

State of the Town of Tonawanda  
March 18, 2011

Thank you Tracey Lukasik, your staff, President Tim Malchow and the Board of Directors of the Chamber for helping to put this event together and once again providing this opportunity for me, as Supervisor, to address the residents of the town.

I also want to thank the Chamber and all the members for your efforts to help promote businesses and industries in our Town and for helping to make this a better community by providing increased services and employment for our residents.

I also would like to thank Principal Matt Ciurczak of Cardinal O'Hara High School for the invitation to present for the first time in anyone's memory the State of the Town of Tonawanda address will be in the Town of Tonawanda. Cardinal O'Hara High School is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. It is a great scholastic institution providing Franciscan values, great academics, interscholastic sports and numerous opportunities for students to volunteer and explore. Thanks also to your staff and Mike Rizzo for the catering.

I am proud to say this is my alma mater, and 50 years ago this September, the very first day the school opened I set foot on this campus and was lead to this cafeteria for the first day of classes and to receive our class schedule and meet our teachers. I have many fond memories of sports championships, academics, and social activities including of meeting my childhood sweetheart, and, now my wife of 42 years, Diane Gilcrist, who will with our classmate NYS Assemblyman Robin Schimminger will perform an encore production of A.R. Gurney's "Love Letters" at 7:30 tonight in the auditorium down the hallway (photo).

Finally, I want to thank our Town Council Members and other elected officials who have done and continue to do, an outstanding job in support of our community and me, and especially our Town Department Heads and their staffs who do a tremendous job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week everyday of the year.

(Please stand)

2011 marks the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town of Tonawanda. On April 16, we will mark the Anniversary with a Gala Dinner. Thanks to the Ken-Ton Chamber, our Youth, Parks and Recreation Departments and local businesses who are organizing the gala. Further details will be forthcoming from both the Town and Chamber on the event.

On April 16, 1836, the Town of Tonawanda became incorporated; a handful of people formed the Town of Tonawanda. I dedicate this year's address to our founders who set the stages of development for our great town. Unknown to many, the Town back then included the present day Town, but also the Village of Kenmore, the City of Tonawanda, Grand Island, and the islands in the nearby Niagara River. The population was approximately 1,200. Erie Canal ran through the farmlands and marshes along the Niagara River and through much of the lumber industry located near the Canal joining Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. The original "Military" Road had already been cut through the woods as a means of communication from the Villages of Buffalo and Blackrock to Fort Niagara as the shortest route to the military post. Two major old Indian trails became Delaware Road and Englewood Avenue. Our Town Historical Building on Knoche Road provided German Christians a place to worship when it was St. Peter's German Evangelical Church. Father John Neumann (now St. John Neumann) founded St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in North Bush, as that part of the town was then called, at Englewood and Belmont. St. John's is also celebrating its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year as well.

Historically, our town has moved from an agricultural and trading economy, to an industrial and manufacturing base, from a rural to suburban area from a population of 1,200 to over 110,000 in the 1960's (the first town in Western New York to have over 100,000 residents).

As we begin this new year, we hope to reconnect our past with our future.

Over the years, through careful, foresighted planning, our Town developed into a complete well-rounded community where industry, commerce, and residential neighborhoods interact for the benefit of all.

Many people also don't realize that our Town is the only true full service community In Western New York providing many municipal services that surrounding communities do not or cannot offer. What sets us apart from every other community is our paramedics unit and the James V. Ryan Paramedic Foundation, named after former Town Supervisor Jim Ryan, who was instrumental in its formation and its continuation. In addition to this vital service, our town also provides excellent public safety, sanitation, snow plowing, water treatment and distribution, water and sewer maintenance, street cleaning, fire protection, parks and recreation facilities, senior and youth activities, and much more.

But over 175 years, as our Town has aged, requirements to maintain it have greatly increased as well. Of major concern, is our aging and crumbling infrastructure, our sewer, water lines and roads. Our housing stock and many town facilities need attention and work.

Many industries abandoned property years ago that now require remediation for future use. This adds to our town costs because many of these companies no longer exist and funding for cleanup is scarce – although we have been assisted somewhat by state and county cleanup efforts.

Water supply and treatment, public safety, roads, trash pickup, recycling, emergency services, attention to landfills, pollution of air, water and land cleanup, chemical dumps, nuclear wastes, brownfield cleanup, and other environmental concerns, are continuously confronting us. The continued international turmoil in the Middle East and the earthquake and tsunami in Japan national, state and local economic climate is still challenging for town government, businesses and industries, and our local residents. Recently spikes in cost of diesel and gas have sky rocketed.

These tough economic times are reminiscent of the hard economic times of the 1930's that our predecessors endured until boom times returned in the 1950's.

Anne Bradstreet once wrote, "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

With this thought in mind, our Town Board continues to address all these issues and looks towards a brighter future.

Despite the depressed economy, there are encouraging aspects as well. Due to budgetary belt tightening, some increased revenues, work at reducing overtime costs and more efficiently delivery of services and eliminating waste made 2010 a good year for our Town overall. We planned well and ended the year with a positive fund balance which will be used to help reduce expenses in 2011.

However, as I have stated now for 2 years, I predict that 2012 will present one of the greatest challenges yet to our Town's financial situation probably since the 1930's.

I also believe, however, that this greater challenge will also be met head on through our on-going fiscally conservative approach, prudent management of resources, the restructuring work as needed and continuing the financial measures as we have in the past 3 years.

Today I will discuss some of our department's highlights for 2010 and what we hope to achieve in 2011 and beyond.

As I have said in the past, no matter how big or how small, all of our department and staffs play a major role in keeping this the best full-service town in WNY; the best place to live, work and play. And the Town Board and I pledge to keep it that way for many years to come.

Today as I go over the departments, I may skim over some briefly for time sake, but please remember they are all critical to our Town's successful operations of our full service town.

This is the State of the Town of Tonawanda. 2010 was a good year, it was actually slightly better than expected considering the challenges we faced. I always like to keep our Mission and Goals in the forefront of all we strive to do.

The Mission of our Town Government is:

- To provide the highest quality of services, programs and facilities at the lowest, most reasonable cost.
- To promote stable, safe, peaceful and environmentally friendly and attractive neighborhoods.
- To promote opportunities for business to invest and to locate.

To do all of this, our town developed and continues to revise a comprehensive Plan.

