

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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Report from the Chair



Last year I asked you to join us in celebrating our accomplishments and planning for the future of the Saratoga Region. All of you have helped us to

take the mission of Saratoga P.L.A.N. - Preserving Land and Nature - to the next level - thank you!

I'm thrilled to report that we completed five new land protection projects in 2005, a dramatic increase made possible with your support.

We've developed capacity to handle more complicated land protection projects that serve the unique needs of individual landowners. These projects demonstrate a new level of partnership with communities and landowners, including a bequest, a retained life estate, a combination easement and fee donation as well as our first working farm easement. We are indebted to the donors and town's who have supported us financially and practically in achieving these land protection efforts.

In memory of Zimre Smith and Tim Kyler we worked to build a support group of trail advocates to advance the county's trail system. This turned out to be an important effort as we found ourselves defending our property - the Malta Trolley Line - as the county's plan for the Round Lake By-pass prepared to condemn and disconnect these important trail links.

We hope all of you will join us during the next year to increase our membership base and add your voices to ours in the importance of preserving land for local food, natural habitats, and a first-rate multi-use trail system - making the Saratoga County Green Infrastructure Plan an achievable vision for Saratoga County.

Thank you.

Julie Stokes
Chair
Board of Directors

Project Highlights

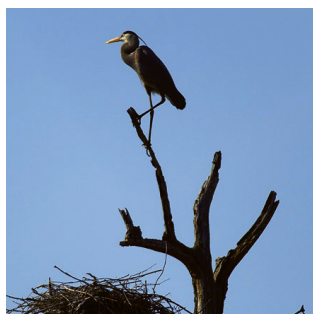


Reilly Ridge Farm

Third generation farmer Howard Reilly generously donated the development rights of his 50-acre family farm through a farmland conservation easement, protecting into perpetuity this historic farm in the Town of Halfmoon. The conservation easement ensures this land will remain available for active farming. The property also includes wetlands and forests along both sides of the Zim Smith trail.

Ten Springs Woods

Saratoga P.L.A.N. closed on the sale of the Ten Springs Woods to the City of Saratoga Springs, completing a five-year conservation effort to preserve the last vestige of these historic springs and wetlands. The 15-acre site will comprise a significant section of the planned Spring Run Trail, with Saratoga P.L.A.N. retaining a conservation easement to ensure preservation as a public nature preserve.



Ballston Creek Preserve

Thanks to a generous donation of land and a conservation easement by Patricia and Sven Peterson, we established our first nature preserve in the Town of Ballston, preserving 28 acres of forest, pond, wetland and riparian habitat. The project also includes a 12-acre conservation easement, permanently protecting a total of 40 acres of important habitat from future subdivision and development. The preserve will be open to the public with trails for hiking and walking.

Galway Nature Preserve

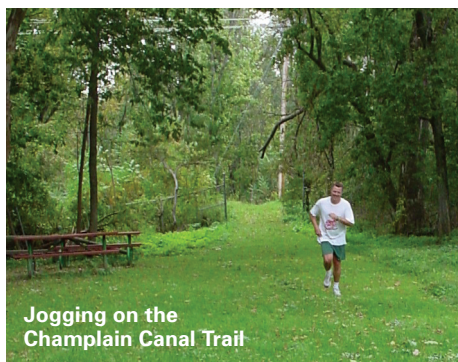
Through the generosity and dedication of the late Marshall DesRoches, Saratoga P.L.A.N. established our first nature preserve in the Town of Galway. In 1996 Mr. DesRoches, former owner of the Galway Tree Farm, bequeathed his 48-acres of forests and ponds to the Saratoga Land Trust (predecessor of Saratoga P.L.A.N.), thereby leaving the land in a "forever wild" state. Marshall passed away in 2004, and in 2005 we retained ownership of the property. A network of nature trails is planned for the site, which consists of stands of mature conifers, beautiful ponds and wetlands.



Program Highlights

Old Saratoga on the Hudson

We continue our efforts to facilitate this community-based inter-municipal effort to conserve and restore the natural and historic character of the Old Saratoga on the Hudson region. A \$45,000 grant was secured from the American Battlefield Protection Program to create a Preservation Plan for the region's most significant historic and viewshed sites. We continue to facilitate coordinated implementation of a regional trail network. One specific element is administration of a \$60,000 NYS grant received on behalf of the Town of Saratoga for enhancement of a 1.5 mile portion of the Champlain Canal Trail.



