



Irish American Heritage Museum

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM ANNOUNCES
WEEK LONG CELEBRATION OF THE ERIE CANAL**

*IAHM to Join Partners in the City of Albany in
Celebration of the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal*

ALBANY, N.Y. (October 8, 2025) - The Irish American Heritage Museum's Board of Directors announced today that IAHM will host a series of events between October 11-19, 2025 to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal. Completed in 1825, the 363-mile long Erie Canal was the longest artificial waterway in North America. It was also the first canal to connect the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, making New York City the principal seaport in the United States. During the eight years of construction, significant numbers of Irish immigrants joined American-born workers as they excavated and constructed the canal by hand and animal power.

The Irish American Heritage Museum (IAHM) joins a number of partners in the Capital region in celebrating the Erie Canal's rich history and the cultural legacy of Irish immigrants who helped build the canal. IAHM's commemorative events culminate with the landing in the City of Albany of a replica of the Erie Canal Boat *Seneca Chief* on October 18, 2025, while on its Bicentennial Voyage, commemorating Governor DeWitt Clinton's historic 1825 journey from Buffalo to New York Harbor.

During the museum's week-long celebration of the Erie Canal's Bicentennial, the following IAHM programming will honor the remarkable accomplishments of those who built the waterway and celebrate the long-term effects on our commerce and communities:

- October 11, 2025 (7:00 PM): IAHM will present a multi-media musical journey entitled *Musical Postcards from Irish Albany and Troy*, which was written - and will be performed - by local Irish American performing artists Toss the Feathers. This historical concert will tell -

through slides, stories, songs and traditional tunes - the story of the Irish immigrants who settled in the Upper Hudson Valley.

- October 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM: Special screening of the movie *Creating the Erie Canal* by ThirdWave Films, which beautifully depicts the pioneers and immigrants who discovered the intersection of ambition and opportunity in upstate New York.
- October 18, 2025 (7:00 PM): IAHM will host a dinner with visiting Erie Canal Boat *Seneca Chief's* Captain Ann Loeding and the *Seneca Chief's* crew. During that evening, there will be live music; an interpretive dance performance entitled *The Erie Canal Project: An Original Choreography to Erie Canal Songs* by Cecilia Whelan Dance Company (NYC); and, a panel discussion about the Erie Canal by *Seneca Chief's* Captain Loeding, Jack McEneny and IAHM's Executive Director Michael C. Clarke.
- October 19, 2025: 10:00 AM, the *Seneca Chief* arrives at Jennings Landing; 11:00 AM, there will be a welcome ceremony at Jennings Landing; and from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM, the *Seneca Chief* will be open to the public.

“The Irish American Heritage Museum is honored to contribute to the Erie Canal Bicentennial celebration in the Capital region in partnership with the Mayor Kathy Sheehan, the City of Albany, Discover Albany, Albany’s Underground Railroad Education Center, *USS Slater* and other valued partners in the heritage, historical and cultural space,” said Michael C. Clarke, Executive Director of IAHM. “In commemorating this historic achievement, IAHM’s community recognizes the contribution and cultural legacy of Irish immigrants, the impact of that legacy in New York State and the Capital Region, and the role of the Irish who arrived to build the Erie Canal over two centuries ago.”

“Discover Albany is delighted to partner with the Irish American Heritage Museum to welcome the Erie Canal boat replica *Seneca Chief* to our shores,” said Maeve McEneny-Johnson, the Director of Community Engagement at Discover Albany. “The Discover Albany Visitor Center and our IAHM neighbors routinely welcome Canal enthusiasts from around the world. These visitors are eager to walk, bike, and experience the rich and unique Canal history. The opportunity for locals and visitors to tour the *Seneca Chief* will add a new dimension for Canal fans to learn the transformative history of the Erie Canal, while connecting with local community members from Albany County.

For tickets to IAHM’s Erie Canal Bicentennial events, please see [here](#).

ABOUT THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Irish American Heritage Museum (IAHM) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation created by the New York State legislature in 1986. The IAHM is located in Albany, which is the Capital of New York State. The IAHM is an educational institution which provides critical educational

services to not only its membership, but to local school districts and educational institutions in both New York State and across the world. The IAHM fosters dialogue and exchanges of ideas between America and Ireland. Through this sharing, IAHM creates connections and community among all Americans in the context of both the appreciation and the study of the universality of the immigrant story in America.

In addition to exhibitions, IAHM hosts a robust series of programs, including traditional Irish music sessions and performances, lectures, cooking demonstrations, once a month traditional and folk (“Trad/Folk”) Irish performances, film screenings, and assorted one-person shows, plays, and busking experiences. To learn more, visit www.irish-us.org, follow IAHM on [Facebook](#), and see programming on [IAHM Eventbrite](#).

IAHM is home of the Flanagan Theater, a fabulous 60-seat performance space in the midst of the Museum. Irish and Irish Americans in the Northeastern United States at IAHM’s Flanagan Theater. At Flanagan Theater, world class Irish musicians and actors perform, presentations are given, as are lectures, literature readings and workshops.

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