount of non-Federal funds by working with our state and nonprofit partners on statewide preservation and recreation projects.

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Cover photos courtesy of Parks and Trails New York
Letter from the Chairman

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Expense:

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- Heritage Development ................ $10,000
- Public Outreach ........................ $207,255
- Interpretation and Education ........ $110,250

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Heritage Development

The Plan’s adoption and approval in early 2006.

The Plan is the result of extensive public input. More than 2,500 marked an important milestone for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

Begins a New Journey

With The New York State Museum, The Canal Corporation, and The State University of New York, The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor teamed up into a floating museum and classroom. The Erie Canal in Port Byron.

On May 13, 2005 The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor teamed up with The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to open the first Erie Canalway Visitor Center in Lockport.

The Peckinpaugh is located in a newly restored historic powerhouse built in 1912 as part of a large textile mill complex. Today, the Peckinpaugh is located in a newly restored historic powerhouse built in 1912 as part of a large textile mill complex. It is located in a newly restored historic powerhouse.

This was a true partnership between the Canal Corporation, The Canalway Corridor’s Historic Sites, and Erie Canalway NHC staff.

Erie Canalway Visitor Center Opens

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Preservation and Management Plan Completed

On May 13, 2005 the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor teamed up with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to open the first Erie Canalway sponsored visitor center in the historic canal-side at Prospect Island State Park in Waterford, New York. The Center, which also serves as the Prospect Island Visitor Center and the headquarters for Erie Canalway NFC staff, is located in a newly restored historic powerhouse built in 1912 as part of a large textile mill complex.

This was a true partnership between the federal and state governments that has enabled the Commission to establish a much needed headquarters and visitor orientation center at the southeastern gateway to the corridor. Stop by to enjoy our new exhibit and visit the Erie Canal staff.

Historic Canal Mastsiphip Begins a New Journey

After 73 years of service on the Erie Barge Canal and Great Lakes, the massive motorship Peckinpaugh, has begun a new journey that will transform it from cargo-handling workhorse into a floating museum and classroom. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor teamed up with The New York State Canal Corporation to bring the historic vessel from Erie, Pennsylvania to Buffalo through the canal system to its current home in Waterford, New York. The 259 foot long motorship passing through the canal lock is a remarkable sight that drew interested onlookers and members of the media throughout its trek across the state.

The Day Peckinpaugh is truly an enduring and compelling symbol of the Barge Canal era, and will serve as both historic and time machine for years to come. We look forward to working with our partners on this storied vessel’s continued transformation in the future.

Federal Highway Funding Secured for Erie Canalway Projects

Thanks to Congressman James Walsh of Syracuse, $800,000 in federal funds was included in the federal transportation bill to develop an identity and signage program that will fit residents and visitors know when they are in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. With this funding, we will begin to develop a consistent look and feel to Erie Canalway signage and exhibits.

Other Erie Canalway related projects funded in the transportation bill include:

- $2.6 million for restoration work for the “Hog’s Back” locks in Lockport
- $1.2 million to restore the Erie Canal Aqueduct in downtown Rochester
- $1 million to develop access from the Thruway to historic remnants of the Erie Canal in Port Byron
- $400,000 to restore a historic shipyard on the Erie Canal in the Town of Lyons
- $400,000 for exhibits at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse
- $280,000 for Erie Canal projects in Orleans County

As the annual report goes to print, the Preservation and Management Plan has been updated with the comments received from our state and federal agency partners, nonprofit organizations, elected officials and the general public. The final plan was sent to the Governor of New York and to the Secretary of the Interior for review in December 2005. We hope to celebrate the Plan’s adoption and approval in early 2006.
Preservation and Management Plan Completed

The Plan details the Commission’s proposed strategies for ensuring that the Corridor retains its unique beauty and character, and to increase economic opportunities and attract new residents, businesses, and tourists.

Preservation and Management Plan Implementation Strategies
- Build the Corridor’s Distinctive Sense of Place
- Build Awareness and Understanding of the Corridor’s History
- Expand the Circle of History Engaged in Heritage Development
- Increase Community Capacity to Achieve Stewardship Goals
- Stimulate Economic Revitalization

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Historic Canal Motorship Begins a New Journey

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- $12.6 million for restoration work for the “Highest Five” locks in Lockport
- $1.2 million to restore the Erie Canal Aqueduct in downtown Rochester
- $1 million to develop access from the Thruway to historic remnants of the Erie Canal in Port Byron
- $480,000 to restore a historic warehouse on the Erie Canal in the Town of Lyons
- $400,000 for exhibits at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse
- $240,000 for Erie Canal projects in Orleans County

Erie Canalway Sponsored Events

Erie Canalway NHC was a major sponsor of the “Cycling the Erie Canal” eight-day, 400-mile bicycle tour from Buffalo to Albany July 11–13th. The tour, organized by Parks and Trails New York, drew 565 participants from 37 states and 5 continents. The tour is in its seventh year and continues to introduce people to the beauty and recreational opportunities of the canalway corridor.

The Second Canalway Trail Celebration was held on June 4th with the support of Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, Parks and Trails New York organizers and promotes a series of local events to highlight the progress being made on the Canalway Trail – the bicycle and pedestrian trail that parallels the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany. The event was a big success marked by trail dedications and groundbreaking across the state.
Letter from the Chairman

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The making of this plan has been a testament to the passion, dedication, and confidence we all share in this historic waterway. From the well attended initial planning meeting across the state to the enthusiastic response to and thoughtful comments on the draft plan, this effort has been a grassroots triumph that signals our ultimate success in realizing our shared vision for the Corridor.

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Fiscal Year 2005

Appropriations

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission receives a Federal Congressional Appropriation. As the Commission moves into implementation of the recently completed Preservation and Management Plan, the Commission expects to leverage the Federal Appropriation with state and private funds to implement the actions and projects.

Income:

Federal Appropriation ........................................ $690,000
Housing and Urban Development Grant ........................... $100,000

Total Income .................................................. $890,000

Expenses:

Preservation and Management Plan .................................. $364,614
Housing Development ........................................... $10,000
Public Outreach .................................................. $265,255
Interpretation and Education ........................................ $110,250

Total Expenses ................................................ $690,169

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor also leveraged and matched these Federal appropriations with an equal amount of non-Federal funds by working with our state and nonprofit partners on innovative preservation and recreation projects in the Corridor.

Trends and Accomplishments

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
2005 Annual Report