



2009 Vol. 1

www.usaniagara.com

Notable Milestones:

...October 2008

National Grid awards USAN a \$500,000 grant for the Old Falls Street – West Mall Initiative

...November 2008

Groundbreaking held for the start of the Old Falls Street–West Mall Initiative

...December 2008

First public meeting held on the design process for the Robert Moses Parkway South Gateway project

...January 2009

Global Spectrum assumes management of the Conference Center Niagara Falls

...March 2009

Work scheduled to resume on the Old Falls Street – West Mall Initiative

... July 2009

Old Falls Street – West Mall Initiative (Phase I) to be completed

About USA Niagara

USAN, a subsidiary of Empire State Development, is solely dedicated to the support and promotion of economic development initiatives in Niagara Falls by leveraging private investment and encouraging growth and renewal of the tourism industry in the City of Niagara Falls.

Downtown Niagara Falls' Future Takes Shape

Old Falls Street – West Mall Initiative Construction Update

After a break for the winter weather, work is scheduled to resume again this spring for the \$7.9 million Old Falls Street – West Mall Initiative, a full-depth reconstruction of Old Falls Street between Prospect and First Streets aimed at turning this area of the city into an active public space. As part of the State's "City by City" economic development plan for Upstate New York, the Old Falls Street – West Mall Initiative includes the restoration of the public right-of-way and re-introduction of vehicular access from First Street to Rainbow Boulevard during off-peak seasons. This project is expected to be finished by the end of 2009, marking the completion of the reconstruction of Old Falls Street in its entirety, restoring the historic Falls Street corridor for public access.

"Centennial Circle" Created to Commemorate Treaty

A \$335,000 Niagara River Greenway grant was awarded on February 26th to the City of Niagara Falls for public improvements to the traffic circle at Rainbow Boulevard and First Street. The project will create "Centennial Circle" to commemorate this year's 100th anniversary of the Boundary Waters Treaty. USAN is providing \$50,000 for new landscape treatments and the installation of public artwork in the circle.

USAN Supports Small Businesses

The new *Super 8 Motel* on Rainbow Boulevard recently completed \$900,000 in renovations, including exterior façade improvements and a two-story addition featuring a new restaurant, a pool and office space. Located near the main entrance into downtown Niagara Falls, the project has improved the physical appearance of the neighborhood and will create new jobs. USAN assisted this renovation project with a \$150,000 grant.

Robert Moses Parkway Project Underway

At the end of 2008, the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation held its first public meeting initiating the design process for the Robert Moses Parkway South Gateway project. USAN, the New York Power Authority and the City of Niagara Falls are jointly funding this effort with State Parks to re-configure a one-mile section of the Parkway along the Upper Niagara Rapids to open visual and physical access to the river.

New Manager for Conference Center

In January 2009, Global Spectrum, a national leader in managing public assembly facilities, took over the management reins of the five-year old USAN-owned and developed Conference Center Niagara Falls (CCNF). Based in Philadelphia, Global Spectrum is a subsidiary of internationally recognized sports and entertainment leader Comcast-Spectacor and is the fastest growing public assembly facility management company in the world with more than 70 facilities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

This E-Bulletin is intended to update readers on USA Niagara Development Corporation's progress in redeveloping downtown Niagara Falls.

The contents of this E-Bulletin should not be reproduced without the express written consent of USAN.

For information on additional USAN activity, please e-mail usaniagara@empire.state.ny.us