



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## EXPLORE HISTORIC LAKE ONTARIO SHIPWRECKS AND MARITIME HERITAGE AT W-PHS PROGRAM ON APRIL 8TH

Pultneyville, NY, March 13, 2026 - The Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society (W-PHS) is pleased to host Ben Ioset, Maritime Archaeologist, who will present a program on April 8th that explores Lake Ontario, its marine heritage and historic shipwrecks.

Designated in June 2024 and co-managed by NOAA and the State of New York, the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary (LONMS) protects a nationally-significant collection of historic shipwrecks in the four-county sanctuary that includes 1,722 square miles of eastern Lake Ontario off Jefferson, Oswego, Cayuga and Wayne counties.

In May 2025, NOAA and its partners at the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute surveyed deep water shipwrecks within the LONMS. The expedition documented numerous pristinely preserved shipwrecks dating from 1816 to 1927. In his presentation, Ioset will discuss the expedition, its objectives, and several of the shipwrecks that were explored and he looks forward to sharing discoveries made during the trip expedition with attendees at the April 8th program in Pultneyville.

Ben Ioset, archaeologist with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in support of NOAA's LONMS, received his PH.D. in Anthropology with a specialization in nautical archaeology from Texas A&M University in 2021. His research focuses on the maritime history and heritage of the Great Lakes, and in particular, Lake Ontario, historic wooden shipbuilding and historic preservation.

- more -

With the St. Peter Shipwreck just two miles east of Pultneyville, W-PHS is excited to reside within the LONMS and to also feature an exhibit of its artifacts recovered by Deep Star Enterprises in its History & Heritage Warehouse. Nanette Peters Hance, President of W-PHS shares that the historical society is excited about the opportunities the sanctuary offers for research, community engagement, education and outreach activities, as well as the maritime heritage related tourism it will bring to the region.

The 7pm Wednesday, April 8th program will be presented in historic Gates Hall at 4107, Lake Road, Pultneyville. While free and open to the public, donations as always are appreciated which support future programming and the maintenance of historic Pultneyville properties for which W-PHS is sole steward . . . Gates Hall, Centennial Park and its History & Heritage Warehouse.

Founded in 1964, the W-PHS is a 501(c)(3) organization which is honored to host this special presentation that celebrates the area's shared maritime history and heritage which, with others, has played a significant role in shaping our country. W-PHS is pleased to present this program that coincides with the commemoration of America 250 and the 200th Birthday celebration of historic Gates Hall . . . America's oldest continuously active small community theatre that has also been the site of many maritime heritage programs throughout its 200 year history.

Please visit [www.w-phs.org](http://www.w-phs.org) for general and membership information. Those seeking off-street parking for this event may park in the parking lot on the westside of Hamilton Street directly across from the Pultneyville Reformed Church just steps away from Gates Hall.

### **About the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society**

The W-PHS is a 501(c)(3) membership organization and while this program is free and open to the public, donations are gratefully accepted which help to support future programming and in part, maintain the preservation W-PHS historic properties in Pultneyville which include historic Gates Hall, Centennial Park situated across the street from the Hall, and the History & Heritage Warehouse located at 7630 Hamilton Street which is the society's new home that will open to the public in late Spring of 2026. For W-PHS membership and more information, please visit [www.w-phs.org](http://www.w-phs.org).

PAGE 3

Contact:

Nanette Hance, President

Phone: 315-589-9892

Email: [president@w-phs.org](mailto:president@w-phs.org)

[www.w-phs.org](http://www.w-phs.org)

[www.facebook.com/WilliamsonPultneyvilleHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/WilliamsonPultneyvilleHistoricalSociety)

[www.instagram.com/wmsnpvillehistoricalsociety](https://www.instagram.com/wmsnpvillehistoricalsociety)

Address:

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society

7630 Hamilton Street, Pultneyville, NY 14538

Mailing Address:

PO Box 92,

Pultneyville, NY 14538