

# DEC to begin investigation of former NT factory site

BY TERRY DUFFY  
Editor-in-Chief

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has released a draft investigation work proposal, referred to as a "Remedial Investigation Work Plan," for public review at the site at 624 River Road, North Tonawanda.

According to DEC, the 5.97-acre site was formerly part of the larger Tonawanda Iron and Steel Company complex that operated at that location from 1873 to 1972 and was used for the production of pig iron. DEC reported a variety of petroleum products were also used and stored at the site.

It said the proposed site investigation is expected to define the nature and extent of the contamination found in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other environmental damages that may be found. Previous investigations have revealed the presence of semi-volatile organic compounds and metals in soils on the site.

Components of the investigation are expected to include the installation and sampling of borings and test pits to identify possible sources of contamination; installation and sampling of groundwater wells to monitor potential impacts of concern both on-site and off-site; and completion of a radiation survey at 624 River Road to determine if materials such as slag, exhibit-

ing elevated radiation levels are present.

Following the investigation, a proposed cleanup plan, known as a "draft remedial work plan," will be developed. Included will be an evaluation of the proposed site remediation, plus recommendation of a "no action" or "no further action" alternative.

"The goal of the cleanup plan is to ensure the protection of public health and the environment," DEC stated.

Submitted to DEC under the New York Brownfield Program, the investigation would be performed by applicant DLV Properties LLC with oversight by DEC and the New York State Department of Health. It indicated proposed future use of the 624 River Road site includes commercial space, a restaurant and an apartment building.

DEC is accepting public comments for its Remedial Investigation Work Plan from Nov. 4 through Dec. 4. The state agency said it will consider public comments, revise the plan as necessary, and then approve the work plan for the project.

"After the work plan is approved, the activities detailed in the work plan will be implemented," DEC stated.

Project information and opportunity for comment is available at [www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C932176/](http://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C932176/).

## Troop 833 assists Wheatfield Lions Club

Story by Wheatfield Lions Club President Lion Walt Garrow and submitted by Lion Justin Higner

The Scouts of Troop 833 visited our campus the other day in support of our continuing improvements to Five Senses Park. Eagle Scout candidate Tim Natalino of Troop 833 has coordinated his troop in the construction and paintwork on two picnic tables for our Five Senses Park. Also, they will be adding a certified metal container, surrounded by rocks as a fire pit for our pond area and allow for an added amenity.

Pictured, from left: Nate Guldin, Tim Natalino, Caleb Evans, Alex Guido and David Greinert (troop Scout master) in the back.

In August, Troop 98 Scout and new Wheatfield Lions Club member Elijah Brooks (son of Lion Matt Brooks) did a fine job painting our gazebo, pergola, and the surrounding benches.

The Lions Clubs International serve those in need in several service categories, among these being diabetes, vision, hunger, environment and childhood cancer. Memberships and donations are deeply appreciated. Special thanks, also, to all who attended our September Lions / Pellicano's Marketplace takeout dinner event!



## Stella Niagara launches shoe drive fundraiser

BY STELLA NIAGARA EDUCATION PARK

Stella Niagara Education Park is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser through Nov. 25. It will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected.

Anyone can help by donating gently worn, used and new shoes by contacting Kate Cumbo at [kcumbo@stella-niagara.com](mailto:kcumbo@stella-niagara.com) or calling the school at 754-4314. This is a great reason to clean out your closets and help a great cause!

All donated shoes will be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners. Funds2Orgs works with micro-entrepreneurs in helping create, maintain and grow small businesses in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited. Proceeds from the sales of the shoes collected in shoe drive fundraisers are used to feed, clothe and house their families. One budding entrepreneur in Haiti even earned enough to send to her son to law school.

Kate says, "We are excited about our shoe drive. We know that most people have extra shoes in their closets they would like to donate. By doing so, we raise money for Stella Niagara Education Park, and we have the chance to help families in developing nations who need economic opportunities. It's a win-win for everyone."

Due to the current pandemic, Stella Niagara Education Park is not able to hold its annual fundraisers – like the November fish fry – so this serves as a way to raise money for the school without asking anyone to spend money. By donating gently worn, used and new shoes to Stella Niagara, the shoes will be given a second chance and make a difference in peoples' lives around the world.



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## NYPA announces limited reopening of visitors centers

The New York Power Authority announced the limited reopening of its Niagara Power Vista in Lewiston and Hawkins Point Visitors Center in the North Country.

Beginning Friday, Oct. 30, NYPA visitors centers in Lewiston and Massena will be open on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays for small tours, by reservation only, comprised of members of the same family or groups that have sheltered-in-place together.

To protect visitors and NYPA employees, NYPA has added new safety precautions, including a reservation system that allows for limited, timed, guided tours for members of the same family or groups that have sheltered-in-place, state-of-the-art indoor filtration systems, visitor health screenings and temperature checks, and between-tour facility cleanings. All visitors must wear masks at all times. Tour guides also will wear masks.

The following visitors centers will be open for small tours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday:

To make a reservation or for further information, visit the visitors center information page on NYPA's website at [www.nypa.gov/VisitorsCenters](http://www.nypa.gov/VisitorsCenters). Up-to-date information regarding the facili-

ties will be available at this address going forward.

All NYPA visitor center events remain canceled.

## HAL presents bonus program

The Historical Association of Lewiston presents monthly programs for its members and the general public on the fourth Thursday of each month. HAL normally takes November and December off due to the holidays.

Since getting out safely has been difficult this year, a special bonus program will be given at the Red Brick Municipal Building gym starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Ken Slaughenhoupt, president of HAL, has been leading historic walking tours of the original Lower Landing (in Artpark) during the past two years. These have met with high interest and appreciation. The tours take two to three hours and involve hiking and climbing, so many people have not been able to learn about the vast and important history of this site.

So, on Nov. 18, this tour will be turned into a sit-down program at the Red Brick, 145 N. Fourth St.

Attendance will be limited to 50 people total. Everyone must wear a mask and practice social distancing. There will be no reservations, so arrive early to as-

sure a seat. After 50 people have entered, regrettably others may not attend.

The program will include an overview of the 12,000 years on this parcel since the birth of Niagara Falls here in Lewiston.

A press release said many nations fought hard to control the critical pathway around Niagara Falls and great wealth and honors arose from the people who called Lower Landing (later Lewis Town and then Lewiston) their home.

Slaughenhoupt is a native of Lewiston and in his childhood grew up on this very piece of land. He saw and worked alongside the many archeologists who unearthed the history and told the fascinating story of natives, French, British and finally American explorers and settlers. Slaughenhoupt is a retired land surveyor who owned Niagara Boundary and Mapping Services for 21 years and then traveled across the U.S. and Canada as a technical sales representative for Trimble Navigation. With his wife, Esther, Slaughenhoupt has visited all 50 states and many countries. The two enjoy a busy but satisfying retirement.

This community event is free and open to all. Use the north door on Onondaga Street. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no refreshments served at this meeting. Hand sanitizer will be available.