These are our Goals and Vision from that Plan:

- Strive to maintain a high quality of life and high level of services for its residents
- Work to ensure the continued vitality of our neighborhoods
- Strive to maintain a safe community
- Retain a well-maintained, diverse stock of neighborhood residential properties that meet the needs of all residents
- Promote attractive and well-planned economic development opportunities
- Promote a safe and efficient transportation system for all modes of transportation
- Support increased inter-municipal cooperation where appropriate
- Support the preservation of environmental features and address the continued mitigation of environmental concerns
- Supply a well-maintained, cost-effective infrastructure system that provides good roads, ample safe public water, proper wastewater treatment and effective storm water management together with other utility service to support sustainable land use and economic development.
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## **POLICE**

The Town Board and my number one priority for this Town is public safety. I feel there is no higher responsibility of government than to do everything in our power to keep our citizens safe. This is also the critical main idea that inspires the day-today operations of our outstanding Town of Tonawanda Police Department, Paramedics and Emergency Services.

Their principal mission is to preserve the rights of our citizens and reduce fear in our community through the prevention of crime, protection of persons and property, and the maintenance of law and order. Under the direction of Chief Anthony Palombo, the department responded to 56,268 calls for assistance, approximately 2,000 less than 2009. These were calls for police, fire and medical emergencies including 6,656 paramedic calls, and 2,389 fire calls. Patrol Officers logged nearly 600,000 miles in the course of their patrol duties.

The Department served arrest warrants, criminal summonses and subpoenas, processed 937 persons, felonies and misdemeanors, and detained 1,092 prisoners. The Juvenile Bureau investigated 700 cases that resulted in 191 separate charges including 114 in Family Court, 51 in the Town Youth Court and an additional 26 in other courts. The Department's Animal Control Office issued 185 summonses, and responded to 961 dog and cat complaints and 485 other requests for service.

The Department's Family Offenses/Community Services Referral Bureau conducted follow-up investigations of the 1,005 verified domestic violence incidents. In addition, the bureau followed up on 280 mental illness or alcohol abuse commitments under sections 9.41 and 21.09 of the Mental Health Law.

The Department continued its efforts to provide community oriented policing services through the Parkside Community Satellite Office and the Lincoln Park/ Kenilworth Satellite Office. Between the two offices, police officers recorded 17,452 resident contacts with 1,013 of these contacts resulting in reports and police follow-up. Each of these cases represents a Town resident who was able to access police assistance or provide the police with information which resulted in an overall increase in the quality of life in the community.

In the area of community traffic safety, the Department utilized a \$7,800 grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to assign extra patrols to areas and streets where unsafe driving has proven to be a major problem. This program resulted in 38 details, wherein officers issued a total of 198 traffic summonses. An additional grant of \$18,408 was used to schedule 4 checkpoints and 45 enforcement waves focused on seatbelt compliance. During this initiative, the Department issued 434 seatbelt and child restraint violation summonses.

In 2010, the Town of Tonawanda Police Department's Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) investigated 320 cases resulting in a total of 369 misdemeanor and felony arrests. Adding on 49 violation arrests, the total bureau arrests were 418. Through the Department's investigative efforts we recovered stolen property and caused restitution for crime victims of approximately \$85,000.

The department also sponsors numerous community services through many groups such as neighborhood watch, mobile eye, and school resource officers in our two high schools to name a few. Our new K-9 Unit has been greatly successful as I will discuss later.

As stated previously, the Town of Tonawanda is one of the only Towns in New York State to provide Paramedic Services to its residents. In 2010, the Department's Paramedic Unit responded to requests for assistance in the Town of Tonawanda and Village of Kenmore. The Paramedic Unit has integrated a new pharmaceutical agent into their medical protocols to treat Cyanide poisoning which may occur accidentally through smoke inhalation, industrial accidents or as a result of terrorism. (Cyanide exposures may occur by inhalation or less commonly by ingestion or topical contact. Initial effects include headache, shortness of breath, anxiety and agitation. More critical symptoms are hypotension, coma, seizure and respiratory arrest.) The Cynokits are now carried by the Town of Tonawanda Paramedics to treat critically ill patients with suspected Cyanide poisoning. These kits, which cost \$2,400 each, are financially supported by the James V. Ryan Foundation. The James V. Ryan Foundation also donated a new 2010 Chevrolet Suburban emergency response vehicle to the Town of Tonawanda Paramedic Unit at a purchase price of \$35,000 and provided funding for new cynokits.

Over the years the Foundation has purchased hundreds and thousands of dollars of equipment using donations that have allowed the town's paramedics to stay on the cutting-edge of technological improvements in the field and we thank them immensely for that.

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Emergency Services Bureau continues very close relationship with the Federal Department of Homeland Security, New York State Office of Homeland Security and the United States Coast Guard.

The Department of Homeland Security conducted training on Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices and Active Shooter threats which was well represented by private sector Town Corporations.

The Town was instrumental in assisting DHS in the development of a responder module for the Automated Critical Infrastructure Assessment System in order to provide for rapid dissemination of critical infrastructure information to first responders in an emergency situation.

We are updating and expanding our previous risk assessments. We are looking to conduct these as an integrated team composed of the Department of Homeland Security, the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, the U.S. Coast Guard, the NYS Police and the Town of Tonawanda Police Department.

Construction has started on the Town's new Emergency Operations Center which will provide for better command and coordination during major emergencies. The Department of Homeland Security awarded 22 of these grants nationwide out of over 600 applications. (We are the only local municipalities to receive one.)

The Town of Tonawanda has been awarded a \$1.6 million dollar Port Security Grant which will fund a waterside surveillance system along the Niagara River as well as surveillance cameras throughout the Town's Industrial Area. The Town of Tonawanda has spearheaded this project which has expanded regionally from Buffalo into Niagara County.

### **COMPTROLLER – Ed Mongold**

Our Town Comptroller is Ed Mongold who assists in the day-to-day operations of the Town. The following comments that summarize the financial status of the town for the years 2010 and 2011:

Improved financial stability – Since I became Supervisor, the town has significantly improved its financial position, in particular by increasing and maintaining an adequate amount of fund balance. This is important in order to keep our newly increased high bond rating upgraded to Aa2. This was specifically noted by Moody's Investors Service when the town sold \$10 million in serial bonds last September at the very low interest rate of 2.18%. This rate is the lowest in at least 30 years and will provide a great savings to the town over the next 15 years in interest expense.

