

## ANNUAL MESSAGE 2009

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to present the Annual Message from the Town of Clayton. A year after my official election as Town of Clayton Supervisor it is an honor to be able to present the Town's accomplishments during this past year and our goals for 2009-2010.

A significant goal of the Town of Clayton for 2008 was to provide as much public access and public education as possible to our community and taxpayers. One example of this objective was the Town's revaluation process. The Town held two informational meetings on the revaluation process, one of which was live fed to the internet. After the session, the video was uploaded to our website so that it could be accessed conveniently by the public. The video received over 2,280 hits on the web. We also have worked enthusiastically to provide as much information as possible on our website, following established state procedures.

The 2008 year saw many endings and even more beginnings for the Town. Most substantially was the end of the remediation process at the former Frink America site. The Town and the Clayton Local Development Corporation worked tirelessly on this project and we look forward to the site's sale and redevelopment. The Depauville Free Library and Community Center was finally able to reopen its doors this summer after recovering from a fire in September 2007. A grant from the Northern New York Community Foundation was a major asset in this revitalization. Jointly, the Town and Village were able to secure two NYS grants to help with renovations of our local court. We plan to begin that project in the spring. Additionally, the Town brought Building Code Enforcement back to the local level in May 2008. This office is now able to work closely with the Assessor and Zoning offices efficiently to keep our records current and the public safe in order to make services more accessible to local contractors and residents.

The Town and the Clayton Local Development Corporation were able to secure a grant for over \$388,000 from the NYS Department of State to continue progress on the Clayton Riverwalk. The first phase of the Riverwalk along the shoreline of the former Frink property is scheduled to begin this spring. Additionally, the Town, Village, CLDC and Westelcom are working towards securing funding to construct a fiber optic loop around the Village. This project would enhance the attractiveness of the Village to businesses and allow our community access to higher-speed communication. The Town is also working toward developing a sewer and water district off of Route 12E, outside of the Village boundary towards Cape Vincent. In addition, the Town is also evaluating the feasibility of sewer services along Route 12 towards Fishers Landing.

Our goals for this New Year are many. In-house we are working on refining our employee manual, ensuring that the needs of our employees are met so that we are able to maintain our current staff. The Town will work vigorously in these challenging economic times to preserve our current assets and infrastructure. We plan to utilize technology to the fullest extent in order to assist our staff and the members of our

community. This aspiration includes new software for our Zoning and Codes offices that will allow them to better utilize and share information. We are also composing a grant application to the NYS Archives to continue to expand our Geographical Information Systems abilities. This project will allow for even more public-access information on our Clayton Map Viewer, which allows the public to view parcels in the Town of Clayton and access zoning and assessment information, among other things. One example includes the plotting of docks on Grindstone Island, which would enable emergency responders to better locate homes on the island. Even more, we are working diligently with our political representatives to have the Chaumont River designated as an inland waterway. If this occurs, it will open up a numerous grant opportunities for areas such as Depauville.

As with the previous year, 2009 is sure to bring many challenges, as well as many opportunities. We must continue to work together to successfully rise to these challenges and take full advantage of the opportunities that come our way. Community success is driven by community support. With the continued support of our community we can successfully maintain our goals of offering innovative and high quality services, while preserve our heritage. As Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."