

# Come to the Canals in 2023!

The Capital Region Will Be Ready For You



The annual Cardboard Boat Races, held each August at Fort Hardy Park in Schuylerville, attract teams of children (and some adults!) from all over to compete in this good natured event on the water. The Schuyler Yacht Basin is in the background. This site is also known as the spot where British soldiers laid down their arms after their loss in 1777 to the Continental Army at Saratoga.



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

There's much optimism on the New York State Canal System this year, so this is the ideal time to enjoy the inland waterways of upstate New York and beyond. With the effects of the Pandemic now manageable, recent modifications to the canal schedule and operation being fine-tuned, fuel prices somewhat under control, and new businesses popping up in communities along the Hudson and



Bill Sweitzer (right), Director of Marketing for the New York State Canal Corporation, explains the workings of a canal Lock to a school field trip, as colleagues look on. Education about the canal system helps the next generation understand its significance in the past, usefulness in the present, and promise for the future.

Mohawk Rivers, there's plenty to keep boaters busy this year, especially with some advance planning to take advantage of the many opportunities to stop along the way.

For those eager to get an early start, the Great Upstate Boat Show ([theGreatUpstateBoatShow.com](http://theGreatUpstateBoatShow.com)) is returning after a three year absence, March 31-April 2, 2023 at the Adirondack Sports Complex (locally known as "the Dome") in Queensbury off Exit 18 of the I-87 Northway. Its worth a trip to see some of the latest boats and marine-related merchandise, and to gain some local knowledge of all the great places to visit and sights to see during your next visit with the boat.

The Canal season typically kicks off in mid-May, and the Waterford Canal Festival ([waterfordcanalfestival.com](http://waterfordcanalfestival.com)) will provide a festive start right along the docks at the eastern end of the Erie Canal at Lock E-2 and the Richard M. Hurst Visitor Center at Waterford Harbor. Details weren't finalized at press time, but the event typically features a large array

of vendors, food, kids' activities, a fishing clinic for children presented by the Hudson River Fishermen's Association ([thehrfa.org](http://thehrfa.org)), and boat rides, which present an opportunity to get to know some upstate professional captains and glean some canal related wisdom!

As one heads north or west, there will be plenty of places to stop, such as the excellent facilities in Mechanicville, Schuylerville, Fort Edward and Whitehall along the Hudson, or Colonie, Halfmoon, Clifton Park, Glenville, Schenectady, Rotterdam and points west along the Mohawk. You can get off the boat and gamble or enjoy nightlife in places like Albany, Saratoga Springs or Schenectady, picnic and enjoy the sunshine in Glenville, Clifton Park, Schuylerville, Fort Edward, Whitehall and others, eat just about everywhere, visit farmers markets in Troy, Waterford, Schuylerville and more, and even get medical services right near the water's edge at Mohawk Harbor in Schenectady. Historic sites are everywhere, because this part of New York State

A quiet summer scene at Mohawk Valley Marine in the hamlet of Alplaus (town of Glenville) along the Mohawk River. Boats line the shores of this picturesque stretch of the River between Locks 7 and 8, while rowing sculls are often seen as teams from local high schools and colleges practice their craft.



was where the American as well as the Industrial Revolution were won, and today its playing a huge role in the Information Age as well as the dawning revolution in how we produce, store and use our energy supplies. This also means that you are likely to see a few tugboats and barges on the waterways this year, by companies such as the NYS Marine Highway Transportation Co. ([nysmarinehighway.com](http://nysmarinehighway.com)) or Carver Companies ([carvercompanies.com](http://carvercompanies.com)) which bring years of experience and professional captains to efficiently move products and raw materials via the water.

The energy revolution is likely to change the way we enjoy our boating hobby as well. If you're in the market for a new boat, consider the new breed of vessels powered by alternative energy. Solar Sal Boats ([solarsal.solar](http://solarsal.solar)) debuted a 24' fiberglass solar-electric boat last year at the Waterford Canal Festival, carrying well over 200 passengers during the weekend and finishing its assignment with a "gas tank" that was just as full



With the Mohawk River winding in the background, the bustling Rivers Casino, stores, hotels, apartments, restaurants, offices and medical facilities at Mohawk Harbor demonstrate the excitement of what many are calling New Schenectady. Not that there was anything bad about the old one - Schenectady, NY is where many famous inventors (Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, to name a couple) made their mark on the world, and its industry continues to have an impact in both the legacy and high tech sectors.

as when the event started, without spending a dime. The company offers a family of designs for your custom build, from 24-45 feet. Regardless of how you get to our waters, bring a fishing pole and be sure your license is up to date, because there is good freshwater fishing on the canals too. Hope to see you this summer!

*For more information on Capital Region attractions and businesses on land and sea, visit [capitalregionchamber.com](http://capitalregionchamber.com) or stop by the visitor center at the Clifton Park Rest Area on the I-87 Northway at Exit 9.*