



➤ **Who**

The Ophelia Project®

➤ **What**

Project Paddle: Find Yourself In A Kayak

➤ **Where**

Congratulatory Reception at the Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies
7 East Dobbins Landing * Erie, Pennsylvania * 16507

➤ **When**

Saturday, August 27, 2005 (Rain Date TBA)

Reception: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Katie's Anticipated Arrival: Approximately 12 noon

➤ **Attendance**

Target audience:

- Children and adults from the Erie community and surrounding areas who may have an interest in outdoor recreation
- Local business owners and governmental figures who support community enhancement initiatives
- Local and regional kayaking and boating enthusiasts

➤ **Overview**

Project Paddle is a high-profile community event designed to raise awareness for The Ophelia Project. In addition, the event is focused on encouraging individuals of all ages to participate in outdoor recreation and embrace Lake Erie as a treasured natural resource.

➤ **Benefiting Organization**

The Ophelia Project is a national, nonprofit organization that is committed to helping girls form healthy peer relationships while creating a safe social culture for all youth.

➤ **How It Works**

Erie native, Katie Chriest, will be kayaking solo nearly 30 miles to cross Lake Erie – a feat that’s never been attempted! She will leave Long Point, Ontario before dawn and arrive at the bay in East Dobbins Landing around noon. Katie wants to not only challenge herself, but also challenge others in the community to become active in the outdoors. As a volunteer for The Ophelia Project, Katie became inspired to reach out to young girls in the Erie community. “I wish that there had been something like The Ophelia Project when I was growing up,” Katie has said. “I felt like it was just me, alone, dealing with what I did. But really, the same issues affect everyone and we all go through very similar things.” Katie wants to help broadcast The Ophelia Project’s mission to a large audience and also share her own message of empowerment.

➤ **Current Partners & Sponsors**

Local Partners:

- Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Plymouth Tavern
- Presque Isle Partnership
- The Erie SeaWolves
- Print Communications

Sponsors:

- WSEE and WICU 12 Television Stations (*Polaris*)
- Healthy Youth Development Advisory Board Media Committee (*Polaris Level*)
- Bud Light (*Landmark Level*)
- *Canoe & Kayak Magazine (Compass Level)*

Disclaimer: This is an attempt to cross Lake Erie. There are many uncontrollable factors that may play a part in the day’s event (inclement weather, fatigue, etc.) and thereby alter the outcome.