



# The TRAILBLAZER

October 2008

Niagara Group of the Sierra Club

Vol. XXXV, No.1

## SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

All members are urged to vote for members of our Niagara Group Executive Committee. Biographical sketches of the candidates and a ballot are to be found in this issue. Be sure to vote, tear the ballot from the paper as indicated, and mail it to Steve Burns.

### **General Membership Meeting of the Niagara Group**

You are all invited to a General Membership meeting to be held on Tuesday October 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Elmwood Avenue and W. Ferry Street in Buffalo.

The meeting will focus on the Blue -Green Alliance which has been created between the Sierra Club and the United Steelworkers Union. We will have speakers including Bill Pienta and Frank Hotchkiss from the Steelworkers and Ethan Bergerson, Sierra Club Regional representative for the development of green technology and jobs. The panel will discuss the many ways in which green technology can be applied to control global warming and create good paying jobs in our area. Yes, the alternatives to fossil fuels, oil drilling and coal mining are endless. Questions and comments will be welcome in this town meeting style of discussion. Refreshments will be served.

Please feel free to attend this informative and fun meeting.

### **Dangerous Radium Deposits in Niagara County Need to Be Removed**

Did you know that 50% of the world's radium is stored at the Lake Ontario Odnance Works in the Town of Niagara?

This dangerous radioactive material is in a temporary storage site. Ten years ago the National Academy of Science said that it must be removed within 20 years. It would be a health hazard to expect this temporary site to hold it longer than that.

Radium was removed from a site in Ohio some time ago and transported to Texas. There may also be a site in Canada equipped to receive it.

The Hon. Louise Slaughter in the House of Representatives is a person who can influence the Army Corps of Engineers to act expeditiously on this matter and not delay any longer. Further delay could easily result in leaching of uranium into ground water.

Express your concern to her by writing her at House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

### **Do You Want to See a 10-Story High-Rise Hotel on the Shores of Chautauqua Lake?** *by Preston Buchtel*

A developer from Warren, Pa. proposed just that when he announced his intention to construct a hotel and condominium complex, including two 10-story towers, on the shores of Chautauqua Lake. The Booty Bay Doubletree Resort Hotel complex would be located near the hamlet of Stow in the Town of North Harmony,

*continued on p.2*

### **Frederick Law Olmsted School of Land Design and Planning Proposed**

The Frederick Law Olmsted School of Land Design and Planning has been proposed for opening in the De-Veaux Woods in Niagara County.

This is a joint project by Niagara Beautification Commission and Niagara Frontier Wildlife Habitat Council working with State Parks and has the endorsement of the City of Niagara Falls. This new graduate school will utilize existing historic buildings on the grounds of De-Veaux and serve to educate not only new advocates of Olmsted philosophy and protect the old growth there, an extremely rare stand of old growth existing in an urban setting, but also give a boost to the economy of downtown Niagara Falls.

### **Niagara Group to Use National On-line Database System**

The Niagara Group will soon be using the Sierra Club's national on-line database system "HELEN" to help communicate with our members. We will be able to e-mail limited and brief messages/updates that pertain to our Group.

Approximately forty percent of our Group membership has an e-mail address filed in the Club's national database. If you would like to receive e-mail from the Niagara Group (or are not sure if the Club has your e-mail information) you can send your e-mail address to [sierraclubangela@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubangela@gmail.com). It will then be entered into the HELEN system. \*You can also e-mail this address to opt-out of receiving our e-mail.

# Time for Sierrans to vote for 2008

*Please read the following*

## Bob Ciesielski

Bob Ciesielski has been serving as Chair of the Niagara Group for the past two years. A member of the Executive Committee since 2004, he also previously acted as Group secretary for two years. Bob has been involved with the Group's political committee as well as having participated in Service work with the National Sierra Club and educational tabling at various local events. Your vote for an additional term would be very much appreciated.