For 2010, the town's financial position has continued to be improved because of a slight increase to our fund balance. One significant contributing factor is the centrifuge project at the wastewater treatment plant. This project alone has significantly reduced the utility cost at the plant and allows fewer personnel to operate the facility. In addition, as the result of a hot dry summer, our water sales have increased due primarily to increased water consumption. The result is that the estimated unreserved fund balance at the end of 2010 is slightly more than \$19 million, which represents just over 21% of the 2011 budget. Because this is slightly higher than the financial guidelines issued by the New York State Comptroller's office and other financial institutions, the amount of fund balance appropriated in the 2011 budget was increased by \$1.1 million from \$3.8 million to \$4.9 million. When the 2010 and 2011 budgets were prepared, the departmental requests were limited to the same level as the previous year excluding personal services; in effect we imposed a two-year freeze in discretionary spending requests. For 2011, the Town Board reduced the budget even further by over \$740,000 to various utility, gasoline, equipment, personal services and other accounts. The result was that the 2011 tax levy increase was 1.8%, the lowest in the last ten years. It is my intention and that of the entire Town Board to continue with these positive developments.

Four-year Financial Plan - The four-year financial plan, an initiative that began in 2007 will continue to be updated annually based upon current facts and information after the audit has been completed. In fact, Moody's Investors Service stated that they were very impressed with this financial initiative because they normally do not see a four-year financial plan for local governments of our size but rather for much larger governmental units. The financial plan continues to provide for the stabilization of fund balance and provides, at this time for

minimum tax increases in 2012 through 2014 while at the same time maintaining services and programs.

Future budget and fiscal challenges – Probably the greatest fiscal challenge facing the town is meeting the costly unfunded mandate of reducing the town's sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's). The town began to address this issue with the Parker/Fries sanitary sewer interceptor project, which is currently under construction. The most recent cost estimate to comply with this significant unfunded mandate is hundreds of million of dollars and will take many years to complete. Because of the magnitude of this mandate, the state and federal government should provide some financial assistance as occurred in the late 1970's when the wastewater treatment plant was constructed. The second most challenging issue facing the town each year, as an older and fully developed town with static revenues and no growth in assessed valuation, is the maintenance of our current services at the same level. Finally, as an older community as previously mentioned, improvements to our existing buildings and other infrastructures such as town roads and storm sewer lines are becoming more and more critical to fund. Since 2008 when I took office, the town has successfully completed the Dupont/Despond drainage project and the Two Mile Creek bank stabilization project. Both of these projects helped to alleviate the flooding issues that had been plaguing the western section of our town for decades. However, there is much more that needs to be done to our aging infrastructure throughout the town.

Future considerations – The town will continue to look at ways to restructure and reorganize town departments to become more efficient, continue to seek additional federal and state assistance to help pay for costly mandates and improvement to our aging buildings and infrastructure and continue our inter-municipal cooperation to reduce the costs of providing services to our residents.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Our Community Development Department is headed by James Hartz who continually provides excellent leadership and expertise in working relations with our residents.

The department continues to implement the objectives of our Town's Comprehensive Plan.

### Neighborhood Redevelopment

The Community Development office financed the construction of 4 new homes for first-time homebuyers in the Sheridan-Parkside Neighborhood that represents over a \$600,000 investment in the neighborhood. The program allows a first-time homebuyer to purchase a new, high-quality home at an affordable price. Since the start of the program, there have been 35 new single-family homes constructed in the Sheridan-Parkside Neighborhood, 11 in the Old Town Neighborhood, and 58 in the Kenilworth Neighborhood.

The Town also acquired an additional 26 units of substandard housing that will be demolished during 2011. The land will subsequently be banked for future development.

### Residential Rehabilitation Program

This last year the office assisted 40 low-income homeowners (mainly seniors on fixed incomes) with needed housing repairs. All structural components of a home are eligible for the program from the foundation to the roof and all interior mechanicals including energy-efficient furnaces. This program continues to be in very high demand with the current waiting list at over 420 families long. We are just now able to assist families that first applied to the program in 2003.

### Weatherization Assistance

41 Homes were assisted with weatherization services, such as insulation, new windows, and energy-efficient appliances.

### Housing Counseling

81 Homeowners in jeopardy of foreclosure were given financial counseling through our service provider, Belmont Housing Resources of WNY.

### Other Public Services

Youth Services – The Prime Time program serves over 250 families in the Sheridan-Parkside Neighborhood.

Community Policing – The Community Policing program assists with crime prevention and awareness in the Sheridan-Parkside, Kenilworth, Lincoln Park, and Old Town Neighborhoods.

In 2011, the department will be further implementing the comprehensive plan objectives by:

- Continuing to acquire and demolish substandard vacant housing units in our low-moderate income neighborhoods
- Installing a new sidewalk on the north side of Ensminger Road to link Tonawanda Manor to the other services in the neighborhood.
- Building an additional home in the Old Town Neighborhood under the HOME First-Time Homebuyer Program.
- Assisting the Boys & Girls Club with renovations to their facility on Riverdale Avenue.
- Building 2 homes in the Sheridan-Parkside Neighborhood under HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program that allows moderate income households to purchase the homes.
- Resurfacing Sheridan Parkside Drive from Sheridan Drive to Ensminger Rd.
- Assisting at least 30 homeowners with residential rehabilitation needs.
- Funding additional Brownfield cleanup efforts along River Road that will create shovel ready sites for future economic development.
- Completing 3 Recovery Act programs from HUD that have committed an additional \$1.8 Million for CD projects and Homelessness Prevention.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Under the direction of Superintendent Bradley Rowles, the Highway Department points to many accomplishments in 2010.

- 18 streets were milled to re-establish curb reveal and overlaid, resulting in 14.78 lane miles of roads being resurfaced.
- 33,020.00 square feet of sidewalk were replaced in front of homes in the Town of Tonawanda.
- 2,510.00 square feet of driveway aprons were replaced;
- 7,078.07 tons of materials were recycled through our curbside collection program. This was approximately 45% of our waste stream;
- The Highway Department responded to approximately 20,000 calls during 2010;
- The Highway Department used 7,800 tons of salt, to date, in the 2010-2011 winter season.
- The National Arbor Day Foundation awarded the Town the prestigious "Tree City USA" designation for the thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) consecutive year. This award recognizes the town's commitment to the preservation of the environment and the beautification of the Town of Tonawanda. We also received our 4<sup>th</sup> "Growth Award" since 2004.
- Our forestry crews planted 421 trees in 2010 to replace those trees that were lost as a result of disease or death.

Brad Rowles will be leaving on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Brad for your over 7 ½ years as Superintendent of Highways and for your over 33 years of service to our Town. Best wishes and good luck on your new home and job in North Tonawanda.

We look forward to Bill Swanson a 35 year veteran of our Highway Department continuing the traditions of great community service our Highway Department provides each year.

