

News Release



For Release: Immediate

Regarding: Working on Water: 19th and 20th Century Vessels travel to Plattsburgh and Burlington

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Grand Isle, VT – The Lake Champlain Basin Program announces with pleasure the August 11-12th Plattsburgh arrival of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum’s replica canal schooner *Lois McClure* as she continues her voyage as goodwill ambassador for Lake Champlain’s Quadricentennial celebration this summer. Plattsburgh is also hosting the *Day Peckinpaugh*, a 259 foot 20th century commercial motorship, and the 100 + year old tugboat *Urger*, vessels which are also traveling along the Hudson River communities in celebration of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial this summer. For the first time ever, visitors will have an opportunity to explore both 19th and 20th century vessels docked side by side, providing a glimpse of the historic working waterfronts of our region.

In Plattsburgh, visitors may come aboard the *Lois McClure*, a 88-foot replica canal schooner and the other two vessels at the Wilcox Dock from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. each day. The vessels will be joined by Lake Champlain Maritime Museum’s tugboat *C.L. Churchill*. Visits are free.

“This journey permits us to articulate the long and rich history we share with Quebec and the Hudson along our regional waterways,” said Art Cohn, Executive Director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. “Our Plattsburgh visit, as well as our joint visit to Burlington, VT the following weekend on August 14th-16th, will help our guests envision life along the lake in the early 1800’s and 1900’s. You can almost think of it as ‘The Way Life Was’ maritime event.”

Visitor hours in Burlington, VT will be Friday, August 14th, 4-7:00 p.m., and Saturday, August 15th through Sunday, August 16th 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. Visits are free.

A new resource, *Discover 1609*, a bi-lingual booklet highlighting indigenous cultures, Champlain’s and Hudson’s explorations, and the age of commerce will be available to the public aboard the *Lois McClure*. This new resource provides a great introduction to link the Quebec celebration in 2008 with the celebration here in both the Champlain and Hudson Valley in 2009. The story of the rich collections of underwater cultural resources of the region’s waterways will also be shared, including the Gunboat *Spitfire* discovered in Cumberland Bay in 1997 by the LCMM. The 2008 *State of the Lake* report developed by the Lake Champlain Basin Program will also be available aboard the *Lois McClure*.

The *Discover 1609* voyage of the *Lois McClure* to 20 New York and Vermont ports of call is completed in partnership with the National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, Lake Champlain Transportation, Cabot, and the Lake Champlain Basin Program. This

combined Champlain-Hudson voyage provides an excellent example of the types of projects supported by the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership.

Additional info about Working on Water and the vessels:

As part of New York's Quadricentennial celebration and in tribute to the exploring spirit of Robert Fulton, Samuel de Champlain and Henry Hudson, the "Working on Water" floating exhibition will feature as many as two dozen historic vessels traveling the waters of Lake Champlain, Champlain Canal, and the Hudson River, depending on the port. During August and September 2009, heritage vessels will dock at various waterfront communities where the public will be invited to tour and ride aboard many of these historic boats. While traveling to Plattsburgh, NY and Burlington, VT on Lake Champlain, the *Day Peckinpaugh* and the Tugboat *Urger* will travel with the *Lois McClure*.

Lois McClure

http://www.lcmm.org/our_fleet/lois_mcclure.htm

The schooner *Lois McClure* is a full-scale replica of an 1862-class sailing canal boat, constructed in Burlington, Vermont by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. The *Lois McClure* is modeled after two sailing canal schooner shipwrecks that were documented by the Museum on the bottom of Burlington Harbor. In 1823, the Northern Canal connecting Lake Champlain to the Hudson River was completed. Lake Champlain, which since the end of the American Revolution had been an expanding commercial highway, now virtually exploded in trade. The early edition of Lake Champlain sailing-canal boat, known as the 1823 class, was built as an "experiment" and designed to be able to sail from distant lake ports to the canal on the power of the wind. Upon reaching the canal, the masts were lowered and centerboard raised and the now transformed vessel could directly enter the canal. The *Lois McClure* represents the 1862-class vessel.

Day Peckinpaugh

<http://www.eriecanalway.org>

The *Day Peckinpaugh* was the first motorship of its kind designed to navigate both the open waters of the Great Lakes and the New York State Barge Canal System. Put into service in 1921, it transported bulk cargoes between the midwest and the port of New York. The *Peckinpaugh's* early cargo included grain, sugar, flax seed and pig iron. By the 1950's the vessel was exclusively carrying dry cement from Oswego, New York to Rome. It has a capacity of 1650 tons, measuring 259 feet long, 36 feet wide and 14 feet depth of hold. The *Day Peckinpaugh* was the last regularly scheduled commercial hauler on the canal and retired from service in 1994. The last surviving example of a canal motorship, the *Day Peckinpaugh* was saved from being scrapped in 2005 when it was acquired through a public/private partnership by the New York State Museum. The 2009 Quadricentennial Legacy Voyage of the *Day Peckinpaugh* is organized by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in conjunction with the New York State Museum, Saratoga National Historical Park, the New York State Canal Corporation, and tour community partners.

Tugboat Urger

<http://www.nyscanals.gov/cculture/tugboat.html>

The tugboat *Urger* is the flagship of the fleet of vessels operated by the New York State Canal Corporation on the 524-mile Canal System. Built in 1901 in Ferrysburg, Michigan, this venerable tug is one of the oldest working vessels in the country still afloat. Originally built for use as a commercial shipping vessel, the *Urger* was originally christened the "Henry J. Dornbos," after a prominent Michigan merchant. In the early 1920s, the tug was sold, renamed the *Urger* and entered the New York State Canal fleet. Stationed in Waterford, the *Urger* served more than 60 years hauling machinery, dredges and scows on the Erie and Champlain Canals until she was retired from service in the 1980s.