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Lakes to Locks Passage 2014 Annual Meeting

Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc. held its 2014 Annual Meeting on Wednesday October 8, 2014 at the Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls, NY. Dee Carroll of Westport, Lisa Hall of Bolton, Bruce Ferguson of Salem, Ric Didonato of Hoosick Falls, Assemblyman John McDonald of Cohoes, Mo O'Connell of Hudson Falls, Mark Galough of Kingsbury and Ed Bartholomew of Glens Falls, were elected to serve as Directors. Officers for the upcoming year include Randy Beach, President; Mo O'Connell, 1st Vice-President; Peter Repas, 2nd Vice-President; Bruce Ferguson, Secretary; and Mark Galough, Treasurer.

The Annual Meeting marked the twelfth anniversary of the organization and serves as a forum for the region's community development stakeholders.

Adirondack Studios of Argyle, NY, and Barton and Loguidice of Albany generously sponsored the event. Brian U. Stratton, Director of the NYS Canal Corporation was the Keynote Speaker, and spoke about the challenges and future of the New York State Canal System. He commented that in the recent economic impact study of the canal system there is \$380 million in direct tourism spending and \$6.2 billion in non-tourism economic impact to the communities along the canal. The Report on Economic Benefits of Non-Tourism Use of the NYS Canal System can be found on the Canal Corporation website. ([Click Here](#)) At the end of the meeting, students from the University at Albany's Masters Program in Urban and Regional Planning collected public comments on the opportunities for future development of the Canal Recreationway.

The Lakes to Locks Passage Annual Partnership Award was presented to the Saratoga National Historical Park for their exemplary work in the stewardship of natural, cultural, recreational and historic resources while fostering inter-municipal cooperation. Saratoga National Historical Park has exemplified the cooperation Lakes to Locks Passage strives to foster – delivering authentic and distinctive experiences that contribute to the sense of place and community pride. Lakes to Locks Passage recognized Park Superintendent Joe Finan, who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in creating and supporting regional strategic partnerships. Under his leadership, the Saratoga region has experienced an improved environment, economy, quality of life, as well as increased understanding the important American history. More information about Lakes to Locks Passage can be found at www.lakestolocks.org.

Workshop on Sustaining Volunteers

A workshop on sustaining volunteers at nonprofit organizations will be held at Ausable Chasm on November 5, 2014 from 10 am – 1 pm. The workshop is free and open to the public. The Sustaining Volunteers Workshop will address three issues: recruiting and training volunteers, meeting and greeting the public, and identifying community stories that link the region's cultural, historic, natural and recreational assets. The training will describe how volunteers build a "real person" connection with visitors as they work on the front lines of their organization.

The workshop is sponsored by Lakes to Locks Passage, the Champlain Valley Heritage Network (CVHN) and the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance (ACCA). Five years ago, Lakes to Locks Passage launched the Heritage Center Strategy, working with eight organizations in Essex County. Through a recently completed follow-up survey to assess Heritage Center operations, it was identified that a workshop to manage volunteer programs and a toolkit to support community volunteer programs would be valuable.

The workshop will be held in the cafeteria in the main the building at Ausable Chasm, 644 Route 373, Keeseville, NY 12944. Morning refreshments will be available, but pack a lunch if needed and wear warm clothes! Attendees are invited to visit the North Star Underground Railroad Museum (directly adjacent to Ausable Chasm) at 1pm following the workshop.

To register or for more information, please contact Margaret Gibbs at mjibbs@lakestolocks.org or 518-597-9660.

Grant Awarded for Champlain Canalway Trail

The Town of Saratoga has been awarded a \$368,000 grant to design and construct a 1.5-mile section of multi-use trail along the historic Old Champlain Canal through the Federal Lands Access Program. This section of the Champlain Canalway Trail will run from the Schuyler House in Schuylerville south to Garnsey Lane off of Route 4, where it will soon link to another segment of the Champlain Canalway Trail. The entire trail will run from Waterford to Whitehall, a span of 58 miles.

