



World-Class Forum to Shape the Future of Inland Waterways

Experts from Across the Globe Gather in New York to Share Big Ideas, Innovative Practices, Honor Erie Canal's Bicentennial Legacy

Buffalo, New York, USA (January 13, 2025) – This September 21-25, 2025, Buffalo, New York, will become the global epicenter for waterway innovation as the [World Canal Conference 2025](#) (WCC2025) convenes experts, municipal leaders, organizations, companies, and canal enthusiasts from multiple continents to explore the future of inland waterways. The event also marks [the bicentennial of the Erie Canal](#), an engineering marvel that shaped modern trade and transport globally.

Delegates from over 14 countries, representing diverse sectors such as engineering, heritage tourism, and urban planning, will participate in discussions and field experiences aimed at fostering global collaboration. Their focus will be on developing innovative solutions for the management, preservation, and growth of inland waterways at local, regional, and global levels.

“With inland waterways facing increasing challenges from climate change to preservation needs, the WCC2025 provides a platform for exchanging real world strategies that can impact communities worldwide,” said Sharon Leighton, President of [Inland Waterways International](#).

The WCC2025 will offer a mix of historic, cultural, and forward-thinking activities, including:

- Bicentennial celebration of the Erie Canal, a National Historic Landmark with global influence.
- Participation of global experts addressing issues like climate change, sustainable tourism, and waterway preservation.
- Exclusive events, like the recreation of Governor DeWitt Clinton's historic journey on the replica canal boat [Seneca Chief](#).

Hosted by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and the New York State Canal Corporation in collaboration with Inland Waterways International, Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation, and Visit Buffalo Niagara, WCC2025 participants can expect:

- Presentations by international leaders in waterway management, engineering, and heritage preservation.
- On-site visits and events designed to foster global collaboration and innovation in waterway restoration and tourism.
- Exclusive guided tours, community events, and commemorative activities.
- Opportunities to explore the cultural and historical landmarks of New York State, highlighting its rich waterway heritage.

more



To get involved with WCC2025, [register](#), be a [presenter](#), attend as an exhibitor or explore sponsorship opportunities. Visit <https://wcc2025buffalo.com> for more information, and be part of a global movement to shape the future of inland waterways while celebrating a historic milestone in American history.

Stay updated by subscribing to the WCC2025 newsletter [HERE](#).

###

About the World Canal Conference

Since its inception in 1988, the World Canal Conference (WCC) has served as the leading international forum for dialogue and innovation in the field of inland waterway management. Hosted annually in diverse locations across three continents, the WCC brings together experts from various sectors, including canal managers, engineers, historians, and policymakers, to exchange ideas and shape the future of global waterways.

About the Erie Canal Bicentennial

Completed in 1825, the Erie Canal revolutionized trade and transportation in the United States, connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. As a National Historic Landmark, it catalyzed economic growth, westward expansion, and technological advancement. The WCC2025 will honor this monumental achievement with programming that underscores its enduring legacy and relevance in the 21st century.

Media Contact:

Dana Marciniak

WCC2025 Communications Consultant

+1 716.935.7839

dana@15fingersllc.com