

Village of Harrisville and Town of Diana

Resources are located between NYS DOT End Mile Point Lewis County Line 00.00-11.43 & St. Lawrence County 00.00 -7.90

Joseph Bonaparte (former King of Spain and brother of Napoleon) traded some of the crown jewels of Spain to buy land that covers much of what became the Town of Diana. He bought the land and moved to the "New World" to avoid capture in France. He named the town Diana after the mythical Roman Goddess of the Hunt as he thought she would enjoy the idyllic setting. Joseph Bonaparte became our first summer visitor, staying at a cottage that was built for him on the shore of the lake named after him. Foskit Harris acquired land along the Oswegatchie River from a land agent of Joseph Bonaparte and began the village of Harrisville in 1833. He constructed a sawmill and gristmill, harnessing the river for power to operate the mills.

By 1880 Harrisville had become the commercial and industrial center of the Town of Diana. The abundant natural resource of forests and water shaped industrial development and served to attract investors and residents supported by a chair factory, a sash and door factory, several active lumber dealers and a large paper mill, which continued to provide economic significance until its closure in the 1950's. In addition, carriage makers, blacksmiths, a harness shop, and numerous general merchandise stores and retail service establishments such as barbershops and hotels supported community development. Current industry includes Viking Cives Inc, a maker of snowplows and Harrisville Dry Kiln Inc. with a state-of-the-art lumber-drying kiln.

Today visitors can still enjoy the former King's favorite activities of hunting and fishing in the Town of Diana. There are over 20,000 acres of New York State forestlands to explore and hunt, providing year-round out-door recreational opportunities. Lake Bonaparte and numerous streams offer outdoor sport enthusiasts with opportunities to cast a line offshore or from a boat to fish. Local Bed & Breakfasts, motels and cabins provide overnight lodging to visitors and are supported by area restaurants.

Currently, the village is advancing efforts to implement a \$60,000 Construction Project to build an island picnic site with public rest rooms within walking distance of downtown during the 2003 construction season, supported by the recently approved \$25,000 NYS Small Cities Main Street Grant funding. Visitors can also enjoy a walk along the riverbank of the old millpond. The Town of Diana Historical Museum provides visitors with an opportunity to explore artifacts and documents reflecting significant events and day-to-day activities influencing community development. A gateway community to the Adirondacks, several local artisans, crafts persons and area merchants provide visitors with opportunities to shop for local art works, products, and services.

Tourism:

In recognition of the significant contribution made to the corridor by private business owners providing service and resources to facilitate the overall experience of visitors traversing the byway and the efficiency and effectiveness in a regional approach to promotion and marketing initiatives, the LAC/LSC is recommending a regional effort orchestrated through local chambers and advanced by the Lewis and St. Lawrence Chamber/s of Commerce, Black River Trail, Olympic Byway and I Love NY Campaign.

In January 2003 and following a lengthy discussion by committee members representing the western segment of the Olympic Byway Local Advisory Committee, unanimously agreed the strategic positioning of the Olympic Byway Tourist Information Center was crucial to attracting visitors into local communities with greater opportunities for success based upon the high volumes of visitors accessing services along outer Arsenal Street and traversing Interstate 81. However, committee members identified the need to disseminate Olympic Byway information at tourist information centers located in neighboring communities to broaden and expand opportunities for benefit.

Transportation:

The Black River Trail and Olympic Byway intersect the village along Routes 3 & 812 and provide visitors with reconstructed highways in good condition and a broad shouldered designated bicycle route.

Signage:

A kiosk is located in the village of Harrisville at the Oswegatchie Overlook, providing an opportunity to display and maintain information of interest to visitors traversing the byway. Community follow-up will be required to ensure it is an active resource of current information to maximize its use as an attraction to visitors. In addition, members of the LAC/LSC identified the need for byway signage located along the corridor at village & town boundary lines linking the community to the byway. Furthermore, attendees at the community forum and LAC/LSC were unified in suggesting interpretive signage be located at historic points of interest to inform visitors of the significance of the resource when funding is available to support regional, state efforts to do so.

In recognition of the importance of the tourist industry to service businesses located just off the byway and their need to gain the visibility along the corridor and the need to work within the parameters of ANCA and DOT regarding the placement of tourism-oriented directional signage, members of the LAC/LSC suggest some mechanism may need to be put into place to better inform businesses of the necessary application process required to attain the signage. Committee members expressed their support for consistency and continuity in signage along the corridor while addressing issues/concerns of business owners.

Implementation:

As local community representatives, members of the LAC recommend the continuation of quarterly meetings facilitated by the Tug Hill Commission to maintain the flow of communication and information to support the advancement of recommendations and build upon the strengths of neighboring communities in a regional planning effort. The CMP identifies likely partners to implement the recommendations.

