



Erie Canal – From Commerce to Recreation

An engineering marvel of its time, the Erie Canal is among the few manmade interruptions in geography that remain truly spectacular. Originally proposed as a way to link the waters of Lake Erie with the Hudson River, the construction of the Erie Canal began in 1808 and was completed in 1825. It opened opportunities and commerce along its 524-mile hand-and-horse-forged route.

In its original design, the Erie Canal was celebrated as part of the “main thoroughfare” for many of the towns, villages and cities it passed through. However, today’s Erie Canal corridor has seen many changes and transitioned from a route of commerce to a route of recreation.

The Erie Canal’s indelible mark can be seen as you travel on thruway and train heading east to west and vice versa. We hope that this issue of *Clearwaters* gives you a better appreciation of its historical impact on economics and the environment. Many thanks to Steve Eidt, Sandy Lizlovs, Darcy Sachs and Beth Ulion our Student Intern from SUNY-ESF for their assistance in the compilation of this issue.

Association News

NYWEA’s 79th Annual Meeting was another great success and we continue to make refinements to its format based on feedback from

members. Another attendance record was set with over 1,350 environmental professionals present in New York City.

One of the many highlights of the meeting for me was presenting Commissioner Emily Lloyd with a proclamation recognizing NYCDEP for its environmental accomplishments and service to the Association. The meeting also gave NYWEA members an opportunity to select from over 80 technical presentations in 20 topical sessions and visit with 158 exhibitors. If you weren’t at this year’s meeting, we hope you will join us in 2008 for the 80th Annual Meeting at the NYC Marriott Marquis, February 4-8. Be sure to regularly check the NYWEA website for meetings taking place in a venue near you.

Welcome New Board Members

At the conclusion of the Awards Luncheon held Wednesday, February 5, the following individuals became new members of the NYWEA Board of Directors:

- Douglas Alaimo**, Town of Newark
- Ken Knutsen**, Barton & Loguidice
- Jean Malafrente**, Greeley & Hansen
- John Sansalone**, NYSDEC
- Thomas Whetham**, Erie County

I welcome these individuals into statewide service and, on behalf of the membership, thank them in advance for their contributions to the future progress of the New York Water Environment Association.

Patricia Cerro-Reehil

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