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***Fort La Présentation Association  
PO Box 1749  
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Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays to all!

What a year 2006 has been! I would like to recap the Fort's major accomplishments of the past year and briefly outline the Fort's agenda for the coming year. 2006 has brought many challenges that the current Board was able to take advantage of in order to keep our project moving forward.

We received a \$250,000.00 Challenge Grant from State Senator James Wright to assist in the Fort's operating and construction plans.

We acquired expertise in the areas of construction management and engineering, capital asset management, general and non-profit counsel, and grant writing with the addition of new Board Members.

We established a \$100,000.00 Operations Endowment Fund with the purpose of ensuring that the Fort will be a self-sustaining entity in perpetuity.

We completed the design phase of our construction project with the architectural firm of Foit-Albert Associates of Buffalo, NY.

We hosted our most successful Founder's Day Weekend to date with some 800 visitors. Also, that event has continued to grow in size and popularity while becoming a significant fundraising event for our project.

And our most stunning accomplishments of 2006 were our successful fight to compel the clean up of our contaminated property and settlement with

ExxonMobil Corporation!

On August 25<sup>th</sup> DEC cancelled the 2003 Consent Order with ExxonMobil and by September 18<sup>th</sup> DEC was implementing the final remediation plan. Although ExxonMobil should be doing the remediation, it is thrilling to finally see excavators, backhoes, and dump trucks on the site getting rid of the contamination that has been there for more than 50 years. I have been advised that the clean up has made significant progress and is on pace to be completed by year's end! So far, 27,000 tons of contaminated soil has been removed. This equates to roughly 1,300 truck loads. Also, thousands of gallons of contaminated water (brought this rainy fall season) have been removed as well.

On December 20, 2006 the Fort announced that the New York State Comptroller's Spill Compensation Fund reached a conceptual agreement with ExxonMobil which will result in a damage payment of \$2.25 million and the transfer of 4.5 acres of land to the Fort. The settlement with the Fort is part of an overall settlement between ExxonMobil and the New York State Spill Fund that will pay for the cleanup up of the Fort's property, land belonging to adjacent property owner Thomas Duffy, and ExxonMobil's property on Lighthouse Point, and compensate the Fort and Thomas Duffy for damages resulting from the contamination.

The Fort will receive title to 1.8 acres of property on which the original Fort La Presentation was located, along with 2.7 combined acres owned by ExxonMobil directly west of the Fort's currently owned property. Although the property will be transferred to the Fort before it is completely remediated by the State's contractors, the State will be releasing the Fort from any potential liability as the owner of contaminated property. As important, we have assurances from the State that the remediation efforts will continue at the same pace until they are completed.

It was a daunting experience to go up against a giant like ExxonMobil. However, what ExxonMobil did not count on was the perseverance of a small group of volunteers who only wanted to do the right thing for their community. In clinging to our belief that we could make this happen, we brought about some important "firsts."

The first time that a property owner used their own environmental consultants; who worked closely with DEC to collect soil samples, collaborate on remedies,

and provide a watchful eye during this final remediation at the expense of the responsible party. Without the expertise and reputation of Atlantic Testing Laboratories this would not have been possible.

The first time a company was “voluntarily” reimbursed for attorney’s fees in an oil spill case without being sued.

In so many ways, 2006 was a very good year for the Fort and 2007 is shaping up to be another milestone year. 2007 will see the Fort finalize its construction plans with the rendering of blueprints. Finalize its strategic plan by bringing together our construction, grant acquisition, and private fundraising plans. Initiate both a Membership Drive and Major Fundraising Campaign for the purpose of reconstructing Fort de la Presentation as soon as possible.

The reconstruction and site prep costs are estimated to be roughly \$8 million dollars. With our recent settlement with ExxonMobil, the Fort now has roughly \$3 million available for construction. Our plan is to use these monies as leverage in our private fundraising plans as well as matching funds in numerous grant applications that are available to our project. The Fort is in a very enviable position financially since most not-for-profit organizations have very little monies available for leveraging in private fundraising and grant matching funds. This was one of the problems that the St. Lawrence Aquarium and Ecological Center experienced.

Along the way, the Fort has received a tremendous amount of support from virtually every corner of society – local, county, state, and federal politicians, various local civic organizations, independent contractors, and especially you, the individuals who make donations and attend our events without which none of this would be possible. On behalf of the Fort – Thank You!

With your continued support, we envision a future where thousands of people will be visiting our site each year sharing in the rich and deep history of Fort de la Presentation & Ogdensburg, NY.

History did happen in Ogdensburg, NY and once again, Ogdensburg is making history!

Hope to see all of you in 2010 when Fort de la Presentation has the honor of hosting the National and New York State event commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French and Indian War’s final battle!

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Smith, President  
Fort La Presentation Association