

## **RELEASE NOTICE**

**BUFFALO, NY- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has set the Black Rock Lock Operating Schedule for the 2008 Navigation Season as shown.**

- \* Through 26 April 2008** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday
- \* Closed Saturday April 26, 2008** On call for Commercial traffic w/prior notice
- \* 27 April through 24 May 2008** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 7 days a week
- \* 25 May –Sept. 27 {extended hours}** 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday  
10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- \* 28 September through 15 November** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 7 days a week
- \* Closed Sunday 16 November 2008** On call for Commercial traffic w/prior notice
- \* 17 November through 31 December** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

**Commercial traffic will be accommodated on a 24-hour basis with prior notification.**

**Questions on Operations may be directed to the Black Rock Lock during scheduled operating hours by calling (716) 879-4403, or to the New York/Pennsylvania Operations and Maintenance Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at (716) 879-4206. The Lock may also be contacted on marine radio. Operations monitors channel 16 (working Channel 12)**

**Tug and Barge Operators are reminded that PFD's are required for all Barge personnel during the approach and while transiting the Lock.**

**The Black Rock Lock extends from Buffalo Harbor to the Black Rock Lock, and is 3 ½ miles long. The Federal navigation channel has a minimum width of 200 feet, Throughout its length. Pleasure craft are required to yield the right-of-way to commercial vessels due to the confined waters of the channel.**

**The Black Rock Lock and the Black Rock Channel, located where Lake Erie drains into the Niagara River, allow all types ships a protected waterway around the reefs, rapids and fast currents that exist in the upstream portion of the Niagara River. The Lock and Channel permit pleasure craft and commercial vessels to travel between Buffalo Harbor and Tonawanda Harbor. In combination with the New York Erie Canal, they provide pleasure craft and canal-draft vessels an inland water route between Lake Erie and the Atlantic Ocean. Branch canals in the New York State canal system also provide boaters access to Lake Erie and to the Lake Champlain.**