### **JUSTICE COURT**

The Town Justice Court is headed by Justice J. Mark Gruber and newly elected judge Daniel Cavarelo, and is administered by Denise Doxbeck.

The Court collected \$2,039,108 in 2010 with \$1,516,636 of these funds remitted directly to the Town of Tonawanda. The department closed 24,996 criminal and vehicle and traffic matters, 532 small claims and civil cases and 4,100 parking tags.

The Court received a Justice Court Assistance Grant in 2010 in the amount of \$10,125 for a Photo Copier-Fax Machine which will eliminate monthly rental fees for a minimum of five years. In addition, we received \$5,745 to purchase microphones for the Courtroom and to resurface the Courtroom bench.

The State of New York established an Action Plan for Justice Courts which provides resources and support to Justice Courts. They received two computers and two printers through this Plan. They will continue to work with the Office of Court Administration and pursue any resources available to us.

The broad jurisdiction of Justice Courts demands that they interact effectively with State, County and Local agencies, and continue to seek new initiatives to improve the operations of the Court and provide the highest level of service to the public.

### **LEGAL DEPARTMENT**

The Town Legal Department is headed by Town Attorney John Flynn, who became the attorney in August after serving 3 years on the Town Board and over 3 ½ years Town Justice. This experience plus his years of work as a lawyer and as a Navy Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer greatly enhances the department in providing the Town Board and all department heads with excellent legal advice that has been the hallmark of this department for years. John is assisted by Deputy Town Attorneys John Dorn and Mario Giacobbe who also acts as prosecutor in the court. Along with our outside counsel, they remain actively involved in all forms of litigation against the town, and help reduce annual expenses by continuing to handle more matter "in house" to reduce costs.

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Our Building Department headed by Carl Heimiller is extremely busy.

In 2010 the Building Department issued 348 Commercial Building permits with an estimated value of construction of \$16.7 million and 1136 Residential Building Permits with an estimated value of construction of \$8.5 million. There were also many electrical, plumbing and sump pump permits issued.

These permits produced over \$393,000 in revenues.

This permit activity also required 12,842 inspections and 1149 complaints required approximately 2895 responses.

These statistics don't reflect all the hours each Inspector spends reviewing plans or dealing with constituent matters each day.

The New York Department of State Codes Council has also recently published notices that all furnace, hot water tank, and gas piping installations must be performed with the

benefit of permits and inspections. While these inspections, along with the requirements of the "Amanda's Law" for carbon monoxide detectors that the State recently passed, will help to prevent deaths and injuries due to inadequately vented fuel burning devices, it also will also add to the work load of all Building Department staff to enforce the requirements of the Law with no funding to enforce it.

### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Michael Kaiser is the head of our very active and busy Technical Support Department. He is supported by a staff that includes newly appointed Town Engineer, James Jones.

This department is responsible for all public works and handles innumerable matters for the town including information technology.

### **2010 Highlights**

1. Computerization advancements:
  - Maintained & improved protection against data loss, viruses and security
  - Beginning of the transition and upgrading of the Network Servers at Police Headquarters to take advantage of available space, ventilation, cooling, and backup power
  - Begin work on building an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Police Headquarters
2. Administration of the design and construction of Parker-Fries Interceptor in cooperation with the Water Resources Department.
3. Administered the construction of 30,000 square feet (~ 2 miles) of new sidewalks, and 2,500 linear feet of new curbing throughout the Town.
4. Continued to provide technical support for the Riverview Solar Technology Park and Riverwalk Parkway. Construction, dedication and occupancy of the second commercial building have been achieved.
5. Administration of a \$938,000 grant from the New York Department of State in conjunction with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and Erie County to begin planning for the region's degraded waterways by developing a Niagara River Atlas, State of the Niagara River Watershed Report, Niagara River Watershed Management Plan - Phase I and a Land Use Plan for the Town of Tonawanda.
6. Continued to work with the Erie County Department of Public Works on the upgrade of traffic signals on Elmwood Avenue & Colvin Boulevard.
7. Continuing with the recovery of \$4.6 Million from FEMA for eligible costs incurred during the 2006 October Storm Cleanup.
8. Completed the construction of the Ensminger Road Improvements – Streetscape Phase 2 for the pedestrian crossing at CSXT Railroad ROW.
9. Completion of the Two Mile Creek Improvements in cooperation with the Water Resources Department. This second phase of the project highlighted the replacement of the stream bank in Sheridan Golf Course from Sheridan Park Lake to Ensminger Road.
10. Completion of Dupont-Desmond Drainage Improvements in cooperation with the Water Resources Department.11. Coordinated the building demolition and cleanup at 5335 River Road
12. Coordinating with the Town's Police Department and the Ken-Ton School District to provide closed circuit cameras at the High Schools through the Secure Our Schools - Technology Grant.
13. Chose five buildings to provide solar power to the administration areas. \$544,700 of Federal "Stimulus" money was received under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

## **2011 Initiatives**

1. Network and Computerization:
  - Continue to provide network maintenance and security, and computer and internet support to all departments in the Town
  - Initiate development of short term & long term funding for long overdue critical improvements and immanent needs
  - Continue to develop avenues for GIS enhancement
2. Continue with the administration of Stormwater Management (MS4) requirements which have been transferred by the NYSDEC to local responsibility as of Jan. 1, 2008 as an unfunded mandate.
3. Will begin Solar Panel installations at the Highway Department, Water Treatment Plant, Water and Sewer Department and Senior Citizens Center.
4. Continue to clean up industrial property on River Road. Demolishing buildings and treating contaminated soils.
5. Continue to provide Technical Support for the development of the Riverview Solar Technology Park with Phase 2 anticipated to be underway in 2011
6. Continue in the development of the North Youngmann Commerce Center.
7. Continue to provide support for the Landfill Closure.
8. Continuation of the construction of Parker-Fries Interceptor in cooperation with the Water Resources Department.
9. Provide information and ideas to upgrade property known as Niagara River World.

## **WATER RESOURCES**

Ken Maving heads the three divisions of the Water Resources Department.

The Water Resources Department is a utility. Their customers depend on them to provide them with fresh water, wastewater collection and treatment and many other services every day, without interruption. Our employees work around-the-clock, regardless of weather, to provide these critical services. It should be noted that thirty-two (32) percent of our employees achieved perfect attendance in 2010.

The Department continues to provide the highest quality water and sewer services, at one of lowest costs to residents in Western New York.

Accomplishments in 2010 include the following:

Water Treatment Division – Daniel G, O’Leary, Division Head recently retired – Robert O’Keefe is the new division head for 2011.

