

2011 ERIE CANALWAY HERITAGE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Recipients offer successful models of heritage development

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission is pleased to announce the Restored 1842 Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct at the Camillus Erie Canal Park in Camillus as the recipient of the 2011 Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence. Honorable Mention was awarded to the Verona Beach Lighthouse on the eastern shore of Oneida Lake and the Delta Sonic Heritage Farm at the Buffalo Zoo in Buffalo.

“We congratulate and thank this year’s recipients for doing so much to celebrate, preserve, and share the rich history of the Erie Canal,” said Judy Schmidt-Dean, Chair of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission. “These are not only great places to visit—each has a valuable story to tell about how preserving our heritage can go hand-in-hand with economic and community revitalization.”

The Heritage Award honors significant places of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and recognizes excellence in advancing the goals of the Erie Canalway Preservation and Management Plan. A five-person independent jury selected award recipients based on a written application and site visit, which included meetings with officials at each site, as well as community leaders, municipal representatives, and other stakeholders.

1842 Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, Camillus

The jury selected the restored 1842 Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct at the Camillus Erie Canal Park for its extraordinary achievement in historic preservation and sustained public-private partnership between the Camillus Canal Society and Town of Camillus. Of 32 aqueducts constructed on the Enlarged Erie Canal in the mid-1800s, Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct is the only one that is restored and navigable.

The project was spearheaded by volunteers, who worked in partnership with the Town of Camillus to raise \$2.2 million to complete the restoration. The aqueduct is the centerpiece of the canal park, which serves more than 2,000 school children and 237,000 Erie Canalway trail users annually. In addition, several thousand people take advantage of the park's cruises each year, which lead right over the aqueduct.

“For nearly 40 years, town officials and the community have supported the Camillus Erie Canal Park, which is operated and maintained solely by 160 volunteers who constantly step up to the plate,” said Liz Beebe, Vice President of the Camillus Canal Society. “We are honored to be recognized for our efforts to transform an abandoned, brush filled, forgotten canal into a showpiece for local residents and visitors.”

http://www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved_awards_Camillus11.htm