



## LAKES TO LOCKS PASSAGE

THE GREAT NORTHEAST JOURNEY

LAKES TO LOCKS PASSAGE, INC.

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## 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

**Mission:** Further the appreciation, recognition, stewardship and revitalization of the natural, cultural, recreational and historic assets of the communities along the interconnected waterway of the upper Hudson River, Champlain Canal, Lake George, Lake Champlain, Chambly Canal and Richelieu River.

**Vision:** The vision of Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc. is of public, private and non-profit organizations working together to balance the scenic, historic, natural, cultural, recreational, and working landscape resources in harmony with community revitalization.

### 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### President

Howard Lowe, *Clinton County*

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

Laura Moore, *Warren County*

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Peter Repas, *At-Large*

#### Secretary

George Hodgson, *Saratoga County*

#### Treasurer

Bill Johnston, *Essex County*

#### Directors

Mayor Robert Blais, *At-Large*

Lou Bresee, *At-Large*

Dee Carroll, *Essex County*

Bruce Ferguson, *Washington County*

Kate Johnson, *Warren County*

Albert Juneau, *At-Large*

John Krueger, *Clinton County*

David Mathis, *Saratoga County*

David Mohn, *Washington County*

#### Executive Director

Janet Kennedy

#### Program Coordinator

Jeanne Williams

#### Canal Region Coordinator

Jim Barlow

This past year has been exciting for Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc. The depth and diversity of the experience and interests of our Board members continues to grow. They are truly a reflection of the communities we serve, and their dedication is demonstrated by the growth and maturity of the organization. In December the entire Board participated in a strategic planning exercise that helped to direct immediate actions of the staff, develop partnerships and new collaborative activities, which are key to the sustainability of the organization.

Over the past few months we hired new staff people that will help us build community awareness of our activities and ultimately, a region-wide commitment to the vision and goals of the organization. We welcome Jeanne Williams as our Program Coordinator, providing administrative assistance, public relations, marketing coordination, and fundraising support. Jim Barlow is now serving as Coordinator for the Champlain Canal Local Action Committee, serving both Washington and Saratoga County communities. He will coordinate public input for the Three-county Waterfront Revitalization Plan, the Byway Corridor Management Plan Update and assist in the Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor outreach to communities.

Our Fundraising Committee has developed a strategy for generating the essential funds for operations and project implementation. The Marketing Committee is on-track with their plan for building identity, and improving the infrastructure and marketing of the region as a national and international destination for tourism. As we continue to develop plans for the NYS Scenic Byways Program and NYS Department of State Waterfront Revitalization Program, we build relationships between the communities along the interconnected waterway and strengthen the land and water interface, which are critical components to the community revitalization and quality-of-life improvements that make this a great place to live.

Please find attached a summary of key accomplishments during the past year, as well as a list of activities we plan to undertake for 2007. To all of you who have supported us in the past year, we offer a heartfelt THANK YOU; and to the rest, we hope that you will join us as we continue to make our shared mission and vision a reality.

## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- We entered into a new partnership with the Feeder Canal Alliance, located in downtown Glens Falls, to share Jeanne's expertise as well as provide a "satellite" office for LTLP.
- We continue to provide technical assistance to the Lake George Local Action Committee's completion of Corridor Management Plan and partnership with the First Wilderness Corridor.
- We continue coordination & assistance to Local Action Committees – Clinton County's Coalition for History, Arts, Recreation, and Tourism (CHART) and Essex County's Champlain Valley Heritage Network (CVHN).



*Lakes to Locks Passage and First Wilderness Corridor information and community signs at Lake George Village Visitor Center.*

- We entered into an agreement with Kristina Parker to provide staff support services to CHART until spring 2007.
- Through the Quebec-New York Corridor, we signed an agreement with the Conférence régionale des élus de la Montérégie Est (CRE), to forge a cross-border tourism initiative.
- We provided assistance to counties in regard to the Empire State Greenway system, resulting in the inclusion of Lake Champlain communities in the Erie Canal Greenway Grant Program.