Over 4.5 billion gallons of raw water was drawn from the Niagara River, treated and distributed to residents and businesses in the Town of Tonawanda and the Village of Kenmore. This is enough fresh water to fill the Aquatic Center Pool over 5000 times. Again in 2010, there were no water bans or premium rates during periods of peak demand.

Water and Sewer Maintenance Division – J. Kirk Rowland, Division Head

Approximately 110.2 miles of sanitary and storm sewer lines were cleaned in 2010. The televising crew inspected 27,000 linear feet of sanitary and storm sewer lines. Winching operations accounted for an additional 56,480 linear feet of sanitary and storm sewer cleaning.

In addition, our Water & Sewer crews repaired 340 water leaks, made 33 sewer repairs, 58 hydrant repairs, 103 water valve repairs and responded to numerous sewer complaints and grinder pump service calls.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Division – Kenneth F. Maving, Department Head

The Town of Tonawanda Wastewater Treatment Plant processed over 7.0 billion gallons of domestic and industrial sewage generated in the Town of Tonawanda, the City of Tonawanda and the Village of Kenmore. Our incinerators burned over 24 million pounds of sludge removed in the treatment process.

**Department Projects**

**Sewer District**

In January of 2010, the Town of Tonawanda Board authorized bonding of up to \$30 million for Phase I of the Parker-Fries Interceptor Replacement Project. This four-phase project will take up to seven years to complete and cost more than \$60 million. Phase I construction began in July of 2010 and will be completed in approximately two years. This project will be the largest and most expensive project in the Town of Tonawanda since the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1978.

Fortunately, the Parker-Fries Sewer Interceptor Project was designated by the N.Y.S. Environmental Facilities Corporation to be eligible for subsidized funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program. This will save the Town of Tonawanda tens of millions of dollars in finance costs over the next 30 years. In addition, this project was awarded a \$4 million Principle Forgiveness Grant by the E.F.C. when Phase I is completed.

In addition to the Parker-Fries Interceptor Project, the Water Resources Department also began the Parker Pumping Station Improvement Project. These improvements will save the Town of Tonawanda significant electrical costs, while extending the service life of the original sewage pumps, at this important Station. The Town of Tonawanda was awarded a Green Innovative Grant through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation which will cover 90% of the cost of these improvements.

**Drainage District**

The Two Mile Creek Drainage Improvement Project was completed through the Sheridan Park Golf Course. This project not only improved the drainage during storm events but the new stone creek-banks added to the beauty of the Golf Course. Phase 2 was also completed which significantly upsized the storm sewers from the Desmond / DuPont area eliminating street flooding.

**Water District**

Improvement projects initiated in 2010 were the High Service Water Meter Replacement Project at the Water Treatment Plant and the Green Acres Storage Tank Evaluation / Repair Project.

**YOUTH, PARKS & RECREATION**

Dan Wiles is the director of our Youth, Parks and Recreation, Senior Citizen's, Building Maintenance Departments.

This department has vast responsibility for activities and facilities throughout the Town and Village of Kenmore. They are certainly too numerous to mention here. Critical town revenue is generated from many of these venues, including the Paddock Golf Dome, Aquatic and Fitness Center, Outdoor Driving Range, 2 golf courses, Batting Cages, the NOCO Pavilion, 2 ice rinks, our pools, and concession operations to name a few.

Here are some of the Youth, Parks and Recreation Highlights for 2010.

1. Due to overwhelming demand, the Veterans Memorial was expanded with a second ring of name plaques, the refurbishing of the jet in Kenney Field continued and fencing was installed around the jet with lighting. The rededication of the Memorial was held on August 18, 2010 which was the anniversary of the original dedication ceremony. This is a real tribute to our Veterans and a very active gathering place.
2. The Aquatic and Fitness Center was the site for the world's largest synchronized swimming event when the Aquettes and Youth, Parks and Recreation Department hosted the US Age Group Synchronized Swimming Championships. The event attracted over 1000 athletes and 200 coaches on 87 teams from June 26 to July 3, 2011. The Town of Tonawanda Aquettes 18 and 19 year old team placed first in their age bracket. Duke Zielinski, USOC Director stated that the event was "the best organized competition he has seen". Congratulations to the Aquettes as host team for organizing such a great event and for winning the national championship.
3. The Comprehensive Plan and survey completed in 2009 was used extensively to determine programming and maintenance goals and objectives. Examples include a new generator at the golf dome, improvements to the Mang Park basketball court so it could be flooded and used for outdoor skating in the winter, improvements to the Sheridan Parkside Spray Park building, energy saving measures, new bleachers at the arenas and revival of the playground Olympics.
4. New turf for indoor soccer was purchased and installed for play at Brighton Arena.
5. A new liner Lincoln Pool was installed for the summer season.
6. A new playground craft house was built in Lincoln Park.
7. The parking lot at Kenmore Library was completely redone.
8. The roof at Kenilworth Library was replaced.
9. A floating dock at the boat harbor at the foot of Sheridan Drive for small craft use was installed.
10. The second floor of the Parkside Village Community Building was leased to the Health Science Charter School for the past school year. Parks crews helped private crews remodel areas of the building to allow the school to move in and existing tenants to move to different locations in the building.
11. Many, many more activities too numerous to mention here.

#### **YOUTH, PARKS and RECREATION PLANS FOR 2011**

- The Town of Tonawanda will celebrate its 175<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Ken Ton Chamber of Commerce is organizing a series of events to celebrate the anniversary, highlighted with a gala dinner on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The Youth, Parks and Recreation department is supporting the Chamber in this endeavor by incorporating the anniversary into a number of their events this calendar year.
- They will also play a significant role in our annual Memorial Day Parade.
- We will align with Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken for our baseball and softball programs this year. This will allow increased opportunities for residents to play against teams from other areas and compete in qualifiers for national championships.
- We will add some spray features to our popular spray park in Sheridan Parkside.
- We will build cart barns at Brighton and Sheridan golf course to allow us to switch from gas carts on the courses to electric.
- We plan to install a rest room at Expressway Field.
- Crews will remodel an area of the Senior Center to house the Town Personnel Department temporarily as they moved to create space for the Town EOC.
- Both Kenmore and Kenilworth library will have interior remodeling work done including lighting, painting and at Kenmore carpeting and a new children's area created.
- Storage buildings will be built in each park area for equipment.
- Brighton Pool and Brighton Wading Pool are approaching the end of their useful life and the department will study options for their future.
- Picnic shelters will be updated and in some cases expanded. We are considering a large shelter near Lincoln Pool, smaller ones at Kaufman Playground and updating existing ones in all parks.

