



Niagara River Greenway Commission

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FOURTH ANNUAL PADDLES UP NIAGARA

Grand Island, NY, June 5, 2009...The Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) announces the Fourth Annual "Paddles Up Niagara" along the south eastern shores of Grand Island on July 25, 2009. Beaver Island State Park along with Anchor Marine will host the day's activities with the centerpiece being the non-competitive paddle from the Little Beaver Launch site around to East River Marsh Site returning back to Little Beaver all within the Beaver Island State Park, a 4.8 mile journey.

The day begins with the Paddle Fair at 8:30 a.m. During this portion of the event paddlesports retailers and company representatives will be on hand to give the public an opportunity to try out canoes and kayaks. Beginners and enthusiasts alike will also have the opportunity to learn more about paddlesports safety and the natural, recreational and cultural attributes of the Niagara River corridor. New York State Park's Interpretive Staff will be on hand for "Learn to Paddle", an introductory canoe program for children. Paddles Up will begin after a traditional Native American Departure Ceremony at 12:00 p.m.

The phrase "paddles up" is derived from a longstanding Native American custom. When approaching camp canoe paddles were pointed skyward signifying that the traveler comes in peace and is seeking permission to land for food and rest. In some cultures the upward pointed paddle also symbolizes the start of a long journey.

The first 100 paddle powered boaters to register will receive a free "Paddles Up Niagara 2009" t-shirt. All on water participants will be required to register and complete the necessary waiver forms. Boat crews must wear a US Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device and the condition of each participating canoe and kayak will be checked to insure that it can safely transit the Paddles Up Niagara water trail.

All of the day's activities are free including registration for Paddles Up Niagara, the exception is a Lunch Fund Raiser & Tour of the Historic River Lea Site, a prepaid donation of \$11 is required, normal State Park entrance fees will apply. Upon entering Beaver Island State Park, participants should take the first right toward the Sledding Hill or Little Beaver for parking and launching.

To receive or download registration forms for Paddles Up Niagara or for more information regarding the Niagara River Greenway Commission visit the website www.niagaragreenway.org or call the NRGC office at (716) 773-5361.

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