

Town of Yates Newsletter

February 2019

Greetings! We hope you find this second edition of the Town of Yates Newsletter informative!

- * **The Comp Plan:** The Western Orleans Comprehensive Plan was unanimously approved by the Orleans County Planning Board in January 2019. The final step in this two-year process is for each municipality (Towns of Yates, Ridgeway and Shelby and the Villages of Lyndonville and Medina) to adopt the plan. Yates is planning to vote on adoption at our February 14, 2019, Board Meeting. If adopted, please look for the next newsletter to call for volunteers interested in serving on a task force to begin the process of seeking grants for some of the exciting initiatives identified in the plan. The Town of Yates wants to personally thank Linda Fisk and Mark Hughes for participating in the committee's efforts to revise and update the plan.

- * **Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP):** We are moving the LWRP along in the development process so that we will be ready for public presentation of the plan during Spring of 2019. Yates is a co-author of the LWRP along with the Towns of Carlton and Kendall and the village of Lyndonville. Committee representatives for Yates are Kate Kremer, Ed Urbanik and John Riggi. The overall goal of the LWRP is to preserve the waterfront while maximizing access for our residents and visitors to the area. The primary focus for the Yates subcommittee is to provide adequate corridors to the waterfront, while ensuring that people have areas to enjoy when they get to the waterfront. A new addition to the LWRP district in Yates is Johnson Creek as it flows through Lyndonville and we're excited about the improvements that can be made at that site. Once approved in late 2019 – early 2020, we will aggressively move to procure State grant dollars to achieve the LWRP vision for Yates, that is, for our waterfront to be a destination for our residents as well as visitors and sportsmen.

- * **Lake Ontario State Parkway (LOSP):** Yates has recently been invited to participate in the Lake Ontario State Parkway planning process. Representative from Yates is John Riggi. As you know the LOSP is a 4-lane New York State Parkway that runs east/west from Charlotte in the east to Carlton in the west. The LOSP has seen reduced usage in the past 10-15 years due to inadequate maintenance and therefore the committee was formed to discuss and determine the plan moving forward for the Parkway. There are two options currently in discussion about the future of the LOSP: 1) Keep only two lanes in Orleans County with development of the additional land into recreational areas and continued use and 2) Maintenance of the current four lanes with the addition of recreation areas. More to come.

- * **OSC Audit:** The Town of Yates Corrective Action Plan has been submitted to and deemed acceptable by the NYS Office of the State Comptroller (OSC). Please go to the Town of Yates website (townofyates.org) and click on the “2018 Town of Yates Corrective Action Plan” link to read the plan.
- * **Lighthouse Wind:** We continue to fight Apex Clean Energy's Lighthouse Wind project. As mentioned in our first newsletter, it is clear that Apex will try to eviscerate our duly constituted local laws and that they will try to convince the Siting Board to force this project upon the Towns of Yates and Somerset. Apex would do well to remember that New York is a Home Rule state and that the Town of Yates will execute the, ***“General powers of local governments to adopt and amend local laws...,”*** for the, ***“protection and enhancement of its physical and visual environment...,”*** and the, ***“government, protection, order, conduct, safety, health and well-being of persons or property therein.”*** [NY State Constitution, Article 2 (*Municipal Home Rule*), Section 11]
- * **Lake Ontario Shoreline Flood Grant:** The Town of Yates was awarded a State Community Development Block Grant of \$414,500 to construct shoreline infrastructure repairs at the Town Park and at the lake shorelines of Marshall Road and County Line Road (Route 269). Engineering services will be provided by MRB Group and grant administrative services will be handled by LaBella. By this summer, we should have a good idea of how the experts recommend we repair the shorelines and mitigate against future flood damage. The project proposals are subject to public hearings and comments, so please help us ensure we are getting what we want out of this grant opportunity.
- * **Right to Farm:** The Town of Yates adopted a Right to Farm law back in 2003. This law is meant to minimize nuisance lawsuits against farmers who use accepted and standard farming practices and have been in prior operation even if these practices bother adjacent property owners or the general public regarding noise, odors, visual clutter and dangerous structures.
- * **Local Government Records Management Grant:** Our Town Clerk, Shelly Harling, did an excellent job working with LaBella to submit for a \$20,000 state grant to completely reorganize the records in our vault. If approved this spring, the funding will help us eliminate identified deficiencies in the Town’s records storage, help us to manage records more efficiently, ensure better fireproofing of records, and provide us with additional storage capacity for future needs.
- * **Donuts with the Supervisor:** Please join Jim Simon, Town Supervisor, for donuts and coffee at a town hall meeting on Saturday, March 30th, 9 – 11am, at the Yates Town Hall.