

# WESTERN NEW YORK UPDATE

NIAGARA POWER PROJECT

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2002

## Gov. Pataki, NYPA Help Boost Tourism

### WNY NOTES

- Gov. George E. Pataki announced in May that Louis P. Ciminelli of Buffalo has been elected chairman of the Power Authority. A NYPA trustee since 1995, he is also chairman and chief executive officer of Louis P. Ciminelli Interests, Inc., an umbrella organization for several businesses involved in revitalizing the Niagara Frontier.

- In January, the governor initiated a national marketing campaign promoting the value of Niagara project hydropower to attract new jobs to Western New York. The \$500,000 effort is a public-private venture involving NYPA, the Empire State Development Corporation, Buffalo-Niagara Partnership, Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce and Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation.

- The Power Authority will sponsor a Saturday night concert by Gap Mangione and his Orchestra as well as a fireworks display by Telstar in this year's newest summertime festival—the Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival: A Salute to the American Spirit—set for Aug. 23-25.

*The Falls are just the beginning.*

Millions of visitors travel to Western New York each year to behold the majesty of Niagara Falls. Yet this region offers many more opportunities for recreation, and the Power Authority is doing its part to promote tourism around the Niagara Frontier.

The Power Vista, NYPA's recently renovated admission-free visitors center at its Niagara Power Project, has become one of the area's top attractions. It has attracted more than 6 million people from around the world who came to see firsthand how electricity is created from falling water.

The Power Authority has committed \$5 million for the renovation of the observation tower at the Niagara Reservation, which offers a bird's-eye view of the Falls. Downstream, a Power Authority pledge of \$1.5 million will help develop a new Niagara Gorge Discovery Center.

NYPA's contributions are part of a renewed effort by the Pataki Administration to reclaim



Gov. Pataki discusses tourism issues at the Niagara Falls Area (now Niagara USA) Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner in March.

Niagara Falls and its environs as a premier tourist destination. At the governor's direction, 15 state agencies have joined forces to advance economic development and tourism projects that will promote the area for business and pleasure.

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## NYPA & WNY: A Powerful Partnership

*A Message from NYPA Chairman Louis P. Ciminelli:*

Here in Western New York, the Power Authority is focusing on the future. Working closely with Gov. George E. Pataki, as well as state and local leaders, we're helping to produce a new spirit of cooperation that will benefit residents and businesses of the Niagara Frontier and beyond.

This newsletter will report on some of the benefits to Western New York that NYPA is helping make possible.

For more than 40 years, our Niagara Power Project has served as the state's largest electric generating facility, providing clean, low-cost, reliable power that helps protect some 50,000 jobs in Western New York. But our contributions include much more than that.

Through Gov. Pataki's Power for Jobs™ initiative and other NYPA programs, we supply

economical electricity that supports another 20,000 jobs in the region.

We've also invested in about two dozen energy-efficiency projects at public facilities in Erie and Niagara counties, saving taxpayers millions of dollars a year and improving air quality. These projects have included the installation of high-efficiency lighting in the Lewiston-Porter Central School District and the replacement of polluting coal furnaces at Buffalo public schools with clean, modern equipment.

The Power Authority is helping to make Western New York a showcase for clean-energy technologies. We've installed a solar photovoltaic system atop the Buffalo Museum of Science and two microturbines at the Lewiston Water Pollution Control Center, where electricity is generated from waste gases.

The New York Power Authority has been part of the Western New York community since the 1950s and is committed to the region's future prosperity. We pledge to continue to be a good neighbor to, and enthusiastic booster of, this community, and we welcome your involvement in this important endeavor. ♦



Louis P. Ciminelli

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### August 23 - 25

NYPA will co-sponsor the Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival (concert and fireworks, August 24, Academy Park, 7 p.m.).

#### September 28-29

NYPA's 17th annual Wildlife Festival, Niagara Power Vista, 10 a.m.

## WNY Tourism

*continued from front*

Secretary of State Randy Daniels, who serves as chairman of the Niagara Falls Interagency Task Force, is overseeing a variety of short- and long-term projects that will boost the region.

"Through a cooperative effort and Gov. Pataki's leadership, multiple state agencies have pooled their resources and creativity to ensure the successful recovery and revitalization of Niagara Falls," Daniels said.

Numerous state agencies are contributing to an overall economic redevelopment plan advanced by USA Niagara Development Corporation, a subsidiary of the governor's Empire State Development Corporation. To date, the state commitment

for these Niagara Falls projects totals \$87.9 million and has resulted in some \$110.3 million in additional federal, state and private-sector investments.

During construction of the Niagara project, which began in 1958, NYPA developed 500 acres in surrounding communities for public use. The Power Authority made improvements to Niagara Reservation State Park, including the creation of the American Rapids Bridge to Goat Island. Other facilities built on NYPA-donated land are the Schoellkopf Geological Museum in Niagara Falls, Earl W. Brydges Artpark in Lewiston and Reservoir State Park in Lewiston and the Town of Niagara. ❖

## Niagara Project Upgrade: Biggest Gets Even Better

NYPA's Niagara Power Project is the biggest electricity producer in New York State and one of the largest in the nation.

However, after four decades of operation, the project's aging equipment needed an overhaul. Thanks to a \$300-million modernization and upgrade, all 13 turbines in the project's main generating facility, the

Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant, are scheduled to be completed by October, with work beginning on the 10th before year's end.

The modernization and upgrade will permit the project to shift production of more electricity to times of peak demand from periods when less power is needed. The additional peak power generated with the Niagara project upgrade is expected to help moderate the wholesale price of electricity in Western New York at times when increased demand drives up costs.

However, the upgrade will not result in significantly increased firm capacity—the non-interruptible, always-available hydropower that business and industry need on a regular basis. When work is completed, the improved efficiency is expected to produce an overall increase of just 35 megawatts in the project's firm capacity.

Improvements are also proceeding at the Authority's St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project in Massena.

The Niagara project's impact on the Western New York economy is not limited to the electricity it generates. In terms of wages of the facility's 300 workers and NYPA's procurement of goods and services in the region, the Niagara project adds \$25 million a year to the economy. The upgrade of the project will help NYPA continue to contribute to the economic vitality of Western New York. ❖



Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant, are scheduled to be replaced and other improvements made by 2006.

NYPA staff members are performing most of the work on the upgrade, which began in 1991. In January, workers began overhauling the ninth turbine-generator. With an average of 40 weeks required for each turbine, the ninth unit is expect-

## CUSTOMER PROFILE

### QUEBECOR WORLD BUFFALO



The Power Authority provides Western New York with economical electricity that helps

protect about 70,000 jobs, including almost 50,000 linked to power from the Niagara project. Meet one of our customers.

**Name:** Quebecor World Buffalo

**Location:** Depew, Erie County

**Business:** The world's largest manufacturer of paperback books and a large producer of regional retail inserts.

**Type of Allocations:** Expansion Power, Power for Jobs

**Total Employment:** 1,100

#### Quote to Note:

We're very bullish on Quebecor's future in Western New York.... Our ability to get reasonably priced, consistent quality power from the New York Power Authority is one of the key reasons we're still in Western New York.

*-Kevin J. Clarke, Vice President and General Manager*

#### VISIT US ON THE WEB

The original license for NYPA's Niagara Power Project will expire in 2007. In anticipation of its relicensing effort, the Power Authority has established a web site to provide accurate, up-to-date information on the process. You can visit us on the Net at: <http://niagara.nypa.gov>

**We welcome your comments.**

**To contact us, call Joanne Willmott, community relations manager, 716-286-6651.**