Superintendent Joe Finan of Saratoga National Historical Park credits the Town of Saratoga, the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership and the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group's efforts to build the Champlain Canal Trail as a whole, and its benefits in linking the park's Old Saratoga Units (Saratoga) and Battlefield Unit (Stillwater) via pedestrian, bicycle and boat access to key historic sites.

Champlain Canal Trail Working Group spokesperson, Wally Elton notes that "this trail segment expands public access and understanding of the Old Champlain Canal, and links a regional network of heritage trails encompassing the Revolutionary War, French and Indian Wars, Underground Railroad, and Women's Heritage. It serves as a major connective spine in Saratoga County and intersects with the Glens Falls Feeder Canal Heritage Trail (a nine mile walking and biking trail between Glens Falls and Fort Edward) and provides an important connection to the Warren County Bikeway leading into the Village of Lake George. These trail initiatives provide outstanding opportunities for multiple benefits, including recreation, economic development, and conservation of natural and historic resources."

Other public lands that would be positively impacted include Lock 5 Island/Hudson Crossing Park, Historic Dix Bridge, Fort Hardy Park, Lakes to Locks Visitor Center (in design phase), Saratoga Surrender Site (in planning phase), Saratoga Boat Launch, and the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Veterans Cemetery. The Federal Lands Access Program was created

by the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21) to improve access to and through federal lands for visitors, recreationists and resource users.

For more information about the project please call Tracey Clothier at L.A. Group at 587.8810. For more information about Saratoga NHP, visit www.nps.gov/sara, or www.facebook.com/saratoganhp

Action Plan on Bike and Pedestrian Safety

The Secretary of Transportation has released the [Action Plan on Bike and Pedestrian Safety](#). The new pedestrian and bicycle safety initiative will promote design improvements to ensure safe and efficient routes for pedestrians and bicycles, promote behavioral safety, and provide education to help individuals make safer travel choices. If byway communities are interested in this effort, we encourage them to work with NYS Department of Transportation and/or their metropolitan planning organization, and visit <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/>, <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>, and http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/. Please note that there is no additional funding associated with this initiative.

New York State History Month

November is New York State History Month. This is a time to celebrate New York State history and recognize that no other state represents American history better than New York. November is also the month to recognize the many contributions of New York's state and local historians and the dynamism and diversity of its historical community. New York's scholars work in world class universities and community colleges; its curators thrive in museums of every size and shape and at historic sites of every description; its preservationists maintain the built environment; its librarians and archivists preserve the written record and make it available to researchers; its genealogists keep alive the history of New York families; its re-enactors and living history practitioners bring history to life; and its local and community historians serve as legally mandated officials in every county, borough, city, town, and village in New York.

Local Water Trail Development Grants

The Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) are pleased to announce the 2015 Local Implementation Grant program for Local Water Trail Development. The LCBP

anticipates awarding 3 local grants totaling \$22,500.

- **Local Water Trail Development Grants** (up to \$7,500 per grant). [PDF](#) | [MS Word](#)

Grant Guidelines provide more information about how the grant program works, to help you prepare a competitive application. Please review all of the materials provided within the **Grant Guidelines** carefully before beginning your application. Organizations with existing LCBP-funded projects are eligible to apply for new funding **only** if all project deliverables and obligations under the existing and past awards are fully up-to-date and the projects are in good standing. Please refer carefully to the grant application instructions for guidance.

Applicants are encouraged to contact LCBP staff for assistance prior to the preparation of project proposals. LCBP staff do not make award decisions but can assist applicants in interpretation of the RFP instructions and guidelines. Completed applications **must be received electronically** at the LCBP office in Grand Isle **by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. NEW in 2014: paper copies of proposals will not be accepted.** Award notifications are expected by December 31, 2014.

If you would like to receive a printed or email version of this grant, or if you would prefer not to receive these notices from the LCBP, please contact us at 802-372-3213 or at grants@lcbp.org.

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