

Waterford's Canal Festival Centennial Celebration To Take Place Saturday, May 19



by **Pete Bardunias**
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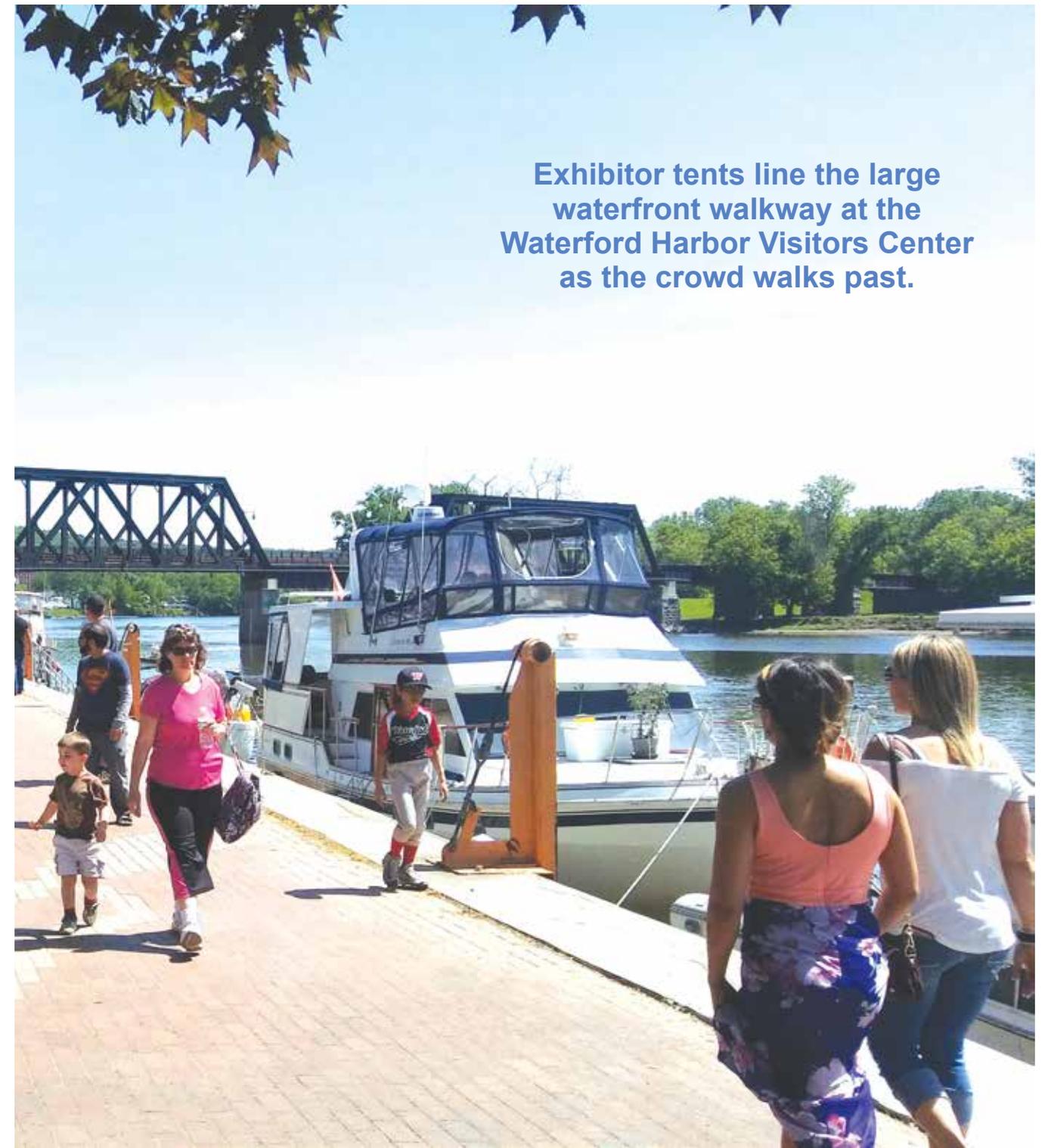
The 2018 season of the New York State Canal System will commence in mid-May amid fanfare and celebration, marking the 100th Anniversary of the modern Barge Canal system. The Waterford Canal Festival, a perennial event usually coinciding with the opening weekend, offers a chance for boaters and landlubbers alike to be a part of the action along the Waterford harborfront. The Chamber of Southern Saratoga County (CSSC) is joining the Village of

Waterford in presenting the annual celebration, continuing the centuries-long revolution of marine transportation on New York State's inland waterways.

The Canal Festival has been a popular attraction for many years, with as many as 10,000 attendees. For 2018, new attractions, exhibits and food from a variety of local restaurants will bring new energy to the event. Some 2000 feet of vendors and shoreside attractions will line the promenade from the Battery at the junction of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers to the top of Erie Canal Lock 2.

 Find Us On Facebook at Boating On The Hudson

Exhibitor tents line the large waterfront walkway at the Waterford Harbor Visitors Center as the crowd walks past.



The event will feature a variety of marine businesses and organizations showing off their talents on and around the water. For example, Captain Mike Kiley of Extreme Hydro Flight, LLC will be demonstrating their jet propulsion waterflight skills, a kid's fishing contest will be sponsored by Boating on the Hudson and the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, with shuttle boats through Lock E-2 sponsored by Hullspeed.us/Greenfield Manufacturing and piloted by local captains. Early in the year, the canal is a busy place as vessels returning to Canada from a long

winter hibernation join cruising boats navigating America's Great Loop and numerous local pleasure craft plus the occasional tugboat, tour boat or kayak. There are recreational sites interposed against remnants of some key moments in American history. For those who haven't experienced it, the Erie Canal's eastern terminus is a very unique place indeed.

Whether one visits Waterford by land or sea, there is always something fun to do at the Canal Festival. For more information visit www.southern-saratoga.org.



Boats will be on display above Lock 2, such as these fishing and wakeboard boats sold by Andersen Boat of Burnt Hills, NY.



A unique sport will be on display as Extreme Hydroflight showcases their skills at this year's Canal Festival.

Boats of all sizes and ports of origin will pass by during the Canal Festival on their journeys through our inland waterways. Here a large, blue sportfisherman is waiting to enter Lock E-2 and return to its homeport of Cleveland, OH.



Sunhats.



Grandpa Carl's

Kid's Column

by Carl Bruger



Fishing license.

Must Haves For A Fun Day On The Water

- Fishing license and rulebook: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6091.html
- Cell phone and camera or video back-up
- Food bars or fruit
- Gatorade for hot days
- Thermos of hot chocolate for cold days
- Tape measure
- Fishing net
- Hand pump of gel disinfectant hand cleaner
- Sunblock, hats and sunglasses
- First aid kit accompanying the group
- Rain gear

This month we'll try to focus on the additional "stuff" that the adults should bring along to make those first forays out on the sweet water or brine memories that make the child want to repeat the enjoyed experience. Treat this article like a checklist of what makes for a successful trip because forgetting just one of these "essentials" might turn smiles to tears.

The last article (Feb/March), covered the basic fishing gear itself, but more is vital to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip for everybody involved. Let's start with a fishing license and rulebook for the involved adults so they know exactly what they can and can't do in the state they are