**ASSESSOR** - Paul Wolf

Paul Wolf is the Town's Assessor who is responsible for the fair and equitable assessment of all properties within the Town of Tonawanda including the Village of Kenmore.

This past year the Assessor's Office prepared the Assessment Roll containing 28,810 tax parcels. Inspected and reviewed the assessment of more than 1,500 parcels in regard to new construction, building additions and other physical or economic changes. Reviewed and/or processed applications for 33,000 property tax exemptions, including 6,496 Senior STAR Exemptions, 16,409 Basic STAR Exemptions and 5,587 Veterans Exemptions. Processed approximately 2,000 property title transfers.

### **Goals, Objectives and Challenges for 2011**

Prepare and file 2011 Tentative Assessment Roll in April and the Final Assessment Roll in July, containing all assessment and exemption data for the 2011/12 tax cycle. Continue obtaining digital photos of all properties within the Village of Kenmore and all commercial properties which will be linked to our Real Property Tax System and GIS.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Robert Dimmig is the Executive Director of the Town of Tonawanda Development Corporation.

#### **A TIME OF CHALLENGE**

Once again this past year has been a time of real challenge for economic development in the Town of Tonawanda.

- At the same time our commercial and industrial sectors struggled to recover from severe economic crisis, New York State took away the Empire Zone program - one of the most effective tools we have ever had to encourage new jobs and investment in our community.
- Efforts also continued at the state level to reduce the effectiveness of industrial development agencies – another important partner in our community.

As I have said before where there is challenge, there is opportunity to meet these challenges.

For nearly ten years, we used the Empire Zone as a tool to move our local economy in a new direction. It has allowed us to redevelop vacant and underutilized properties, and open new business parks.

We will build upon that foundation as we set out on in new directions to prepare a new stage for investment.

#### **RETENTION AND EXPANSION**

### **GENERAL MOTORS POWERTRAIN**

Some good news!

One year ago, we were excited to announce that GM Powertrain had selected the Tonawanda Engine plant for an investment of \$425 million. The investment would retain 470 jobs to produce the next Generation Ecotec 2.0/2.5L engine.

We offered our congratulations to the hard-working men and women who earned this opportunity. We pledged to continue working with management and labor in any way possible to encourage even more new jobs and investment.

What we did not know was that we would have a chance to prove that commitment only a month later.

When we learned that the plant was competing with out-of-state plants for another \$400 million investment to produce a new V8 small engine block, we went back to work with our local, county and state partners to restructure PILOT payments for the new investment. Thanks to the efforts of many people, the plant was awarded the new line, creating or retaining another 700 jobs.

Including the above announcements, GM has invested \$2.3 billion into Tonawanda Engine over the past decade. This investment is critical to the future of the plant and for our community.

And, rest assured, we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure the continued success of this facility.

As of early February, the plant has 777 employees - 623 hourly and 154 salaried. The new engine jobs are expected to come online in the first quarter of 2012.

## **KLEIN STEEL**

Also in 2010, we worked with Klein Steel Service to bring a new metal manufacturing capability to its facility on Military Road.

Klein Steel is a full-line steel service center with a network of warehouses in Upstate New York. The Tonawanda operation employs about 50 team members in steel processing and distribution.

In addition to being certified for Empire Zone benefits, the company was awarded low-cost hydropower by the New York Power Authority and assistance from National Grid.

Based on that incentive package, the company recently announced that Tonawanda has been selected for the investment, which should be operational by the summer of 2011. The first phase is valued at \$3 million.

The additional business should add 10 new jobs initially, adding 30+ full time jobs by the time the process is at full capacity.

## **LIFE TECHNOLOGIES**

We also used our status as an Empire Zone to assist a leading life sciences company on Grand Island. Life Technologies was competing with sister facilities in other states for a significant investment.

This project has a very real impact on our Town – fifty-three employees of Life Tech live in our community. By including the plant in our Empire Zone, we were able to help leverage 40 new jobs and an investment of \$16 million.

### ENCOURAGING NEW GROWTH

While we worked with our existing base of employers, we also laid the groundwork to attract new jobs and investment.

## **ANDERSON EQUIPMENT**

Anderson Equipment has invested \$5 million to renovate the former Syracuse Supply, a significant improvement to the Military Road Corridor.

## **OTHER COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

We continue to see investment in key commercial and retail corridors in the Town.

- **Waterfront Townhouses.** A developer has proposed the construction of townhouses on a parcel of land along the Niagara River, adjacent to Isle View Park. This project could have a tremendous positive impact on changing the image of the waterfront region.
- **Rite Aid** has built a new store at the corner of Sheridan Drive and Colvin Boulevard, replacing an oil change operation.
- **Family Dollar** has built a new store on Sheridan Drive, on the site of the former Sunview Nursery.

### EMPIRE ZONE – THE FUTURE

Although the state will no longer accept NEW companies in to the Empire Zone program, there are more than 80 companies still enrolled in the program, continuing to generate jobs and investment for our community.

- These companies are significant, employing **6,733 persons** and paying **\$378 million** in wages in 2009.

Annual reports submitted for 2009 reflect broader conditions in the state and national economies: (most recent report)

- There was a net decrease of **109 jobs** in 2009, compared to an increase of 92 jobs in 2008..
  - If there is good news to report, it is that several companies that lost jobs in 2009 have added jobs in 2010, as they recover from the recession.
- Companies invested **\$26 million** in new construction, renovation and equipment.
  - While new construction and equipment purchases were down in 2009, renovation stayed the same as 2008 levels, and companies increased the purchase of vehicles.
  -

The impact over the lifetime of the program is staggering. Consider this. In eight years, the companies have:

- Created **2,457 new jobs**, exceeding original projections by 826 jobs.
- Paid **\$558 million** in wages above their base when they entered the program.
- Invested **\$392 million** in production equipment, new construction and renovation.

That's an **economic impact of \$950 million** on our community and our region over eight years.

- New York State provided the bulk of incentives: more than **\$31 million** in property tax refunds and corporate tax reductions in 2009.
- The town, county and school district invested **\$664,000** in property tax abatements and program administration in 2009.
- The net result: we received a benefit of **\$218** for every local dollar invested.

The program will continue to generate benefits for our community as long as companies stay enrolled, giving us an opportunity to leverage more jobs and investment.

We are also fortunate that Assemblyman Robin Schimminger was instrumental in making sure that the new Excelsior Program provides additional benefits for companies located in a former Empire Zone.

