



Celebrate
MOHAWK VALLEY



• 1817 • **LEGACIES** • 2017 •

PRESS RELEASE

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Gems Along The Mohawk

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***Gems Along The Mohawk Announces Local School Project
Winners at Congratulatory Breakfast***

Gems Along The Mohawk in Herkimer, New York kicked off their first celebration of the 2017 year long activities. The program, held on Saturday, April 29, 2017, honored fourth graders in the local school systems from Rome to Canajoharie, New York.

“Our theme, ‘Dreams and Hard Work: Learning for the Erie Canal’s Success-’ has come alive through the eyes, hearts and creative minds of our local fourth graders,” said Dr. Renee Scialdo Shevat, Developer and Owner, Gems Along the Mohawk. “We are delighted that the legacy of the Erie Canal lives on through our youth.” Gems Along the Mohawk, along with other partners across New York State, is celebrating the 200th year of the Erie Canal.

The Gems Along the Mohawk sponsored contest attracted entries from regional schools. From Rome to Canajoharie, many local fourth graders participated. Winning recipients are from Ridge Mills and Stokes Schools (Rome City School District), Benton Hall (Little Falls School District), West Canada Valley School District, Canajoharie School District, and Dolgeville School District.

The winning recipients, along with their parents, teachers, principals and school superintendents, attended the event at 8:30-9:30am, Saturday, April 29, 2017, at Gems Along the Mohawk, 800 Mohawk Street, Herkimer, NY. A recognition breakfast kicked off the event followed by an awards program from 9:00-9:30am.

The projects were submitted to Gems Along the Mohawk where a panel of local judges from the business, educational, and historic fields viewed and chose winning entries. The judging team was represented by Dr. Cathleen McColgin, President, Herkimer County Community College, Mr. Justin Hummel, CEO of Hummels Office Plus, Melody Milewski, Manager, Gems Along the Mohawk, Ann Marie Collins, educational consultant, and Michael Milewski, the only remaining hoggee from New York.

Winning recipients were:

Honorable Mention

- Abigal Fanfarillo - Rome City School District
- Matthew Veri - Little Falls City School District
- Zane Synenki - Little Falls City School District
- Alexandria Gyurik - Canajoharie Central School District

3rd Place

- Donte Moss - Little Falls City School District

2nd Place

- Dolgeville Central School District 4th Grade Class

1st Place

- Jackson King, Samuel Ayers, Stella Brown, Analyce Grabowski, Currin Wallace-Eaton, Audrah Lyon-Saunders
West Canada Valley Central School District

The winning entries will be on display at Gems Along The Mohawk until the end of the yearlong celebration-December 2017 and the community is invited to view the winning entries and enjoy the many other special events during this exciting year.

Honoring the Gems of the Past with Eyes to the Future!

Gems Along the Mohawk – 800 Mohawk Street – Herkimer, New York 13350



315.717.0077

www.GemsAlongTheMohawk.com





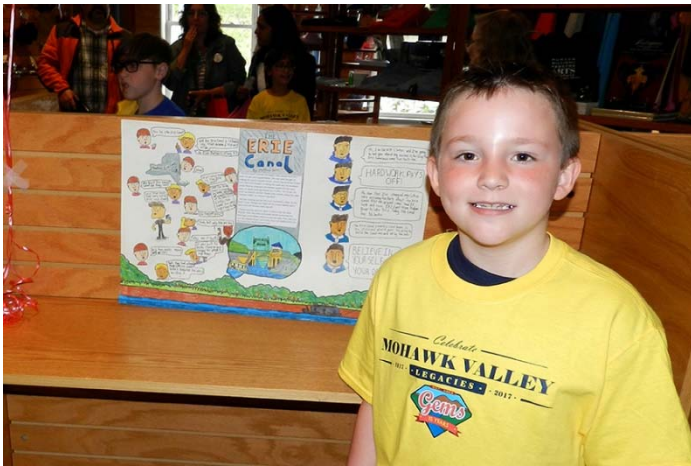
West Canada Valley Central School District 1st Place

Michael Milewski, local hoggee, Melody Milewski, General Manager, Gems Along the Mohawk, Renee Scialdo Shevat, Owner and Developer, Gems Along the Mohawk, first place winners from West Canada Valley Central School District, Jackson King, Stella Brown, Samuel Ayers, Currin Wallace-Eaton, Analyce Grabowski, Audrah Lyon-Saunders, Melissa Mane, teacher, Carissa Holmes, principal, and Ann-Marie Collins, educational consultant.



Dolgeville Central School District 2nd Place

Dolgeville Central School District 4th Graders, second place award recipients, perform the song they wrote for the project with Assemblymen Marc Butler.



Little Falls School District 3rd Place

Donte Moss



Canajoharie School District Honorable Mention

Alexandria Gyurik

Presenter Melody Milewski, Former Museum Director at Erie Canal Village and General Manager at Gems Along the Mohawk and Principal Stacy Ward



Rome City School District Honorable Mention

Abigail Fanfarillo, Stokes School

w/ Art teacher Mary Lou Kernan and Michael Milewski – Erie
Canal Hoggee



Little Falls City School District Honorable Mention

Zane Synenki and Matthew Veri

w/ Principal Joe Long – Benton Hall Elementary
Presenter Anna-Marie Collins – Social Studies teacher and
Supervisor in History at Clarkson University

The Erie Canal Song

(to the tune of "These Boots Were Made for Walkin")

View YouTube video at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2f-kEPN_z0

The Erie Canal connected the East to the West
The thruway now follows along the same ground
A hand-dug waterway that handled transportation
Most advanced and important water route around

This ditch was made for shipping
To get goods out to sea
Over the years the Erie Canal grew New York's economy

The Erie Canal opened in 1825
It was 40 feet wide and dug to 4 feet deep
The canal was 363 miles long
With 83 locks Little Falls is very steep

This ditch was made for shipping
To get goods out to sea
Over the years the Erie Canal grew New York's economy

New York State was a leader as a place to settle
It provided employment and opened the west to trade
People and goods could reach all the way to the Great
Lakes Governor Clinton was proud of the canal he made

This ditch was made for shipping
To get goods out to sea
Over the years the Erie Canal grew New York's economy