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For Immediate Release: December 19, 2014

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The Ice at Canalside Pre-Holiday Activities Include a Visit from Santa

Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation hosting a festive holiday season on the ice

Santa Claus is coming to town. Make that coming to Canalside. Santa will be making an appearance at Buffalo's newest waterfront destination, The Ice at Canalside presented by BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 19 to 21. Pay a visit to Jolly Old St. Nick courtesy of First Niagara Bank, while trying out the new ice on skates or on Buffalo's newest craze, Ice Bikes. Visitors can even do some last minute shopping at the Artisan Market in the Winter Village.

Take a spin on the canals on Downtown Buffalo's waterfront while visiting. The Ice at Canalside will be open for public skating from 3 to 10 p.m. on Friday, December 19, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, December 20 and noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 21. Admission for ages 13 and over is \$5, ages 6 to 12 is \$3 and children age 5 and under are free. Skate rentals are \$3. Those with a BlueCross BlueShield card can show it for a healthy discount, \$1 off admission and \$1 off skate rental.

While there, try out Buffalo's newest Canalside attraction, Ice Bikes of Buffalo, which allows visitors to ride a bike while on the surface of The Ice. This stable unit allows visitors to pedal and steer their way around the rink in the same manner as they would if they were going for a traditional bike ride. These unique bikes were designed and manufactured locally and cannot be found anywhere else, so come on down and be the first to take a ride on an Ice Bike. Ice Bikes rentals are available for \$10 per person for 30 minutes, plus tax.

Take a break from the skates and shop local. Artisans and merchants will be set up Thursdays through Sundays throughout the winter season at The Ice at Canalside. Up to five local vendors will be set up in the Winter Village, next to the Immigrant Steps and ice bike rentals. The artisan market schedule will be every Thursday and Friday from 2 to 8 p.m., every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and every Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

For a complete schedule at The Ice at Canalside, visit www.canalsidebuffalo.com.

About Canalside

Canalside is a growing regional destination and entertainment district, situated on 21 historic acres along downtown Buffalo's emerging waterfront on the Buffalo River. Canalside earns its name from its storied past, when the Erie Canal Harbor was built in 1825 as the western terminus of the Erie Canal. Until five years ago, the land was barren and inaccessible, but the area has been reclaimed by the state's Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp. and developed with millions of dollars in public and private investment. With more than 1,000 yearly events and nearly 1 million annual visitors, Canalside is fast becoming the go-to place for in- and out-of-towners of all ages to learn, play and relax. For more information, visit www.canalsidebuffalo.com.

About Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation

The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) is governed by a nine-member board consisting of seven voting directors and two non-voting, ex-officio directors. The seven voting directors are recommended by the New York State Governor and are appointed by the New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development as sole shareholder of ECHDC. The two non-voting, ex-officio director positions are held by the Erie County Executive and the City of Buffalo Mayor.

As a subsidiary of Empire State Development, the state's chief economic development agency, the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation supports and promotes the creation of infrastructure and public activities at Canalside, the Ohio Street corridor and the Outer Harbor that is attracting critical mass, private investment and enhance the enjoyment of the waterfront for residents and tourists in Western New York. Its vision is to revitalize Western New York's waterfront and restore economic growth to Buffalo based on the region's legacy of pride, urban significance and natural beauty. For more information on ECHDC, visit www.eriecanalharbor.com.

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