

Office of the Mayor

ROBERT G. ORTT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of North Tonawanda Participating in 9th Annual "Canal Clean Sweep" on April 26th

NORTH TONAWANDA—North Tonawanda's Mayor Robert G. Ortt has announced that the City of North Tonawanda will once again be participating in the 9th annual *Canal Clean Sweep* on Saturday, April 26th.

In recognition of Earth Day 2014 and in preparation for the upcoming, 190th consecutive navigation season on the New York State Canal System, and in conjunction with the New York State Canal Corporation, Parks & Trails New York, and the various communities along the 524-mile canal system, the City of North Tonawanda will be participating in this annual event. The Mayor's office and Waterfront Commission are seeking volunteer groups and individuals to meet at the large pavilion at Mayor's Park on Sweeney Street for the clean-up efforts that are scheduled to begin at 9am.

The *Canal Clean Sweep* highlights the growing significance of the Canal System and the Canalway Trail System as a recreational and tourism destination across the state and here in the City of North Tonawanda by encouraging communities, not-for-profit organizations and volunteers to engage in cleanup and beautification activities along the Canal System and the Canalway Trail.

"I would like to thank the sponsors, Painters Plus and Jesse Gooch, as well as our Waterfront Commission, and all the volunteers who come out to help beautify one of City's most important assets, the Erie Canal," stated Mayor Ortt. "North Tonawanda is becoming a recreation destination and the canal is a big part of that."

Waterfront Chairman Ed Smolinski stated, "This is a great way for our community to come together and spruce up the area, and feel good about your efforts after a job well done."

"I am so glad to be a part of this year's Canal Clean Sweep," stated Jesse Gooch, President of Painter's Plus. "These events are what make WNY so special to me. There are so many amazing people that pull together and create a community that cares and makes a difference. I am very happy and proud to be involved with this project and I would like to give a special thank you to all of the organizers and founders involved."

This year's event is being sponsored by Painter's Plus, Walmart, along with the Mayor's office. Supplies such as rakes, gloves, and trash bags will be supplied by the City Recreation and Parks Department.

Last year, the City of North Tonawanda was one of 150 communities, not-for-profit organizations, civic groups, businesses, and social clubs took part in nearly 100 cleanup and beautification events along the Canal System and the Canalway Trail.

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