



**Erie Canal Harbor
Development
Corporation**

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ECHDC Announces The Ice at Canalside Open for the Season

Building on the success of last winter, more activities and amenities added; visit www.canalsidebuffalo.com for complete schedule of events

Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) today opened The Ice at Canalside presented by BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York for the season. There are a number of improvements this winter, including a larger warming tent and the Canalside Winter Pavilion presented by Cricket Wireless that will house vendors, programming and refreshments. The Ice, created under the leadership of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, provides visitors with a skating surface that is bigger than two NHL rinks, with three unique bridges, and more than 20,000 square feet of pedestrian towpaths. This season winter visitors will have extended hours to enjoy skating, curling, ice bikes and other winter activities.

"We talk about making incremental improvements to Canalside but this year we outdid ourselves making a huge leap with scores of new amenities and activities at The Ice," said Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation Chairman Robert Gioia. "With the new Winter Pavilion, improved warming tent, more activities and food choices, paired with extended hours, this winter season will be exceptional."

The new 30 feet by 50 feet Canalside Winter Pavilion presented by Cricket Wireless, located near The Immigrant Steps, is heated and has food and merchandise vendors, including Just Fries (topped and loaded fries), Harborside Mercantile (waffles, popcorn, pizza, coffee), Bubbles & Brews Spectra Beverage (beer, wine and Pepsi products), as well as Buffalove and Canalside merchandise. The pavilion will also host fun weekly programming, including Open Mic Nights, Buffalo Trivia and karaoke starting in January. Additional heated restrooms are located behind the pavilion. Kiosks outside the tent house Ice Bikes of Buffalo and Friends of the Buffalo Story. The pavilion's custom design is by All Seasons Party and Tent Rental.

The site is also host to a new 16 feet by 80 feet structured warming tent that is about twice as big as the vinyl tent used last season and ready for any weather Mother Nature will throw at The Ice. The tent has a full glass wall along the ice side for great views of The Ice, as well as, benches, cubbies and rental lockers.

The Ice's improved visitor experience includes extended matted areas, which allows visitors to enjoy more activities without having to remove their skates, and 20 new skate aide walkers. The ticket sales booth has also been relocated to help decongest the entrance area and manage lines. Bryce's Winter Café (kiosk at Ice Entrance) will serve coffee, hot chocolate, pretzels and roasted nuts Thursdays through Sundays in November and every day starting in December.

Also new this year are Friday theme nights, such as Wild West, Superhero and Disco, as well as off ice fun like Open Mic Mondays, Karaoke Tuesdays, Buffalo Trivia Wednesdays, Weekend Magic Shows in November and December from Nick Presents Magic, Snow Soccer with Soccer Shots on select Sundays and Lake Effect Fitness, a 10 week outdoor aerobic based fitness series on Saturdays and Sundays starting in January.

BlueCross BlueShield Suit Skates for professionals in the downtown business district will be back between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursdays, as well as First Niagara First Fridays where the first 200 skaters get free admission. Other programs on and off The Ice include co-ed Broomball [Leagues](#) by Healthy Buffalo on Monday night; Pond Hockey and competitive Broomball Leagues by Game On! on Tuesday through Thursday nights; curling leagues Monday through Thursday nights; [Skating Lessons](#) by Skate Great on Friday nights and Saturday mornings; SABAH Hockey clinic on Thursdays; History tours with Joel Dombrowski of Buffalo History Tours; and Buffalo City Carriage horse rides on the weekends.

More information on the schedule of events, parking and updates can be found at <http://www.canalsidebuffalo.com>. Visitors can take the NFTA Metro Rail to the Erie Canal Harbor Station stop; parking is available in adjacent parking ramps and lots.

Interested curling parties can reserve sheet time at www.bookingbug.com.

NEW Hours of Operation:

- 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday
- 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.: Thursday (*10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving*)
- 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.: Friday/Saturday
- 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.: Sunday

Please note hours may change during school breaks and on holidays, as well as during inclement weather. Visit Canalside's [website](#) or [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) accounts for the most up-to-date hours.

Rates:

- Ice Admission, Adult (13+) - \$6.00
- Ice Admission, Child (6-12) - \$4.00
- BCBS Ice Admission - \$5.00
- Skate Rental - \$4.00

- Season Pass, Single - \$36.00*
- Season Pass, Family of 4 - \$99.00*
- Curling - \$15 per person

**Season Pass Holders will have access to Canalside Pass Perks, including deals at various Canalside district businesses. For example, 10 percent off purchases at Fowler's Chocolates and Clayton's Toys at the HarborCenter Shops. For more information, visit <https://www.canalsidebuffalo.com/seasonpass/>.*

"We are ready to skate again!" said Julie R. Snyder, Vice President, Corporate Relations of BlueCross BlueShield of WNY. "We view this partnership with Canalside as a way to encourage everyone to stay active and healthy this winter season."

"Cricket Wireless is proud to be the exclusive wireless sponsor for the 2015 Winter Season at Canalside," said Tracie Manske, Senior Marketing Manager for Cricket Wireless. "We're committed to the revitalization of Buffalo, and are so excited to be a part of a venue like this that fosters community growth and connectivity. We hope you'll enjoy the Cricket Wireless Warming Pavilion. Cricket is very excited to help kick off the winter season at Canalside. We wish to give our Buffalo residents, and all visitors to Canalside, Something to Smile About this season!"

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 Corporation 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.

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