

March 4, 2005

## **ERIE CANAL FLIGHT OF FIVE INITIATIVE RECEIVES FUNDING FROM HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### **Reynolds secures \$3.25 million for restoration of historic locks**

Lockport, New York - US Representative Tom Reynolds has secured \$3.25 million for the restoration of five historic locks on the Erie Canal in Lockport, New York.

"We are tremendously grateful to Congressman Reynolds in securing this vital funding for the City of Lockport," Michael Tucker, Mayor, City of Lockport said. "The restoration of the Flight of Five coupled with the development of the City Centre and South Block continues the revitalization and resurgence of the city of Lockport."

In 2004, Mayor Tucker created the Flight of Five Committee, a group of community volunteers, to lead the restoration initiative including securing both public and private sector funding. According to the Flight of Five Committee, the restoration of these historic locks (Locks 67- 71) will have a significant economic impact on the local economy and is part of the burgeoning cultural and heritage tourism industry in Lockport and Niagara County USA.

"We suddenly are on the next phase of this critically important initiative which is actually beginning the restoration work on these historic locks all thanks to Congressman Reynolds," Peter Welsby, Chairman, Erie Canal Flight of Five Committee said. "We know there are still a couple of legislative hurdles to go, but this is certainly great news for Lockport and the entire region. We also are optimistic that other funding sources will be announced in the very near future for the restoration."

In addition to Mayor Tucker and Peter Welsby the Flight of Five Committee members include David Kinyon, Becky Burns, Jeffrey Degnan, Joel Beyer, Paul Lamont and Thomas Callahan.