



Redevelopment Affords Better NYWEA Home

Many of you may already know that we recently relocated the executive office of the New York Water Environment Association, Inc. to the Franklin Square sub-downtown area of Syracuse. This was a big move for the organization. The new offices are very comfortable and feel like home, and I would extend an invitation to you to come and visit NYWEA staff in our new surroundings!

The new office is located in a renovated nineteenth century mill working building. Reinforced concrete floors and large columns make up the interior architecture. It is known as the OM Edwards building, named after Oliver Murray Edwards. In its heyday, the individuals that came to work in the building manufactured windows for trains and ships, cast bronze padlocks, and ship furnishings.

The Franklin Square neighborhood is situated alongside Onondaga Creek and in what I would call the footprint of Onondaga Lake, being less than one-half mile from its southern shoreline. This renovated factory building is surrounded by similar factory buildings that have been recycled into modern use. Recycling abandoned or refurbishing old buildings is the essence of brownfield redevelopment, the focus of this issue of *Clearwaters*. Regrettably, many of the old industrial buildings in cities around the country are plagued with environment problems. It is a complicated endeavor to purchase a building that once produced highly toxic materials. However, as we learn more about the health effects of hazardous substances, we know that proper abatement and cleanup of a brownfield site is the right thing to do.

There are several state officials that understand and realize the importance of supporting brownfield redevelopment. In particular, Assemblyman Thomas P. DiNapoli, who was the prime sponsor of the new statute that established the Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) and refinanced the Superfund Program, gets it. This new law provides \$120 million in annual funding for Superfund cleanups; an estimated \$135 million in annual tax credits for the remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites; \$15 million in annual funding to support the brownfield program, including funding to communities for neighborhood pre-planning, planning, site assessment and technical assistance; and, more than \$100 million in one-time funding that would cover up to 90 percent of municipalities' clean-up costs.

Brownfields exist within one-half mile of our new office neighborhood.

As the human impacts on the planet continue to expand, it is reassuring to know that brownfields have a chance at reincarnation and a better way to give back to a community. Water is the ultimate end point for all things and brownfields play a role in water quality. It takes creativity and vision, courage and entrepreneurship to turn around an unsightly dilapidated brownfield. Those who do this are commended, but more of it still needs to happen.

Patricia Cerro-Reehil

Upcoming Meetings



22nd Legislative Forum

May 16, 2006
Albany, New York

Joint NYWEA/NEWEA 2006 Spring Technical Conference and Exhibition

June 4-7, 2006
Mystic, Connecticut

79th Annual Meeting

February 4-7, 2007
NYC Marriott Marquis

2007 Spring Meeting

June 4-6, 2007
Sheraton Syracuse University
Hotel & Conference Center



Economic Development and Environmental
Responsibility Go Hand in Hand