

Fairport-East Rochester Post

Fairport celebrates completion of two Erie Canal improvement projects

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Senator Ted O'Brien, New York State Secretary of State Cesar A. Perales, Fairport Mayor Frederick H. May, Brian U. Stratton, Director of the New York State Canal Corporation and Assemblyman Mark Johns cut the ribbon to celebrate the completion of two Fairport canal improvement projects.



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Messenger Post

Posted Jul 20, 2013 @ 06:19 PM

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Fairport, N.Y. — After only seven months, Fairport’s two canalside improvement projects have been completed.

New York State Secretary of State Cesar A. Perales and Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton gathered on Friday for a ribbon cutting ceremony alongside Senator Ted O'Brien, Fairport Mayor Frederick H. May and Assemblyman Mark Johns.

“We have a strong reputation throughout New York State for our hospitality, our amenities and the village itself,” said Mayor May. “These projects are all about economic development and tourism.”

In December, The Fairport Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) announced that

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construction work for a public promenade on the south side of the Erie Canal to the east of Parker Street would begin.

The nearly \$2 million completed project includes a new concrete breakwall, stone retaining wall, stairs, landscaping, light poles and fixtures, benches, trash receptacles and boat stations. New interpretative signage panels are also a part of the project, and are provided by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's Signage and Identity Project, with support from the National Park Service.

In 2007, the Fairport Industrial Development Agency (IDA) purchased the two-acre parcel that was previously owned by the village's Department of Public Works

The project was made possible by several grants secured by the IDA, including a \$158,000 Restore NY grant from Empire State Development for demolition and asbestos removal and a \$584,000 matching grant from the New York State Department of State (DOS). The IDA was also able to secure a \$134,238 matching grant through the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council's Consolidated Funding Application process, provided by the New York State Canal Corporation. These funds were leveraged by substantial Fairport IDA investment.

The projects are considered major improvements for residents and visitors of Fairport, according to Kal Wysokowski, executive director of the Fairport IDA.

"They love it," she says, "They love coming out here, supporting the businesses along the waterfront while sitting and watching the boats. Without them, this wouldn't be possible."

The Fairport IDA is looking to attract private investment for a complementing residential component on the 2-acre waterfront site.

"We are helping to fulfill the Governor's vision of reinvigorating communities and promoting economic development in the Finger Lakes Region," said New York State Secretary of State Cesar. A. Peralas. "The village of Fairport is a prime example of this commitment."

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