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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Adventurers, 500 Miles of Heritage, One Great Erie Canal

British Expeditioner and Photographer Kayak through Monroe County May 3 – May 4

May 1, 2012 (Rochester, NY) - The legacy of the Erie Canal will lure adventurers Richard Harpham and Glenn Charles to kayak an epic 500 miles from Buffalo to New York City, making the canal villages of Brockport, Spencerport, Pittsford and Fairport stops along their journey.

VisitRochester in conjunction with New York State's Division of Tourism, I LOVE NEW YORK, is working with world-renowned kayaker Harpham, from the UK, to make history while chronicling the dynamic locations along the Erie Canal and its 35 locks. Throughout the trip, Harpham will be recording his journey on the Spare Seat Blog. The expedition gives upstate New York and the canal exposure to UK travelers who have been identified as a target market for the region. The tour is called "New York State's Spare Seat Kayak Expedition" as both Harpham and Charles will kayak the route in double seated kayaks, inviting community members to join them along the way.

"VisitRochester welcomes Richard Harpham and Glenn Charles to Monroe County and our beautiful villages along the Erie Canal, one of the most spectacular and transformative public works projects of its time," said Ed Hall, president and CEO of VisitRochester, Monroe County's official tourism promotion agency.

The Erie Canal originally opened in 1825 as a major commercial waterway that shaped the development of New York State. Harpham and Charles will be traveling much of the same route as Governor Dewitt Clinton when he journeyed from Buffalo to Albany to New York City via the newly opened Erie Canal and the Hudson River. The Spare Seat voyage will demonstrate how the canal that created the Empire State nearly 200 years ago now offers world-class leisure opportunities.

About Richard Harpham

Expedition kayaker and adventurer who has covered 5,000 miles in two years and 11 expeditions, The Big 5 Kayak Challenge founder has canoed the Yukon, 1,000 miles from Vancouver to Alaska, crossed the English Channel (biggest shipping lane in the world) twice and also kayaked and cycled from London to Marrakech. He is an inspirational speaker who had a successful business career and also managed the Ghana Ski Team to the Vancouver Winter Olympics in 2010.

Photo opportunities available Thursday, May 3 beginning at 7 a.m. in Holley and continuing east to Pittsford and Fairport, contact Claire Wysokowski 784-0947 for their updated whereabouts.

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