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A spectacular sunset at Gateway Harbor of the Tonawandas, at the Western Gateway to the Erie Canal

## Communities honored with Erie Canalway Heritage Awards

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor was created to preserve the heritage and promote as a destination the 500-plus-mile waterway completed in upstate New York in 1825. The organization honors projects that capitalize on their canal heritage to revitalize their waterfronts and communities.

For 2020, the Erie Canal Heritage Park at Port Byron in North Tonawanda and Gateway Harbor of the Tonawandas in Tonawanda were honored with awards of excellence. The Port of Newark in Newark received honorable mention.

“Each project is unique in scope and concept, but all make the Canalway Corridor a more vibrant place to live and visit,” said Bob Radliff, executive director of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

In Gateway Harbor, decades of collaborative investment and waterfront revitalization have built Gateway Harbor of the Tonawandas into a vibrant public space and regional destination, including developing 1,000 feet of dockage and amenities for boaters and creating a paddlesport access site.

In Port Byron, what was once an abandoned canal lock is now a regional destination featuring a visitor center, restored historical buildings, and the unearthed Lock 52. Visitors can walk through the massive stone lock, built in 1853, and tour the restored 1894 Erie House Tavern & Hotel, mule barn, and blacksmith shop.

The Port of Newark capitalized on its canal waterfront resources to create a vibrant port, including a canalfront with 1,200 feet of floating docks, a park and welcome center, and a Canalway Trail for cyclists, runners, and walkers.

— RICH ARMSTRONG

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