

Looking Back

Canal Schooner Replica Lois McClure Visits Ithaca By John Keshishoglou

On July 1, 2007, the people of Ithaca welcomed with applause the arrival of the Lois McClure schooner. The 88 feet long by 14.5 feet wide schooner is a replica of an 1862 canal boat transporting goods through the canal system and the Great Lakes. The Lois McClure was launched in 2004. It is on a one-thousand-mile tour, with calls to 25 ports of Erie Canal waterways and lakes. Ithaca was the first port-of-call.



Lois McClure sailing Cayuga Lake – photo C. Bangs



Tug, C.L. Churchill – McClure's power when she is not under sail –Photo – C. Bangs



Tug C.L. Churchill takes Lois McClure in side tow and holds her into the wind as she prepares to drop her sails- Photo D. Bangs

Under the auspices of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the New York State Canal Corporation and the Lake Chaplain Maritime Museum, the schooner stayed in Ithaca two days allowing some four thousand visitors to board her and witness a bygone era.

Docked adjacent to the Auxiliary Ithaca Flotilla 22 (9ER) base, the event allowed the Flotilla to hold an open house and welcome many visitors.

In the photo below the Auxiliary patrol boat, *Wandering Cs* lead the Schooner south on Cayuga Lake and through the inlet to the reserved dock. Flotilla 22 Coxswain Don Campbell with crew Marjory Campbell, Richard and Cora Bangs and Tom Every took part in the patrol.

Photo – J. Keshishoglou

