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## Onondaga Historical Association Commemorates 25th Anniversary of Lakefront Restorations

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### OHA promotes importance of renovations in new exhibit



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By [Juliana Pignataro SYRACUSE \(NCC NEWS\)](#) – The [Onondaga Historical Association](#) is taking advantage of the 25th anniversary of restorations near Onondaga Lake as an opportunity to show the public just how important these projects are to the community. The association's exhibit,

["Transforming Syracuse's Lakefront: The 25th Anniversary of a Bold Vision, 1987-2011,"](#) depicts through before and after images, various rehabilitation projects that have taken place in the area over the past 25 years. The exhibit is housed at the Onondaga Historical Association's Museum and Research Center in downtown Syracuse. It is free and open to the public, with donations to the OHA being accepted.

### How the OHA hopes the exhibit will affect the public

With lakefront restorations continuing in Syracuse, public awareness is important. However, because of the 25 year span of these projects, there is a large chunk of the population that does not know what the lakefront was like before they began,

and so they do not understand the importance of the restorations. Dennis Connors, the OHA Museum's Curator of History, said that the 25th anniversary was the perfect time to address this.

"It kind of came as a surprise to us that it's been 25 years already so we realized that there's this whole generation that has grown up that never really knew what the lakefront used to be like, so we thought it was a good opportunity to showcase that."

The exhibit is also especially important in light of recent complaints from residents that caused temporary suspension of the [dredging in Onondaga Lake](#). Although officials assured residents that no health risk was posed, complaints about the odor caused the postponement of the project. Connors said that the exhibit can help the public understand why the dredging is so important.

"I think it's an exhibit that will help people understand the potential of the lake," Connors said. "We're trying to, for really the first time in several decades, to make the lake a more welcoming place and more vibrant part of the community and so we have to go through a lot of steps to get it there, and the dredging is a part of that process."

## Future of the exhibit

The exhibit will remain at the Onondaga Historical Association's Museum and Research Center on Montgomery Street in downtown Syracuse until December 1, 2012. The museum is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Watch the story here:

