

ANNUAL MESSAGE 2006
TOWN OF CLAYTON

“Keystone of Progress in the Thousand Islands”

As indicated in last year’s annual message, “2004 was the year Clayton’s economic development program came together.” The implementation of TIERS was completed while other programs began. In 2005 Frink America took the economic development spotlight. Although a number of other activities took place the Town and their partner the CLDC had their hands full with Frink America’s purchase, the assessment of contamination, asbestos abatement, and the ultimate demolition of the buildings. The Town Highway Department (Municipal Force) proved to the public again just how capable they are. They were praised by both Lu Engineers and the NYS DEC for maintaining a clean and safe work site as well as for their ability to demolish the buildings and salvage the steel. To set curiosity to rest demolition costs were \$113,177 and the Town and the CLDC realized \$25,395 on the salvaged steel. In 2006 completion of the Town’s responsibilities for site work will include taking up over 120,000 square feet of concrete floors in the spring and excavating a few thousand yards of contaminated soil during the summer. The CLDC will continue with planning and administration of the project.

Planning for the redevelopment of the Frink site has been a top priority in 2005 and seems to have found a focus. Through surveys, community members have indicated what they would like to see in the redevelopment of this property. Items such as a hotel, additional retail space, bakery and varying types of residential developments have been suggested. A plan, long in consideration, that would tie these ideas to the entire downtown cultural-historic scheme is again being discussed by the LWRP, the Remediation and the Redevelopment committees, and the CLDC Board ---- a “River Walk District”. The Frink property redevelopment, the historical downtown business district, the three museums and the Opera House would all be tied together within a “River Walk” network. As decisions are made as to what the Frink America property will become in the future, it may well become the birth-place of a project that will strengthen Clayton’s commercial activities by capitalizing on the River, Clayton’s greatest asset.

Though 2005 provided a challenge to the Town’s collective energies and creativity, 2006 will bestow even more of a challenge as the Frink site is finally cleaned up and the \$2,500,000 renovation project to the Opera House begins. In 2005 TIPAF carried most of the load for the Opera House project in managing the Capital Campaign which included very involved grant applications. In 2006 the work load will shift to the Town as bid plans & specs are established, the project is bid and the construction begins all before October 1st.

Before the activities of 2006 begin, a review of the 2005 goals is appropriate:

1. Goal was to “Acquire, assess, raze and start the clean up of the Frink Am property with the Town’s continued leadership.” *Done!! The Environmental Engineer and the NYS DEC have given us an A+.*
2. Goal was to “Further evaluate proposed sewer and water districts in the township.”

Evaluation has been ongoing and will continue into 2006 until proposed districts can be determined.

3. Goal was to “Bring the Town of Clayton administration to an even higher level by increasing technology and communications.” *We have updated our computers and moved into the world of GIS.*

Supervisor’s Goals for 2006:

1. Complete the Frink remediation project (a vacant, clean lot).
2. Start the Opera House renovation project on or before 10/1/06.
3. Did you think there will be time for a third one?