



Waterford's Harbor - Gateway to New York's Inland Waterways

by **Pete Bardunias**, Senior Vice President, Community Advancement, Capital Region Chamber

Every boat that uses the Hudson to access New York's canals must pass through Waterford, a quaint village and town of the same name that borders both the Erie and Champlain Canals. Hopefully this southernmost of Saratoga County's communities will be more than just a brief glimpse as one glides past, because there is a lot to see and do for boaters who choose to visit.

The Richard M. Hurst Harbor Center, operated by the Town of Waterford, provides a perfect place to stop and

Local resident Stacy Sabatino took this great photo of a rainbow encircling the Richard M. Hurst Harbor Center as Tropical Storm Isaias was winding down on August 4.

get acclimated. Spacious docks provide electricity and water to transient vessels and the Center itself has books, charts and other useful information available to help plan a canal adventure. This year, the ongoing national health crisis has resulted in altered timetables for lock schedules, and some facilities and attractions along your route may be closed. "It has been a challenging year for boaters due to the delayed opening of the canal system and the ever-present threat of COVID-19," says Jeff Cleary, Waterford Harbormaster. "Still, we are doing our best to accommodate boaters during their visit to Waterford and the Hurst Harbor Center has ample dockage while our guests are waiting to lock through. We hope that people will plan ahead and take some time to enjoy the shops and restaurants in our town, and explore some of our parks and trails as well."

A short walk away are village businesses such as Irresistible Nutrition (53 Broad Street), a wonderful new spot for tasty and nutritious shakes, smoothies, teas and juices. Owner Bianca Jerian



Visitors to Waterford's harborfront on Sundays from 9am-1pm will be docked right in the middle of the Waterford Harbor Farmer's Market. Area farmers and artisans have fresh produce, meats, maple and hickory products, and numerous crafts on display, plus live music and more.

The author poses with Bianca Jerian outside of Irresistible Nutrition, holding samples of some healthy teas available there. Waterford's newest business, Irresistible Nutrition is well worth the visit for both the ambiance and the great tasting, healthy beverages.

and her staff have completely renovated one of the old storefronts and turned it into a beautiful and pleasant experience. "We are thrilled to be here in the village of Waterford," says Bianca, "and have received an enormous amount of support from the local community and beyond. We hope to inspire other small businesses to invest in the village so that we can all grow and thrive together."

Port of Call Consignments is just next door at 57 Broad Street, where one can find a lot of interesting items, many with a nautical theme. Boaters would do well to visit this store and then grab a shake next door. There are wonderful restaurants in Waterford



such as McGreivey's (91 Broad St), coffee shops like Don & Paul's (68 Broad St), and for those needing more substantial repair materials Hatchet Hardware is about a mile south at 42 Saratoga Avenue (Route 32).

Waterside trails follow the historic Champlain Canal from the vicinity of the Waterford Museum (near the Cohoes border) north to near the sprawling Momentive Performance Materials complex. One can also walk along the roads and pathways paralleling the Waterford flight and get a unique perspective of these massive structures and the facilities which maintain them.

So next time you plan to enter the canals, please plan to stop and stay here awhile! For more information on the above named establishments visit:

www.capitalregionchamber.com



Cute storefronts such as these await the visiting boater in Waterford. Port of Call Consignments has everything from vintage Flexible Flyer sleds to used fishing reels, rods, lures, tackle boxes and other equipment, in addition to numerous consignment items. Be sure to stop in and tell owner Rich Bronk that we sent you!

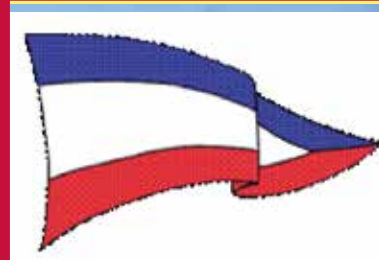
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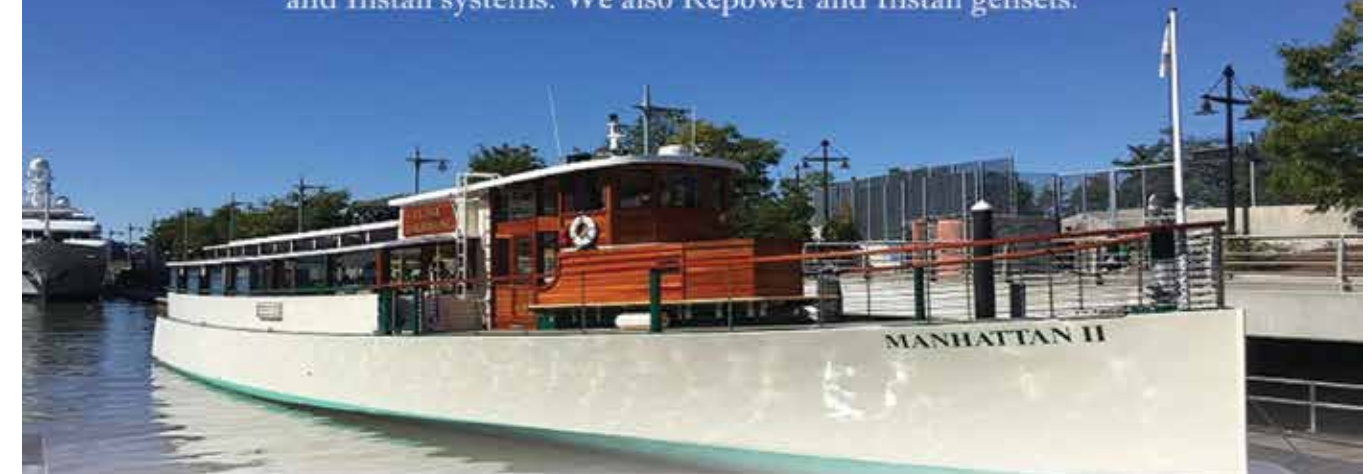
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