



Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Contact:

Pamm Lent (Governor's Office) | pamm.lent@esd.ny.gov | (716) 846-8309
Laura Magee (ECHDC) | laura.magee@esd.ny.gov | (716) 846-8239

The Ice at Canalside Ends a Successful Season

More than 75,000 took advantage of the ice in 2015-2016; Lots to look forward to this summer

With its most successful season to date, the Ice at Canalside presented by BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York is now closed for on-ice activities for the season. Numbers were up across the board on the ice in 2015-2016, with more than 70,000 skaters, more than 4,000 people going for a spin on the ice bikes and 2,800 taking their turn at curling presented by Catholic Health. While the site remains open, skating and other activities on the ice will no longer be available as the site transitions to the summer season. The water-filled canals and associated activities, like paddle and peddle boats, "Sail the Canal" remote sailboat rentals and Blue Bikes presented by BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York, will open in mid-May.

To view several pictures of the successful 2015-2016 season, click [here](#).

"The Ice at Canalside topped its numbers by more than 20,000 over last season which demonstrates not only that its popularity continues to soar but that Buffalo loves to celebrate its winter on the waterfront," said Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation Chairman Robert Gioia. "Now, as we transition from ice to water, we can look forward to an exciting summer season knowing we had an enormously successful winter season."

For those looking to be in the know about what is new and exciting at Canalside this summer, patrons are now able to sign up at www.CanalsideBuffalo.com for Canalside's new e-mail newsletter, "Canalside Connect, Your Connection to Our Waterfront!" Finishing touches are being put on the Free Thursday Canalside Concert series lineup which will be announced in early May; the Queen City Bike Ferry will have a new Outer Harbor landing; the wooden boardwalk extension will be unveiled; and favorites like festivals, activities for children, arts & culture, fitness and more, will be returning.

While Canalside is looking forward to the summer season, the 2015-2016 season won't be one that will soon be forgotten. The Ice gained national exposure with a visit from

Katie Couric and her Yahoo News segment on Buffalo, “Cities Rising: Rebuilding America” and the mention of Canalside on CNN Travel’s List of “16 Things to See & Do in the U.S. in 2016” and About.com’s “26 places to go in 2016.”

Highlights of the season included:

- Opening a month earlier than last season.
- Addition of the Winter Pavilion presented by Cricket Wireless which featured dozen of musician performances and satisfied many hungry patrons.
- Opening of the warming tent for skaters and spectators to escape the cold.
- Thousands of attendees at the 5th Annual Holiday Celebration & Tree Lighting.
- 609 pounds of donated food for the Food Bank of WNY during Canalside’s Food Bank promotion, which offered \$1 off skating if someone brought a non-perishable item in the month of December.
- First ever Chillabration weekend January 15 through 18 where Canalside attempted to break the Longest Ice Line, hosted a Bonspiel Tournament presented by Catholic Health and featured amusement rides presented by the Greater Buffalo Honda Dealership, ice sculptures and much more.
- Collaboration with local businesses on Buffalo Winter Weekends.
- Special events for Valentine’s Day, Mardi Gras and various theme skates.

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. For more information, visit www.canalsidebuffalo.com.

About Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation

A nine-member board consisting of seven voting directors and two non-voting, ex-officio directors governs the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp. 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 Erie County executive and the City of Buffalo mayor hold the two non-voting, ex-officio director positions. For more information on ECHDC, visit www.eriecanalharbor.com.

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