

The New Oz

Mighty Lake Erie - maker of millionaires
did you weep when they bulldozed
your canal a century ago, scarring
the hem of the Buffalo skyline

did you sing from your great blue cradle
when town fathers undid their mistake
history excavated, rebuilt as *Canalside*
festivals! farmer's markets! kayaks!

no sign of child-led mules
pull of barges lock to lock
no acrid smell of engine oil,
damp bales of wheat bound
for millers in Albany

Mighty Lake Erie – bestower of bounty
I swear I hear you chuckle at the pop-up spires
as yellow-slickered yeomen raise tents
weekend white castles in a new Oz
its armies of blue portalets braced for waste

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