### CHALLENGES

There is uncertainty with respect to economic development as we proceed in 2011. We have a new administration in Albany and, with a new administration come new priorities.

Governor Cuomo has proposed a reorganization of state agencies into regional councils. How those councils will work has yet to be unveiled.

There are also indications that the next target of critics may be Brownfield programs. At a time when we will turn to these programs for waterfront redevelopment, we expect that the programs will come under the same fire as Empire Zones.

Again, we will work closely with Assemblyman Robin Schimminger, Senator Michael Ranzenhofer and their respective staff to monitor and respond to any key program changes.

### TOWN CLERK

Melissa Brinson is our Town Clerk.

During 2010 her office processed well over \$114 million in cash and checks for various fees and taxes.

There are several initiatives that were completed since last year:

- Credit card payment option via the internet and in person is now being offered as an added convenience for residents.
- Passport processing services are now being offered to the public. Appointments are not necessary but may be made for those residents wishing to ensure expedited processing.
- Website redesign has proven to be a great benefit to the public and provides easy to navigate, up to date information.
- A \$45,000.00 State Archives Grant award received late 2010 will allow the growing records management program to continue to serve the needs of all departments working to properly safeguard the valuable and significant public records in their care and custody.

## **PERSONNEL**

Our Personnel Department head is Charles Naughton.

- The Personnel Department administers benefits and employment matters affecting 513 full time, approximately 550 part-time and seasonal employees and 495 retirees and their dependants.
- Participates in the Town's technology committee to find ways to improve record keeping and improve access to information. Currently assisting with implementation of Kronos and New World Systems human resources information technology upgrades.
- Successfully completed new collective bargaining agreements with the Town of Tonawanda Police Club and the Salaried Workers Association. Avoiding interest Arbitration with the Police and Fact-finding with the Salaried Workers Association.
- Continue to aggressively seek ways to reduce or contain the cost of health insurance to our current employees and retirees.

### *In the area of Workers Compensation:*

- Working closely with new compensation carrier, PERMA.
- 66 of the 147 "tail" claims for workers compensation have been closed with little or no additional payments made.
- A 45% reduction in claims filed against the Town for workers compensation benefits (from 154 average claims filed to 100 claims filed in 2010).
- Of the 100 claims filed, only 14 claims resulted in any lost time for the injured employee. The previous annual average for lost time claims was 53 out of 154 average claims filed.
- Implemented case management to control costs.
- Provided training for departments
- Continue to progress to implement loss control strategies

### *Department Relocation*

- Planned for and relocated the Personnel Office to the Senior Center on Ensminger Road. They moved in Monday, March 14.

## **Grantmakers Advantage, Inc.**

The Town of Tonawanda is blessed to have Sue Barnes as our very talented grant writer. Through her great efforts and in working with our Town Board and Department Heads, she has helped pursue and obtain state and federal dollars for our community.

- \$1.7 million from the US Department of Homeland Security for a maritime surveillance system to guard industries and transportation corridors in the Town.
- \$60,000 from Assemblyman Robin Schimminger to construct restrooms at Expressway Diamonds.
- \$45,400 to electronically scan building department records thereby increasing access to records and reducing the need for space to store paper records.
- \$40,000 from Assemblyman Schimminger for an expansion to the Veteran's Memorial and an alarm system for the Paddock Golf Dome

- \$25,000 to help prevent and respond to domestic violence
- \$18,000 to purchase new tactical vests for the Police Department's SWAT team
- 

**Total awarded: \$1,888,400**

Each of these grants will reduce government spending in the long term while enabling our employees to work more efficiently and provide improved services to the taxpayers.

The Town continues efforts to implement more than \$6 million in existing grant funded projects including:

- \$1,000,000 grant for improvements to the North Youngmann Commerce Center that will allow the Town to open up 225 acres of land for use as an industrial park, creating jobs and expanding our community's tax base.
- \$545,000 to install solar panels on five Town buildings helping to reduce the Town's carbon footprint and green house gas emissions while reducing energy costs.
- \$500,000 to upgrade the Town's technology, improving employee productivity and increasing output.
- Partnering with the Buffalo Riverkeepers to conduct a \$938,000 project to improve the Niagara River corridor.

**CONCLUSION:**

As stated earlier, 2010 turned out to be a good year for our town despite the challenges presented. 2011 and 2012 will present greater challenges, and we will continue our efforts to keep spending down and taxes low and maintain our quality of services.

As you have seen recently, gas and diesel prices have skyrocketed again. This impacts day-to-day operations of all our truck and car fleets as well as petroleum based products such as asphalt for roads and road repairs. Additionally health care costs and pension costs contributions greatly increase each year, utilities and deliveries cost more, sales tax revenues and interest income remain low, our infrastructure, buildings, facilities, equipment and vehicles need maintenance, repair or replacement. NRG Huntley's PILOT goes into effect in 2012, our Empire Zone is no longer available to new businesses, we are still dealing with some business slow downs and working to continue to address the unbalance of homestead and non-homestead taxes situation left from the 1980's.

We still face issues affecting our environment. The Army Corps of Engineers did not listen to local municipal pleas to move all remaining nuclear waste from our Town. They are still "testing" samples at the Tonawanda Landfill site so we wait to see if they will remove the waste as they did in 3 other similar sites. As stated many times before, we want **all** nuclear waste removed from our town so these sites can be reused and attract new businesses and industries while greatly improving public health and safety.

I will be sending letters to our congressional delegation in support of Praxair for clean up and removal of the nuclear waste at the Praxair (Linde) site. The Federal government needs to honor their commitment to remove remaining hazardous material that affects day-to-day operations at the Praxair facility that currently renders 28 acres of their land unusable at this time. It has finally seen fit to compensate workers at this former Linde Ceramics plant for their exposure to these materials during the Cold War era of 1954 through 1969. Let's hope it can clean up faster than it has taken to help these workers.

Additionally, we have concerns on air quality in several parts of our Town in our industrial section and nearby neighborhoods. We know that the DEC and EPA will continue to monitor these areas and ensure compliance with regulations.

Due to a dry summer and fall, the rodent problems reappeared. According to Erie County Department of Health Vector Control – the problem was not that there were more rats,

but rather that there were more sightings and that because water is needed for survival, so they were scurrying further to find sources of water. Additionally, it appears that bird feeders and dog feces are also attracting more rodents as well as secondary sources of food.

The Town of Tonawanda does not have regulatory authority or resources for proactive rodent control. The Animal Control office CANNOT abate rodents or other wildlife. Up to 2011, the Erie County Health Department managed a Vector Control program whereby they could assist property owners with rodent management however this program was recently discontinued by the County Executive.

