

Town of Halfmoon Dedicates a New Portion of Canal Trail

by Pete Bardunias, President/CEO, the
Chamber of Southern Saratoga County

People who visit the area north of Albany by land or sea will have even more opportunities to explore the canal trails signifying our nation's past, thanks to continued work by the Town of Halfmoon and the New York State Canal Corporation.

A new section of trail stretching from just north of Momentive Performance Materials (the former GE Silicones) in Waterford to the existing sections further along Route 4 has been opened, which means that most of the old Champlain Canal in that area is now accessible to the public. Visitors can walk in the footsteps of "Sal the Mule", because the trail is the old towpath that allowed beasts of burden to pull the barges in the days before mechanized Marine transport. "Piece by piece, grant by grant, perseverance and

persistence with the cooperation of elected officials and several state and private organizations, our dreams and ideas will be made possible," says Henrietta O'Grady, member of the Halfmoon Historical Society and the Trails and Open Space Committee. Historical places can be preserved and the public will be able to approach and appreciate its past."

Visitors looking to stay in the area can contact the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County at www.southernsaratoga.org, stop by the Southern Saratoga Information Center at the Exit 9 Rest Area on the I-87 Northway in Clifton Park, or call (518) 371-3763 for more information on trails, lodging, and nearby marinas and marine services.



The ribbon is cut celebrating the opening of a large section of Towpath along the old Champlain Canal in Halfmoon, Saratoga County. Dignitaries included Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen (center), Councilwoman Daphne Jordan (first row, 4th from right), representatives of area engineering firms, the New York State Canal Corporation, Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor, and the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County.