



One of America's Byways

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Seaway Trail Discovery Center

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There's More in 2004! New Attractions, Activities on Seaway Trail

With 504 miles to drive, bike, RV, motorcoach or boat, travelers will find new attractions, activities and anniversary celebrations along the Seaway Trail in 2004. The Seaway Trail is federally-designated America's Byway that leisurely stretches along the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, the Niagara River, and Lake Erie in New York and Pennsylvania. From a new fast ferry to walking tours, a recently-opened old castle and carp fishing to the 200th anniversary of a heritage farm and the 250th anniversary of an historic battle and Broadway without the bustle, the Seaway Trail has more for everyone in 2004!

The new **Spirit of Ontario fast ferry**, also known as The Breeze, will soon begin its Toronto-to-Rochester runs across Lake Ontario. The high speed cataman will disembark passengers at the Seaway Trail's midpoint. After enjoying Rochester's fine museums, parks, shopping and dining, visitors may head east and west along the Great Lakes Seaway drive.

With a slower pace, three coastal communities have joined five others to offer **Seaway Trail Walks**®. The Walks are a series of 1.5 hour, guided walking tours. Each Walk begins at 5 pm. Alexandria Bay in the 1000 Islands, North Tonawanda in the Niagara Frontier and Erie, Pa, join the line-up this year. The Walks will go rain or shine from June 13 to October 1: Sundays in Erie, PA; Mondays in Westfield, NY; Tuesdays in Lewiston & Alexandria Bay, NY; Wednesdays in North Tonawanda & Sackets Harbor, NY; Thursdays in Clayton, NY, and Fridays in Waddington, NY. There is a charge for the tours. For details: www.seawaytrail.com.

Singer Castle in the 1000 Islands, a magnificent 28-room castle dating to 1896, opens to the public for its first full season this year. You can reach this must-see attraction on Dark Island by boat tour from Morristown or Alexandria Bay. For details, visit www.singercastle.com.

When young British actor Tom Felton of the Harry Potter films visited the St. Lawrence River section of the Seaway Trail in 2002, he fished for carp. He enjoyed it so much, he started the **St. Lawrence Fishing School and International Junior Carp Tournament** in 2003. This year parents can fish with children ages 11-18 in the two-day tourney that follows a school with some of the world's finest carp anglers August 19-21. For details: www.northcountryguide.com.

"Talking" anglers are among new exhibits at the **Seaway Trail Discovery Center**, Sackets Harbor. Three "push-button" anglers share tips for catching carp on the St. Lawrence, salmon on the

More in 2004 on Seaway Trail

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Salmon River and lake fish on Lake Ontario. In the maritime history room, 450-year-old logs recovered from the local bay are now benches where you can sit to watch a scenic Seaway Trail Lighthouses video. In the wildlife room, new interactive exhibits invite you to test your nature knowledge. The Discovery Center's free open house is June 6th. For details, visit www.seawaytrail.com.

Anniversary celebrations abound at Seaway Trail venues in 2004:

- the Antique Boat Museum (www.abm.org), Clayton, host its **40th Antique Boat Show and Auction** August 6-8.
- Safe Haven Museum and Education Center at Fort Ontario Park, Oswego, honors the **60th anniversary of the arrival of European refugees at the only U.S. shelter for refugees during World War II** August 6-8.
- **Brown's Berry Patch**, Waterport, is celebrating the **Brown family farm's 200th year**. This farm withstood British attack during the War of 1812 and has adapted over time to become a premier Seaway Trail agritourism attraction, known for an experience that includes u-pick berries and pumpkins, petting animals, a deli-bakery, country gift market and ice cream served in homemade waffle cones. For details, www.brownsberrypatch.com.
- **Old Fort Niagara's recognition of the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War** continues in 2004. The 1759 siege of the fort in Youngstown at the mouth of the Niagara River will be relived with an encampment of costumed interpreters July 23-25 with a daily battle at 3 pm. This National Historic Landmark (www.oldfortniagara.org) includes the "French Castle," dating to 1726.

For Broadway without the bustle, visit **Upstate New York's largest professional summer theatre** — Merry-Go-Round Theatre, Auburn. The 2004 shows include *Book* (5/23-29), *Jekyll & Hyde* (6/2-19), *Mame* (6/23-7/10), *Showboat* (7/14-8/8) and *Funny Girl* (8/11-28). For details: www.merry-go-round.com.

One of **28 lighthouses** across the Seaway Trail, Erie Land Light at Erie, Pennsylvania, received a new lantern room early in 2004.

Scuba divers will find a newly discovered shipwreck in Lake Ontario near Pultneyville. The *Homer Warren*, a 178-foot Canadian steamship, built in 1863, was the oldest wooden, straight deck, bulk freighter in operation on the Great Lakes when it foundered in October 1919. Not far away is the *St. Peter* - is it haunted?

Ghost tours by horse-drawn trolley and a murder mystery are part of the fun of **Victorian Dazzle** days July 15-17 in Fredonia on Lake Erie. A special performance at the 1891 Fredonia Opera House is also scheduled that week. For details: www.festivalfredonia.com.

Internationally-known guitarists perform in Buffalo June 19-26 at **America's first and largest all guitar festival**. For details: www.guitarfestival.org.

For more info and 110 events listings, call 1-800-SEAWAY-T to request a free JOURNEY magazine. ###