## Larry Beahan

Sierra,

As Niagara Group Conservation Chair, I've discovered the value of the Atlantic Chapter Weekly Legislative Conference Call. Our Chapter Legislative Representatives, Norreida Reyes and Roger Downs, lead this hour long discussion of Albany events and the strategies our Chapter uses to influence them. The conference was a revelation. It gave me a first row seat watching and contributing to efforts for the Bigger Better Bottle Bill, Brown Fields, Marcellus Shale gas exploitation, Jamestown Coal Burning Plant and many others crucial environmental issues.

The most personally satisfying occurrence of the year was the passage of the "Heritage Tree" law honoring Bruce Kershner and protecting Old Growth Forests on Public Land. Next year we need to expand that law to private forests and to forests smaller than ten acres.

Allegany State Park is to have a Master Plan developed. We will have to be very careful to insure the protection of its forest as frenzy builds to drill for natural gas along the Southern Tier.

Our Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition (NREC) received \$485,000 to help us ensure appropriate environmental use of the half billion dollars coming to the Niagara Region over the next fifty years for that Relicensing. Its appropriate investment and management remains a concern.

Thanks to you all for your support and particularly for the Conservation Award you gave me this year.

## Art Klein

From 1949 I worked on the waters of the Great Lakes and witnessed their degradation. I was an investigator in the Corps of Engineers from 1973 to 1990 and learned the possibilities and limitations of Government in regulat-

## Art Klein con't

ing the waterways and wetlands. I am a lifetime bicycle and pedestrian advocate and active in outdoor recreation and advocacy. I focus on education and knowledge to involve stakeholders, government, and society to act in an appropriate way to address environmental problems. My Sierra activities include but are not restricted to urban sprawl, open space conservation measures, especially forest and park policies, and transportation issues.

## Angela Knisley

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for five years and began attending the monthly meetings in the summer of 2007. It is at these meetings that I have been able to learn more of as well as truly appreciate the Club's involvement and response to environmental issues/needs especially at the local level.

Originally from Buffalo, I currently live in Genesee County. I have been an occupational therapist since 1971 and presently work in a local school district.

My volunteer experiences include the board of the Friends of the Library (Richmond Memorial in Batavia) for ten years including two terms as vice president and one as secretary, as well as the treasurer for the Parent Teacher Organization while working for Genesee Valley BOCES.

My Sierra Club activities have thus far been in assisting with the membership needs of the group, a small but necessary role which I have greatly enjoyed. This led to training for the organization's online database system (HELEN) that will help with member communication. I am also working on community events to promote our goals and mission through membership meetings and educational "tabling" activities.

## Paul Maine

My education includes a MSW from the University of Buffalo. Earlier years were spent in heavily wooded northern Wisconsin and in rural New York State, together with quite a few years of life in Europe. Since 1997 I have had the good fortune to be able to attend the monthly meetings of the Niagara Group, which I joined in 1985. I am interested in finding ways for many more of our members to join actively in our efforts to enjoy and conserve our environmental resources.

*"Chautauqua" continued from p.1*

wedged between Tom's Point Wildlife Management Area and the cottages and future protected lands of Wells Bay, and directly across the lake from Long Point State Park. Since the site is currently zoned for a maximum of 2\_ stories, the developer's insistence on building a high-density 10-story complex will require zoning changes, for which the developer has requested the creation of a new "resort district", along with a request the Town act as lead agency

for the SEQR Review/Environmental Impact Study. The Town Board has voted to be sole lead agency. If the Town Board approves the developer's zoning changes, the new resort district would allow the construction of 10-story and even higher buildings and would set a dangerous precedent for the whole Chautauqua Lake region.

Beyond the disruption the two 10-story towers will have on the lake's natural beauty, the project will bring

# Executive Committee Members

## *biographies of the candidates.*

### Tim Tielman

Tim Tielman has been the Executive Director, The Campaign for Greater Buffalo History, Architecture & Culture, a nonprofit preservation and civic planning organization. Prior to that he was executive director of the Preservation Coalition of Erie County. He has also owned a publishing and marketing company for 10 years.

He is an advocate of public transportation and land use planning to strengthen cities and protect the environment. He, his wife and children are avid cyclists.