<i>Resources and Special Sites & Attractions</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Likely Partners/Stakeholders</i>
<i>Natural</i>		
Lake Bonaparte 1. North Shore – located on North Shore Road – visitors have free access to a public boat launch, parking. In addition, visitors with reservations through the NYS DEC have free use of 6 campsites through the Lowville office at (315) 376-3521. 2. South Shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing maintenance and enhancement efforts to attract visitors;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NYS DEC
State Forests 1. Toothaker Creek State Forest 2. Greenwood Creek State Forest 3. Cold Spring Brook State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing maintenance and management of forests;• Clearly marked signage to direct visitors to parking areas;• Develop a promotion and marketing campaign to attract outdoor enthusiasts;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NYS DEC
Oswegatchie Overlook – located on Rt. 3 overlooking the Oswegatchie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a local process to maintain and enhance the kiosk to include points of interest & visitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Village and town, Chamber of Commerce,

River in the village – visitors are attracted by the breathtaking natural views of the landscape nestled in the small rural community.	information (1 year);	& special interest groups
<i>Historical</i>		
<p>Town of Diana Railway Museum – newly opened in the refurbished Harrisville Railroad Station located on Depot Street just off Maple Street –originally constructed in 1887 the museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. from May to October and offer visitors free admission. However, donations are appreciated.</p> <p>Decorated in period design and reproductions the museum provides a gift shop and a greeting and baggage room as a backdrop to photos, scrapbooks, and locally collected memorabilia. Currently on loan to the museum for display purposes is a major Rose-colored quartz specimen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance and general enhancements existing facilities and artifacts; • Ongoing historic renovations and preservation as funding is available; • Ongoing efforts to complete bathroom and septic system as opportunities and funding are available (1-yr.) • Ongoing efforts to add a handicapped ramp to the freight Room as opportunities and funding are available (2-3 yrs.) • Develop a promotion and marketing campaign to attract visitors; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Diana Museum Board of Directors with support from special interest groups; and local/ regional/state and federal funding sources;
<p>German Prisoner of War Camp – Located in the Jadwin Memorial Forest on Rt. 812, a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp (CCC) was constructed during the 1930's as part of the Federal Economic Recovery Program to plant trees on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive signage to mark and inform visitors of its significance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS DEC.

abandoned farm land to complement conversation practices. In 1944 the CCC served during WWII as an operational base for German prisoners of war. Leaving only the utility building, the barracks were demolished in late 1940's.		
<i>Recreational</i>		
Lewis County Chamber of Commerce – located at 7383-C Utica Boulevard, Lowville, N.Y. and offers visitors promotional brochures and information on points of interest, resources, and services to enhance the visitors experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion and marketing of the local and regional area; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewis County Chamber of Commerce Board
Hogsback/Lime Quarry/ Ongebonge & Green Pond Trail – not handicapped accessible and are located along Rt. 812 & Rt. 3. Visitors are provided opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of the great outdoors with a walk or recreational drive along the trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance and management of the trails; • Increase signage to direct visitors to parking areas and traversing the trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY DEC, special interest groups
Year-round Multi-use Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance and enhancements to trails; • Develop a promotion and marketing campaign to attract visitors; • Link existing trail system to neighboring communities to develop an international and interstate corridor trail system as opportunities and funding is available; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special interest groups, NYS DEC, St. Lawrence County Planning & Chamber of Commerce

Boating/Canoeing/Kayaking – located at boat launch areas in state parks along Rt. 3 – outdoor enthusiasts are attracted by opportunities to paddle the open water while absorbing the natural surroundings of the great outdoors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance to boat launch areas; • Expand vehicular parking areas; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS DEC, NYS DOS
Hunting – located in designated public areas around the village – outdoor enthusiasts are attracted opportunities to bag/tag large and small game as well as fowl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a promotion and marketing campaign to attract outdoor sport enthusiasts; • Ongoing maintenance and general enhancements; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY DEC;
Camping – scattered along Rt. 3 – visitors have the opportunity to select overnight accommodations at public and private sites offering no amenities to individual cabins and/or water/sewer/electric hookups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion and marketing campaign to attract visitors; • Encourage private investment opportunities to provide quality overnight accommodations to visitors; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Parks, Private owners, Chamber of Commerce
<i>Cultural</i>		
Folk Life – small artisan and local craft shops sprinkled along Rt. 3 – visitors are invited to peruse the small craft shops displaying locally made products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion and marketing campaign to attract visitors to small shops and special workshops featuring folk art presentations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private business owners, Chamber of Commerce, Olympic Byway
Churches – Located on Maple Street, visitors are attracted to the historic architectural design reflecting rural values and cultural artifacts that shape community development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance and enhancements as opportunities and funding are available; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual denominational communities and regional board of directors;

