



Brian Manktelow
Supervisor



To: Canal NY

March 30, 2018

Erie Canal in Wayne County: Early Lock Closings and Shortened Season

Unlike a few years ago, Lyons taxpayers can no longer use the Erie Canal as an interurban waterway. No longer can community residents travel the Erie Canal in the evening to neighboring restaurants or events such as *Weekly Music on the Erie* in Newark, *Pirates Weekend* in Palmyra, *Peppermint Days* in Lyons, and *Fireworks Displays* in Clyde. No longer are round- trip day excursions to Fairport, Pittsford, Seneca Falls, Waterloo, or Cross Lake possible.

Nor can a family fish from their boat at sunset in perhaps one of the most prolific carp, bass, and walleye fishing areas around, the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge. No longer can local volunteer adult -sponsored and supervised scouting and community outreach programs take place on the local waterway in the evening. Why? Locks E 25, E26, E27, E28A, E28 B, and E 30 close at 5:00PM, seven days of the week! Ironically, during the week, most local adult boaters do not return home from work till after 5:00 PM!

On weekends many family boating activities are just getting underway by mid- afternoon; however, even on weekends, if a family is on the Erie Canal in the local area, the boat must be returning home to arrive at a lock before it closes at 5:00PM! A "time-restricted day" on the Erie Canal is not an enticing reason to utilize the waterway.

Taxpayers in Lyons and many local communities have proudly invested hundreds of thousands of dollars and countless thousands of community volunteer hours to promote the Erie Canal Waterway. Now, the results of those community endeavors are no longer available to many potential tourists and local boaters- the waterway boating season has been shortened by six weeks! The loss of revenue for local communities from transients and inter urban waterway traffic is huge. In addition, Erie Canal Promotion by "dockside public relations and personal face to face communication" has been decreased by six weeks. (Think of shortening the major league baseball season by 6 weeks).

Perhaps someone might say that this 315 area on the Erie Canal does not have heavy boat traffic- read the boater blogs and AGLCA Forums, and you will find that the "desolate, isolated, and pioneer feeling" of the local waterway is what many people enjoy the most; however, if the gates are closed and the curtains are drawn, few get to see the show and tell their friends about their experience on the historic 100 year old waterway!

The placebo of "Free Lockages" does not entice the many local tax paying boaters who are now finding Lake Ontario and Seneca Lake as their favorite get- away water; they can boat when, where, and how they want. Unfortunately, shortening the boating season and allowing boating for just a few hours each day, especially on weekends, will definitely continue to erode local boater usage and community interest of the Erie Canal.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Manktelow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian D. Manktelow, Supervisor

Town of Lyons