- We signed a Cooperative Agreement with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to coordinate planning for the Canal region communities.
- We have met with staff from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, the Mohawk Valley Heritage Area and the Western Erie Canal Alliance to establish an ad hoc "Canalway Network" to collaborate on mutual interests.
- We attended National Scenic Byways Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, the Soulanges Canal Conference in Quebec and the NYS Canals Conference in Rochester.
- We joined the National Scenic Byways Foundation, Janet serves on their Board of Directors.
- Janet currently serves on the Program and Events Committee of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission.

## PROJECTS AND PRODUCTS

- We received funding from the the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust to develop the "Alfred Z. Solomon Cultural Heritage Trail."
- We assisted the Essex County Historical Association in their Byway funded grant for the remodeling of the Adirondack History Center in Elizabethtown to serve as a Waypoint Community Heritage Center, which opened in May.
- We provided technical assistance to the CRE to develop an organization to implement the cross-border heritage tourism initiative.
- We provided coordination & technical assistance to Town of Saratoga for Old Saratoga Pocket Parks project.
- We worked with CVHN to complete recommendations for the sustainable operations of Waypoint Community Heritage Centers that resulted in an application for a three-year Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) implementation grant.
- We worked with Lake Champlain Bikeways on "Blueway Guide to Lake Champlain."
- We continue work on guidebooks for Slate Valley, Champlain Canal and Northern Lake Champlain.

## MARKETING AND PROMOTION

- We provided coordination & technical assistance to Quebec/New York Corridor Tourism Initiative and planning for 2005 Summit in Albany.
- We worked with the Seaway Trail and NYS French & Indian War Commemoration Commission to develop a three-year Scenic Byway grant strategy for educational programming and national marketing campaign for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the French and Indian War.
- We worked with Warren County Tourism and representatives of I Love NY to plan and promote the Lake George region in 2007 for the French and Indian War commemoration "Signature Event."
- We provided grant administration for CVHN's "The Narrows," an interpretive guide to boaters on Lake Champlain.
- We compiled water related event listings, and drafted a monthly LTLP feature for *Boating on the Hudson & Beyond* magazine.
- We began outreach to Canal region Chambers of Commerce regarding familiarization with LTLP and benefits of a partnership to promote the Canal.
- We initiated work on itineraries for boating & motor cycle travel of Lakes to Locks Passage.
- We responded to travel inquiries and prepared personalized itineraries for LTLP.

**SUMMARY OF FY 2006 BYWAY GRANT ACTIVITIES**

Local communities and organizations that foster regional cooperation improve their position for funding projects in an extremely competitive fiscal environment by developing a regional vision, goals, objectives and specific actions. Over the past year, Lakes to Locks Passage has worked with communities to define strategic infrastructure improvements on both land and water. The following Federal Highway Administration, National Scenic Byway Program (NSB) grants have been awarded in 2006 to communities of Lakes to Locks Passage, demonstrating the success of a locally managed economic development and community revitalization program.

Sustainable Partnerships Seed Grant FY05-06	\$25,000
Lakes To Locks Passage CMP Update	64,000
Champlain Visitor Information	190,000
Sustainable Partnerships Seed Grant FY06-07	21,000
French & Indian War Educational Programming	221,000
Rouses Point Gateway & Wayfinding Signage	21,000

**Total Federal Byway funds awarded in 2006 (match not included) \$542,000**

Over the past year we have supported grant applications from many communities and organizations to several programs that complement our vision for unifying the region, quality-of-life improvements, community revitalization and economic development activities:

**Erie Canal Greenway Grant Program**

- Feeder Canal Alliance
- Town of Plattsburgh
- Town of Saratoga
- Town of Halfmoon
- Essex County
- City of Plattsburgh
- Village of Rouses Point
- Town of Chesterfield
- Town of Essex
- Ballard Park (Westport)
- Town of Schaghticoke
- Town of Fort Edward

