



**NORTH SHORE
CORVETTE
CLUB**

I & M Canal Mule-Pulled Boat Tour & Lunch

Saturday, September 11, 2021

On Saturday, September 11th, six cars headed to North Central Illinois to enjoy some scenery, learn some [Illinois history](#) on a boat ride, and enjoy a wonderful lunch. The group started in Buffalo Grove and drove to LaSalle, Illinois to take a short [mule-pulled boat trip](#) down the Illinois & Michigan (I&M) Canal on a replica [packet boat](#). This canal, completed in 1848, provided a link between the great lakes and the Mississippi River and helped to make Chicago the center of Midwestern trade. By cutting travel times, the I&M Canal allowed for goods and people to travel between the south to the north.



tenders were like the Uber drivers of their day, getting paid by the trip and not by the hour.

Before we stepped onto the boat, our mule-tender, Matt, shared some information about how mules were used for pulling canal boats during the 19th and early 20th century. He also introduced the other members of the crew, Captain Craig and Peter, the deck hand. In the past, the mules would pull fully loaded packet boats for about 15 miles before they would stop and rest, while another mule-team was hitched up to continue its journey. The mules and their

After the leisurely 45 minute boat trip, we headed to Ottawa, Illinois to the [Lone Buffalo – Tangled Roots Brewery](#). Our waitress, Tanisha, remembered all 13 of our orders without writing down a single word! The food was tasty, beer was cold, and the town is quaint. Both the town and the restaurant/brewery are worth a visit!

Daryl & Renee

[Click here to see all the pictures of the event](#)