He attended secondary school in The Netherlands and has a BA in Geography (concentration in Urban Geography) and in Political Science from Binghamton University.

He is author of Buffalo's Waterfront: A Guidebook and served as editor for many publications, including The Sharp Review, The American Harpoon, The Buffalo Preservation Report, and Greater Buffalo.

He has published articles in the Buffalo News, Buffalo: The Magazine of the Buffalo News, the Buffalo Arts Review, Artvoice, and Second Story.

He has coordinated many issue-oriented campaigns and acted as spokesperson for many issues. Last year, Tim coordinated the campaign to save downtown Buffalo's proposed Central Wharf from a Bass Pro megastore, enlisting the Niagara Chapter and other groups in the fight. Today Central Wharf is rebuilt and provides public access to the Buffalo River and Commercial Slip for the first time in 125 years!

Civic Activities include Boardmember, Western Erie Canal Alliance, Coordination of communications for Common Council, County Legislature, and State Senate campaigns.

He has also been a Guest Lecturer at University of Buffalo, Buffalo State College, Fredonia State College, Medaille College and Erie Community College. He is a former board member of Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks and Hosteling International's Buffalo Hostel as well as a member of Leadership Buffalo, Class of 2000.

Tim has received the Lou Billitier Civic Empowerment Award, a Business First 40 Under 40 Award and the New York State Architectural Heritage Year Award.

## NIAGARA GROUP OFFICIAL BALLOTS

**IMPORTANT: Single memberships, use one ballot.**

**Joint memberships, use both ballots.**

**Ballots must be received by December 1, 2008.**

BALLOT 1  
BOARD OF GOVERNANCE  
AT-LARGE DELEGATE  
CHOOSE UP TO 6

- Bob Ciesielski
- Larry Beahan
- Art Klein
- Angela Knisley
- Paul Maine
- Tim Tielman

BALLOT 2  
BOARD OF GOVERNANCE  
AT-LARGE DELEGATE  
CHOOSE UP TO 6

- Bob Ciesielski
- Larry Beahan
- Art Klein
- Angela Knisley
- Paul Maine
- Tim Tielman

### ELECTION INSTRUCTIONS

To be eligible to vote in this election, you must have been a member in good standing of the Niagara Group as verified by a members mailing label.

Please read all the candidate statements on pages 2 and 3. Indicate your choices by checking the boxes next to the candidates names on the ballot. Each member may fill out only one ballot. Joint members use both ballots.

Please detach this page and fold and secure as indicated in the directions below (tape please, no staples!). Make sure your mailing label is facing out and your ballot is sealed inside the fold. Please mail your ballot(s) in an ordinary letter size envelope, provided with the proper postage.

**\*\*Please note that this year, the Elections Committee requires the use of an envelope for returning your ballot.\*\*** This will greatly decrease the chances of your ballot being damaged in the mail and will help ensure its secrecy.

Send your ballot(s) to:

**2008 Niagara Group Elections Committee**  
c/o Steve Burns • 25 S. Lincoln • Orchard Park 14127

**\*BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 12/01/08\***

**FOLDING STEP 1: Fold TOP edge down to this line. ↑**

**FOLDING STEP 2: Fold BOTTOM edge up so your mailing label faces outward. Tape lightly if you wish, but do NOT staple.**

with it loss of open-space, loss of habitat, increased vehicular traffic, boat traffic, soil erosion, run-off pollution, noise pollution and nighttime light pollution, to name just a few problems, all of this funneled on to an already stressed shoreline and lake. If built as currently conceived, such an irresponsible project will have negative implications aesthetically, environmentally, economically, and socially for our lake and the surrounding region for

generations to come. Concerned citizens from around the area, including the Chautauqua Coalition for Responsible Development (CCRD), are working to shed light on these concerns and reign in this project. Please help us.

For further information on this issue, citizen's concerns, and how you can get involved, contact the CCRD by logging on to <http://savechautauqua.blogspot.com> or emailing [save.chautauqua@gmail.com](mailto:save.chautauqua@gmail.com)

