

**\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\***

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## **SENECA HARBOR PARK CLEANUP**

Watkins Glen, NY – Join us for the community's inaugural Seneca Harbor Park Cleanup event Saturday, September 7, 2019 from 8:30-10:30am.

Bob Kurz, owner of nearby Watkins Glen Wine & Spirits, first came up with the idea while chatting with the professionals at S&R Underwater, headquartered in nearby Beaver Dams. Bob reflected "I had been talking about doing something like this for years, as long as I've been diving, and finally one evening while chatting with Rob and Sharlene about it, we realized 'If this is ever going to happen, we just need to try and make it happen ourselves!'"

To help keep participants safe, boat owners will be asked to not run their boats in Seneca Harbor Park for the short, two hour duration of the cleanup. Likewise, only certified divers will be in the water retrieving debris. But for residents, businesses, and visitors alike that hope to help out, they are all welcome to join the activity, retrieving and bagging up recovered debris set on the docks and shoreline by the divers that morning. Summit to Stream Adventures will also be scooting around the harbor in a kayak during the event, helping with debris removal and making sure the divers are safe. Watkins Glen Mayor, Luke Leszyk, reflected "When Bob <Kurz> approached me about the idea, after reviewing his carefully considered logistics to minimize impact on the boat owners in the harbor, while addressing a few small safety concerns, it was frankly a no-brainer. Seneca Lake, and Seneca Harbor Park, are all part of our village, and the health and beauty of the harbor and lake, are both very important to us."

Stated Rebekah Carroll, President and CEO of the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce, "It truly warms my heart to see enthusiastic community members like Bob Kurz, and caring divers like Sharlene and Rob Parker and their volunteer dive team, put so much energy into helping make our village the best it can be!"

This event will take place unless there is dangerous lightning the morning of the event, or if a severe storm the day before the event leaves the Harbor impassable. S&R Underwater will be providing 50% off on equipment rentals, and air fills, to help encourage more certified divers from our region to participate.

Businesses or individuals that would like to get involved, divers or shoreline support, or folks who have questions, should call Event Coordinator Bob Kurz of Watkins Glen Wine & Spirits at 315-521-8366.

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