

## Message from Mayor Missey - July 2023

Happy 175th anniversary, I&M Canal!

Officially opened in April 1848, the I&M Canal was the final link in a nationwide plan to connect various regions of North American waterways. Its completion created a new transportation corridor, linking the Erie Canal all the way to New Orleans and bringing people from across the country to right here in what is now known as the I&M National Heritage Area - the first of its kind in the nation.

In recognition of its anniversary, the Canal Corridor Association has partnered with its member communities for a yearlong celebration filled with events, activities and special promotions.

Locally, the Village of Channahon is hosting a collection of events celebrating the anniversary - the first of which is right around the corner. On Sunday, August 27, join us at the Memorial Tree Walk at Village Hall for our first annual Art in the Park event! To honor the I&M's milestone anniversary, artists are asked to create works inspired by the I&M Canal or Channahon. Artists are welcome to submit up to three works as part of their entry into the Art in the Park event in categories such as drawings, paintings, sculptures, photography, mixed media and more. All work that is accepted will be judged by a jury of artists from the local community; those not wishing to participate in the competitions can elect to participate in the local showcase featuring artists of all ages. For more information, including submission and registration details, please visit [www.channahon.org/361/Art-in-the-Park](http://www.channahon.org/361/Art-in-the-Park).

Additionally, stay tuned for details regarding an I&M Canal-themed book discussion event in conjunction with the Three Rivers Public Library District.

Can't make an event? No problem! Celebrate the I&M Canal and its history on your own by taking the time this summer and fall to explore all of the beauty it has to offer. Whether via foot or bike, alone or in the company of others, explore the I&M in your own backyard here in Channahon and see where the path takes you.

For a full list of I&M Canal 175th Anniversary events in all canal communities, please visit the I&M's website at [www.iandmcanal.org/175thanniversary/](http://www.iandmcanal.org/175thanniversary/).

Best wishes,  
Mayor Missey Moorman Schumacher