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Waddington Redevelopment Association  
Waddington, NY

November 7, 2002

Dear Mark:

I am sorry I am unable to attend your town meeting this evening but I want to thank you and your group for seeking a new vision for Waddington.

I have always believed that Waddington is one of the best assets we have in this County for tourism and I become more convinced of that each year. The Main Street had many possibilities for visitors who travel both by car and boat to the community.

Imagine, if you will, a host of small shops offering antiques, crafts, books, pottery, wooden toys, art work, nautical history items, unique clothing, as well as small cafes, ice cream shops, a bakery, and an Internet cafe. From the river front, visitors can stop for a picnic, let their children play on the playground, rent a fishing pole, canoe, or kayak and walk to the shops. Those who wish can take a guided boat tour to learn the history of the area. Others, can watch the SLU crew races.

While here, visitors might also take part in the annual St. Lawrence International Junior Carp Fishing Tournament where the right amount and size of catch could result in a \$10,000 prize. For those who don't know how to fish, there's the annual I love NY fishing school. And when the fishing is done, it's possible to take in a game of bowling or travel to Potsdam's Colonial Village Fun Park for indoor golf, go cart races, pony rides, atv races and video games. The next day can begin with a tour of the century-old Singer Castle and a visit to the world-famous Remington art museum. A visit to a fresh water aquarium, scuba dive and visit the nautical museum, or a trip to see how the early settlers lived in the recreated Ft. La Presentation awaits another day. And, when the parents have put the kids to bed and called in the sitter, they can try a little luck at the Mohawk Casino.

Waddington has the potential to be a central point for all of these attractions and, thus, the place to stay. Only one problem exists - limited accommodations.

While the community considers what to do with Leishman Point, it is appropriate to consider whether this beautiful site could become a location of a major hotel and conference center. St. Lawrence County has no conference center where we can host association meetings of 300 or more. Yet, we know we could attract these kinds of groups (i.e. soap makers of America, State medical associations, etc.) with the right facilities to accommodate them.

Waddington could provide this type of facility in a beautiful location and cement it's place in the tourism market for St. Lawrence County. It has the beautiful waterfront with a view of Canada and the ships of the world traveling by, the central location to other county attractions, the "small town" feel, the recreational facilities such as Cole Creek State Park with new trails and campsites to be added, and most importantly the "will" to do it.

We have seen this over the past year as your group has taken hold of an idea of a brighter future for the community and coalesced a united group to build for the future. The St. Lawrence County Chamber stands ready to support your efforts should you decide to move in this direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen St. Hilaire", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Karen St. Hilaire