Jogging on the
Champlain Canal Trail

County Trails Advocacy

Saratoga P.L.A.N. formed a trail committee in 2004 to engage the interests of trail advocates and users of the Mid-County (Zim Smith) Trail. As a result of our advocacy efforts, Saratoga County hired engineers to design and prepare bid documents for the construction of the trail. The Green Infrastructure Planning process has demonstrated the importance of trail networks to the citizens of our region. The Zim Smith and Mid County Trail forms the spine of this system in the most heavily populated area of the county.

Community Planning

Kate Maynard, AICP, joined our staff in 2005 to advance local and regional smart growth and open space planning. Highlights of our work this year include: co-sponsoring a well attended *Future of Farming* regional conference; securing funding for the Towns of Saratoga and Northumberland to do a joint open space plan, and partnering with numerous towns to advance park and trail projects. Kate also provided technical advice to many grassroots community open space conservation efforts.

Kate Maynard
Community Planning
Coordinator



Green Infrastructure Plan Partnership

As a primary proponent of a countywide Green Infrastructure Plan to prioritize and protect our most important natural, farmland, recreational, and historically significant areas, we remain a strong partner in the effort to make this plan a meaningful and achievable vision for growth and preservation of Saratoga County. Upon completion of the plan, Saratoga P.L.A.N.'s active role will expand to include taking recommendations to a local level, project coordination, and tying in land trust and community planning functions to implement the plan.

Feast of the Fields

In 2005 we held our inaugural *Feast of the Fields* fundraising event, pairing local and national award winning chefs with produce from the best local farms. Held at the historic Saratoga Polo, the evening was a huge success with over 250 in attendance, enjoying fine food, wine and music in a lovely bucolic setting. The event supports our efforts to protect farmland and promote diversified and sustainable regional agriculture. This event would not have been possible without the generous

support and assistance of David Britton of the Springwater Bistro and Jim Rossi of Saratoga Polo. We look forward to an even bigger and better Feast this year, on Thursday, September 14, 2006 – so save the date.

Feast of the Fields Sponsors & Contributors

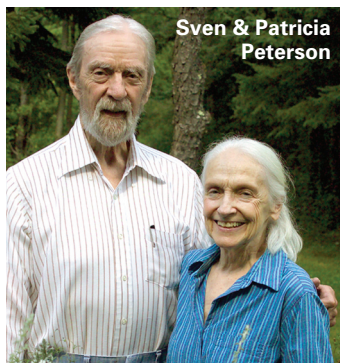
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For more information about these projects go to our website at www.saratogaplan.org



Chef David Britton of Springwater Bistro and Saratoga Polo
(center) is joined by Chef Kirk Avondoglio (l) and Robert
Irvine (r) at our 2005 Feast of the Fields.

Thank You to Our 2005 Supporters



Sven & Patricia Peterson

Land Donors

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Marshall DesRoches
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Howard Reilly

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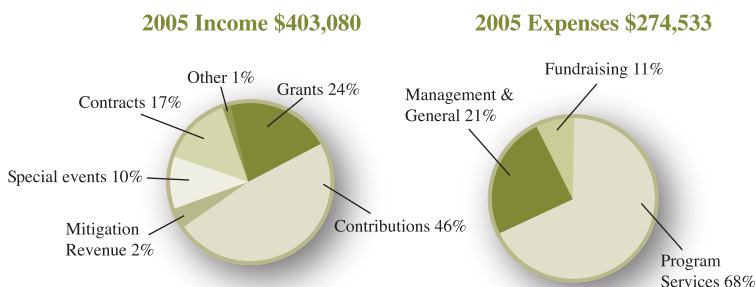
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Financial Report

The following charts provide a summary of income and expenses for Saratoga P.L.A.N. Inc. in 2005. We are happy to provide copies of our financial statements for more information.



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Christina Schull
Volunteer Events Coordination
Matthew Belsky
GIS Specialist

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