

WESTERN NEW YORK UPDATE

NIAGARA POWER PROJECT

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2005

WNY NOTES

• NYPA's \$13 million refurbishment of the concrete face of the Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant is continuing this summer. As a result of the seasonal repair work, traffic is again being diverted on a portion of the Robert Moses Parkway atop the power dam. A hiking trail crossing the plant is also altered slightly during the rehabilitation. By scheduling the work during the warm weather months, NYPA expects to complete all repairs by October 2006.

• Two of NYPA's Western New York employees have been honored by their peers as part of the Power Authority's Employee Recognition Program. Tonawanda resident Jeff Lowes, an electrician, was chosen as the Niagara project's Employee of the Year

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 25-28

Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival

September 24, 25

NYPA's 20th Annual
Wildlife Festival

October 29

Halloween Mask-Making
Workshop

December 3

Deck the Halls Holiday Event

PREPARATIONS IN FULL SWING FOR LEWISTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

It's hot...it's cool...it's the fourth annual Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival, and it's fast approaching Western New York this summer.

As founding sponsor of the festival, which presents free musical performances at various venues in the

designed website (www.lewistonjazz.com) offers full details, including performance schedules and a listing of area accommodations and restaurants.

Other primary sponsors are the Village and Town of Lewiston and the Lower Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce (LNRRCC).

"The chamber is very excited about the 2005 Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival and the opportunity to welcome thousands of guests to our historic village," said Janice McCaw, chairperson of LNRRCC. "Our thanks go to the New York Power Authority and the dozens of other sponsors who have stepped forward to support this festival, which provides a tremendous boost for our businesses. We estimate that last year's festival had a positive economic impact of more than \$800,000."

Close to 30,000 people attended the 2004 festival, with organizers hoping for even greater numbers this year. Participants will be able to take home a little piece of the festival by purchasing a souvenir from The Jazz Shop, open for the first time at this summer's gathering.

Also new this year will be two headliner concerts at Artpark, with advance-purchase tickets now available. Thursday night's concert will feature Diane Schuur with Dave Samuels & the Caribbean Jazz Project; on Friday night, Spyro Gyra will perform. For information and to purchase tickets, call the Artpark box office at (716) 754-4375 or visit www.artpark.net

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Flanking artwork created for this year's festival are, from left, Town of Lewiston Supervisor Fred Newlin, Village of Lewiston Mayor Richard Soluri, Chamber of Commerce Chairperson Janice McCaw and Randy Crissman, NYPA's regional manager for Western New York.

Village of Lewiston, the New York Power Authority plays a major role in organizing and promoting the event set for the last weekend of August.

This year's festivities—which run from Thursday, Aug. 25, through Sunday, Aug. 28—include some new features along with many traditional favorites. More than 150 musicians will compete for the public's attention with culinary samplings, wine tastings, premier antiques, classic cars and more. A NYPA-

NYPA Provides 'Kickstart' For Niagara Greenway

Hopes are high for progress in developing the Niagara River Greenway as members of a newly formed commission met for the first time in June to chart a course to preserve open space while revitalizing the Western New York economy.

Gov. George Pataki signed legislation creating the Niagara River Greenway Commission last Septem-



Gov. George Pataki, above, signed legislation last fall creating the Niagara River Greenway Commission; NYPA's Joanne Willmott, above right, has been named the commission's acting executive director.

ber, marking a major milestone in a plan to create a series of interconnected parks, river access points and



waterfront trails that would stretch for 35 miles along the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

Joining the governor at the bill-signing

ceremony in North Tonawanda's Fisherman's Park were NYPA officials who pledged an initial contribution of \$200,000 to "kick start" the planning and development of the greenway plan.

At their June 14 meeting, commission members received an update on this initial effort, which will incorporate the views and opinions of various stakeholders in communities along the proposed greenway.

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5777 Lewiston Road
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Greenway

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Commission members also met the organization's recently appointed acting executive director, Joanne Willmott, who is also NYPA's community relations regional manager for Western New York.

A resident of the Town of Lewiston, Willmott has worked at NYPA's Niagara Power Project since 1977. In recent years, she has served as a spokesperson for the multiyear effort to relicense

the Niagara project, an assignment that has required extensive contact with local residents and public officials in 11 municipalities in the vicinity of the hydropower facility.

Introduced at the meeting by state Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro, who is serving as acting chair of the greenway commission, Willmott stressed that the park-and-trail system must reflect local interests.

"The Greenway Commission is here to assist, to bring together communities along the waterfront and provide some connectedness between them," she said afterward. "This will truly be Western New York's greenway."

Among her duties, Willmott will help prepare a comprehensive outline, scope of work and request for proposals for a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for the greenway. She'll also work with other agencies to gather information and provide public education on the plan.

For inspiration, commission members can track the progress being made by groups involved with the Erie Canal Greenway, the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Empire State Greenway.

The group's deadline to complete a draft plan and GEIS for the greenway is March 2007. ❖

Lewiston Jazz Festival

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For the rest of the weekend, jazz lovers can stroll the quaint Village of Lewiston to their heart's content, taking in the sights and sounds of an eclectic mix of styles. Outdoor performances will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and run until 10 p.m. On Saturday, live music can be heard from noon to 10 p.m. The schedule for Sunday is noon to 5 p.m. In addition to the festival performances, a number of bars and restaurants arrange for their own musical entertainment that weekend, making Lewiston the place to be for anyone who loves jazz. ❖

WNY NOTES *continued*

for his positive attitude, strong work ethic and many volunteer activities, including those on behalf of his hometown's synchronized swim team and Special Olympics competitions. Jack Olewnick, a senior quality specialist from Ransomville, was named Employee of the Year for NYPA's statewide Power Generation business unit for his exceptional effort in monitoring the quality of materials needed for part of the Niagara project upgrade.

- Niagara Falls High School has received 10 computers as part of a Power Authority program to donate surplus computer equipment to public schools and other non-profit organizations. The statewide program kicked off in 2002 with a delivery of 30 computers to the Niagara Falls School District. Last year, 20 more NYPA computers were provided to Buffalo city schools. Each unit is cleaned and furnished with a minimum of 64 megabytes of memory before delivery.

NEW VISITORS CENTER FOR OLD FORT NIAGARA



Gov. George Pataki in June attended the groundbreaking for a new \$4 million visitors center at the Old Fort Niagara State Historic Site in Youngstown. New York State has invested \$1.8 million in the project, including \$500,000 from the Power Authority. Randy Crissman, NYPA's regional manager Western New York, has been appointed to the fort's board of directors.

ABOUT WNY UPDATE

This quarterly newsletter reports on Power Authority activities in Western New York, particularly those associated with NYPA's Niagara Power Project.

We welcome your comments. To contact us, call Joanne Willmott, community relations manager, 716-286-6651.