



Oneida Lake Association
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OLA Welcomes the Seneca Chief

During its history, the Erie Canal, with its slow and steady mule-drawn boats, transported countless tons of goods from Buffalo to Albany to New York. And back. Cargo included manufactured implements, grains, farm produce, and all sorts of items from wheat to whiskey. And, of course, the Erie Canal transported hardy passengers, including the newcomer and the noteworthy. Perhaps the most noteworthy passenger was Dewitt Clinton himself, who traveled aboard the Seneca Chief on the inaugural voyage of 1825.

On October 6 of this year, a replica of the Seneca Chief slid alongside the wall of Riverfront Park in Brewerton, this time carrying a different cargo—200 years of history! This remarkable boat took five years to build in the hands of over 200 volunteers. Under the direction of the Buffalo Maritime Center, these volunteers provided an inspiring display of authentic material and 19th century craftsmanship.

Photo: OLA Directors Patricia Cerro-Reehil and Rowly Hrywnak prepare for the arrival of the Seneca Chief





Director Rowly Hrywnak stands ready for the mooring.

A crowd of Brewerton neighbors showed their appreciation with much applause as the boat drifted into its mooring on a bright, sunny afternoon. After some brief speeches by a few local dignitaries, crew members of the Seneca Chief addressed the crowd. They explained that they were part way through their 33-day voyage from Buffalo to New York City. As they pondered their next leg to Sylvan Beach, one of the crew quipped, “The one place we worried about is Oneida Lake.” We all know what they meant by that!

The event was marked by a robust show of local enterprise, organized by the Northern Onondaga Public Libraries. Several organizations were invited to set up tables to showcase their missions. The Oneida Lake Association was pleased to participate in this event. Directors Rowly Hrywnak and John Harmon staffed a table where we signed up new members, handed out brochures, and spoke to neighbors about the OLA activities. Director Patricia Cerro-Reehil also joined the table event.



One very remarkable feature of the trip included the crew's commitment to recreate Clinton's original "Wedding of the Waters." At each stop, invited guests were asked to dip a cup into the local water. This cup was then poured into a small barrel (resembling Clinton's original cask) that will then be poured into the Hudson River upon their arrival in New York City. The OLA wishes the Seneca Chief continued good will and fair weather on their way to New York.



Wedding the Waters



Fall Clean Up

OLA Director George Reck will head up our Annual Fall Clean Up on the stretch of roadway that the OLA has adopted. Mark your calendar for Friday, October 24. Plan to meet at the Bartel Road 81 North on-ramp at 9:00 am. Dress for the weather, and bring some gloves. George will supply large trash collection bags. We have a prize for the most unusual item bagged! Come join us in our mission to keep the lake area clean!

The Mission of the Oneida Lake Association is to protect the fisheries, wildlife, and natural resources of Oneida Lake by promoting science-based conservation and management through education and outreach, in partnership with our members and local communities.

Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

\$8 annually

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!

[Donate](#)



Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.



[OLA Website](#)

OLA is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit organization.

The Oneida Lake Association is a member of the New York State Conservation Council <http://www.nyscc.com/> and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations <http://www.nysfola.org/>.

Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and the management of Oneida Lake and its tributaries.

[Report environmental violations.](#)

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Edited by John Harmon

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