**NYS Department of State Quality Communities Program**

- Town of Moriah

**Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Environmental Protection Funds (EPF)**

- Town of Queensbury
- Town of Schaghticoke
- Village of Rouses Point

**NYS Office of Parks and Recreation Environmental Protection Funds (EPF)**

- Village of Cambridge
- Town of White Creek
- Town of Fort Edward

**NYS Dept of Transportation Enhancement Program**

- Town of Chesterfield
- Village of Schuylerville
- Town of Fort Edward

**Other letters of support:**

- Erie Canalway Corridor Management Plan APA award
- CRÉ – Funding for Champlain anniversary efforts
- SUNY Plattsburgh Web Visibility Project
- Mountain Lake PBS Telecommunications Facilities
- Fort Ticonderoga Congressional request
- Thompson-Clarks Mills Residents Committee for a Heritage Corridor Park
- Boquet River Assn. "Tourism Cares for Tomorrow"
- Adirondack-Champlain Community Broadband Network Partnership Congressional request
- Agricultural Stewardship Association request to NYS Council on the Arts

***Congratulations to all of the communities and organizations for their hard work and dedication!***

<b>LAKES TO LOCKS PASSAGE, INC. FINANCIAL REPORT</b>		
	<b>2005 Actual</b>	<b>2006 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Balance forward	\$ 24,061	\$ 80,686
Community Support	6,000	4,500
State grants	10,000	10,000
Federal Grants	76,040	60,050
Contracts	8,000	139,250
Other	87	7,100
Foundation Support	67,000	7,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 191,188</b>	<b>\$ 309,086</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries/Benefits	\$ 47,886	\$ 120,983
Contract Labor	27,576	6,000
Consulting	17,030	130,681
Conferences & Education	412	4,000
Equipment/Supplies	884	1,200
Insurance & Accounting	4,640	7,000
Printing	980	3,000
Communications & Web	2,644	4,500
Travel	7,866	12,000
All Other	584	1,635
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 110,502</b>	<b>\$ 290,999</b>



### TASKS FOR UPCOMING YEAR, 2006-2007

- Acquire NYS Scenic Byways Advisory Board recommendation to add the Lake George Loop as part of the NYS Byway designation of Lakes to Locks Passage.
- Work with the five counties on the Federal Scenic Byway grant to update the Lakes to Locks Passage Regional Corridor Management Plan, a key to having current “implementable” projects for securing grants from the National Scenic Byway Program.
- Work with the tourism interest groups to send an individual to represent all of the counties at POW-WOW in 2007, print our brochures in French, and update our website.
- Continue to work with New York and Quebec partners to launch cross-border marketing initiatives.
- Continue to improve communications and public outreach to elected officials, State agencies, other non-profit organizations and the press.
- Solicit financial support from municipal, county and state elected officials as well as other organizations and individuals.
- Approach corporate sponsorships and foundation support of activities and projects.
- Complete Saratoga Pocket Parks project.
- Complete enhancements to website, including itineraries and Quebec sites and attractions.
- Continue to provide coordination & technical assistance to Lake Placid/Essex County Visitors Bureau, Town of Chesterfield, North Country Underground Railroad, Village of Rouses Point, Mountain Lake Public Television, Village of Granville and Slate Valley Museum for National Scenic Byway grant administration.

- Initiate work on three-county Local Waterfront Plan for Warren, Washington & Saratoga Counties.
- Continue to provide technical assistance and support of partnerships with Lake Champlain Bikeways, and Lake Champlain Birding Trail.
- Work with County Local Action Committees to generate local match for Byway and grants.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Long-term sustainability of Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc. requires generating unrestricted funds to support the activities of the organization and establish a cash reserve to cover general operating expenses.

Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc. is not a dues-based organization as we believe that the region is heavily “tapped out” by numerous worthy membership-based organizations. We want to serve all of our community members, regardless of their ability to pay. Therefore we appeal to elected officials, partner organizations, foundations, corporations and individuals to support the organization to the extent that they are able.

Priorities of financial needs for Lakes to Locks Passage:

1. Matching funds for grants that implement regional activities of management plans.
2. Operations and developing a cash reserve.
3. Furthering partnerships that fulfill the mission of the organization.

Funding for the community outreach, technical assistance, programs and activities of Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc. is made possible through the generous support from the public and private sector. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received in the past year from the following sources:

- Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little
- Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust
- Plattsburgh - North Country Chamber of Commerce
- Lake Placid - Essex County Visitors Bureau
- Essex County
- Warren County Tourism
- Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
- Virtual Flow