We ask our Town residents to look at our website on rodent control and use of bird feeders. Most of us love birds, but when the seeds hit the ground, even accidentally from many feeders, they attract the unwanted visitors. An information sheet has been mailed out with tax receipts for residents that if followed should help us nip this problem this spring.

Finally, Homeland Security is still a vital issue as we approach the 10 year anniversary of 911. With the key and critical infrastructure and proximity to hazardous industrial materials and a six mile water front with one boarding Canada, we need to be every vigilant and we are working closely with local, state and federal agencies to do so.

### **GOOD NEWS**

I like to end with good news and an optimistic outlook.

There have been many good things happening throughout our Town – as we have mentioned already. Here are a few more I would like to highlight.

With our prime location on the Niagara River, with easy access to Canadian markets, with state and federal highways, rail transportation, low cost energy, an abundant high quality working base, we are once again poised to reclaim business and industrial development as we clean up areas and also we are opening new business and industrial parks such as Riverview Solar Technology Park, our North Youngman Commerce Center and Colvin Woods Business Park.

T.M. Montante's Riverview Solar Technology Park is as beautiful and pristine a site as you would see anywhere in WNY – drive through the tree lined winding road up to the beautiful architectural buildings and you would think you are in Chestnut Ridge Park. Last year Canadian based Electro Sonic moved into its facility and this year CSX Rail Road has also moved its offices into this great facility as well. In addition, Green Career Institute, a California based company, will also be moving in representing their first East Coast operation.

Recognizing the potential to generate solar power in our community, the Town was proactive and produced a comprehensive set of zoning regulations that are the first in New York State, and have been widely praised.

Time is money for developers. Our actions now will reduce the time it takes for projects to get off the ground, giving our Riverview Solar Technology Park an advantage over other communities competing for investment.

A Waterfront Master Plan is nearly ready for release.

At 4000 River Road the Niagara River World site of 60 acres is being redeveloped in cooperation with our Town of Tonawanda Development Corporation, ECIDA, Erie County and National Grid. TVGA Consultants and a UB graduate planning class are using the site to perform studies for future use.

With the creation of the Tonawanda Opportunity Area Project portions of old Brownfields will be clear to become shovel ready sites. The eastern portion of the Town landfill will be closed soon. The North Youngman Commerce Center, a 90 acre business park,

owned by our Town, is beginning to have preliminary designed for construction of a main connecting road into the area. The old abandoned tank farm at 5335 River Road had the last tank removed by the Town and County and the DEC performed clean up of petroleum issues. Liro Engineers are contracted to perform engineering work for final site grading making a beautiful visual gateway to the River Road corridor from the north.

The former abandoned Polymer Applications site as 3445 River Road is being remediated by the NYS DEC.

A Delaware Avenue Redevelopment Corridor Study is nearing completion and will soon be presented to the Town Board. It focuses on concerns of tax structure, zoning, lot layout, landscaping and parking that will greatly enhance the aesthetics of Delaware Avenue.

Soon the new affordable Senior Housing will have a ribbon cutting to open its doors to 140 units at Eggert and Fries.

An exciting new Townhouse Project at 4630 River Road is in the planning stages. Mark Tiedemann, an architect with MWT in Kenmore, has plans for 16 townhomes and 19 docks on the 3 acre parcel. Each unit will be 3 stories with its own elevator and single car garage. Units would start from \$500,000 and have a beautiful view of and access to the Niagara River.

### **E-3**

The Town of Tonawanda has recently embarked on a public-private partnership that will have significant benefits for our business community and, at the same time, improve the environment for town residents.

The E3 Program will help manufacturers adapt and thrive in a new business era focused on 'sustainable growth'. The program provides technical assessments of production processes, and training in four key areas: Lean, Clean, Energy, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Depending on the processes of a company, either large or small, the assessments and training target opportunities to:

- Maximize energy efficiency
- Reduce environmental wastes
- Identify opportunities for reducing carbon emissions
- Promote sustainable manufacturing practices and growth
- Reduce business costs

This partnership includes the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Clean Air Coalition and several other stakeholders.

While the E3 program focuses on existing business operations, the Tonawanda Opportunity Area will focus on sustainable development in new sites along River Road and the Healthy Niagara River initiative will promote recreation resources.

Together, these efforts demonstrate the town's continued commitment to protecting our air, land and water resources.

### **Town of Tonawanda Police Department K9 Unit**

With just one year of police work under his collar, the Town of Tonawanda Police

Department's four-legged officer Tank, a 2 year-old German shepherd, has already taken a huge "bite out of crime." Tank is the partner of Officer Brent Costello and serves as valued member of the Department, embodying the Town's commitment to keep drugs and criminals off our streets.

Every month, Tank assists with countless narcotics arrests and is an expert at locating controlled substances, stolen property, firearms, drug money, and the apprehension of criminal suspects. While his primary duty is to serve the people of the Town of Tonawanda, Tank is often called to assist the DEA, FBI, and several local police agencies on narcotics cases.

One of Tank's most important assignments is his role in a countywide effort to keep our schools drug free. Tank and his canine counterparts from other law enforcement agencies have teamed up to sniff out drugs in middle and high schools throughout Erie County. This effort has resulted in the seizure of drugs of all types, with students being charged and disciplined for their illegal activities.

Congratulations to Duane Paddock and his Chevy dealership on Delaware Avenue for being named the top Chevrolet dealer of retail cars and trucks in the United States for four years in a row! Also Duane has purchased the former Doyle Dealer property and is expanding his sales lot. All of this is great news for our local economy as well.

In closing, our success in recent years has not been the result of chance.

Careful planning and deliberate actions have put us in a position to take advantage of opportunities that have come along. We will continue on this proven course.

Our ability to 'get the job done' will continue to be the key to our success now and in the future.

Last year Business Week Magazine rated our Town as the number one place in New York State to raise children a great honor, and with new business and industries, come increased jobs, revenues and opportunities for even better things. This is my hope for our coming 175<sup>th</sup> year and beyond, that our economy improves, that our employment returns and that flourishes, and that we become a stronger and better Town in which to live, work, and play. The Town Board and I will strive to do just that.

I am truly honored and blessed to be able to serve this Town of Tonawanda as Supervisor and to continue to address each challenge facing us. Thank you for your patience and attention during this discussion of these important Town matters. May God continue to Bless the Town of Tonawanda as He has done for its first 175 years. God bless you all as well.

Thank you.