

SOMMAIRE EXÉCUTIF

LES RESSOURCES DU BASSIN DU LAC CHAMPLAIN

La réputation du bassin du lac Champlain n'est plus à faire. Reconnu comme l'une des plus belles ressources naturelles du continent nord-américain, il s'étend des cimes des Adirondacks aux Montagnes Vertes et fait même une incursion au Québec dans sa section nord (figure 1, couverture intérieure). La région est habitée depuis longtemps par les autochtones et compte maintenant plus de 600 000 résidents. Le bassin accueille chaque année des millions de visiteurs qui viennent profiter de ses eaux et de tous ses autres attraits naturels et historiques.

Les ressources du lac sont exploitées à des fins multiples dont l'approvisionnement en eau potable, les activités récréatives, l'agriculture, les activités industrielles et le rejet des déchets. Comme le lac contribue grandement à l'essor économique de la région, il importe de préserver la qualité de son eau et de toutes les ressources naturelles qui y sont reliées. L'évaluation économique de la diversité biologique et de la beauté des paysages s'avère complexe, il reste néanmoins que la préservation de cet environnement constitue

une préoccupation d'intérêt public majeure et demeure un enjeu prioritaire au niveau de l'allocation des ressources. Gérer les ressources de manière à soutenir tous les usages actuels et futurs, voilà le défi de taille que les gouvernements américains et québécois se sont engagés à relever.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Le 5 novembre 1990, le Congrès américain entérinait la loi sur la désignation spéciale du lac Champlain (" Lake Champlain Special Designation Act " (Annexe A). Destinée à protéger le bassin versant du lac Champlain, cette loi reconnaissait le principe de confier à des personnes aux intérêts divergents la responsabilité d'élaborer un plan concerté de prévention de la pollution, de suivi et de restauration. Rendu public pour la première fois en 1996, le plan intitulé "*Opportunities for Action: An evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin* " a permis la réalisation de nombreux projets.

En tant que membre du Comité mixte sur la gestion du lac Champlain (PBLC), le Québec est appelé à jouer un rôle important dans la protection du lac. Plusieurs ministères, municipi-

alités et organismes non gouvernementaux se sont engagés dans la planification de l'avenir du lac Champlain. Le point de vue des citoyens est aussi considéré. Plusieurs centaines de Québécois(es) ont d'ailleurs pu exprimer leur avis lors de rencontres publiques d'information. L'implication concrète du Québec se traduit par la participation de représentants dans divers comités, dont le Comité consultatif des citoyens, le Comité pour l'éducation et la sensibilisation, le Comité consultatif technique et le Comité consultatif pour le patrimoine culturel et les loisirs.

THÈMES GÉNÉRAUX ABORDÉS DANS LE PLAN

- Approche basée sur le partenariat
- Approche par bassin versant
- Prévention de la pollution
- Approche concertée de prise de décision
- Approche écosystémique
- Intégration des objectifs environnementaux et économiques
- Souplesse

PRIORITÉS D'ACTION

Le plan *Perspectives d'actions* identifie des objectifs et des actions visant à protéger et à remettre en état les ressources écologiques et culturelles du bassin tout en maintenant la vitalité de l'économie régionale. À la suite des commentaires émis lors des rencontres publiques et des recommandations des comités consultatifs, les objectifs suivants ont été désignés prioritaires:

Selon le Conseil directeur du lac Champlain, ces objectifs constituent les quatre champs d'action les plus importants pour le maintien à long terme de l'intégrité du bassin du lac Champlain. La faune, les activités récréatives et le patrimoine culturel ainsi que l'éducation

OBJECTIFS

- 1) Réduire les apports de phosphore dans le lac Champlain afin de favoriser l'intégrité et la diversité de l'écosystème ainsi que l'utilisation durable du lac pour les usages humains et la satisfaction procurée lors de sa fréquentation.
- 2) Réduire la contamination par les produits toxiques dans le but de protéger la santé publique et l'écosystème du lac Champlain.
- 3) Contrôler l'introduction, la prolifération et les effets des espèces nuisibles étrangères dans le but de préserver l'intégrité de l'écosystème du lac Champlain.
- 4) Minimiser les risques à la santé humaine causés par les dangers potentiels liés à l'eau dans le bassin du lac Champlain.

et la sensibilisation en sont d'autres. Pour chaque secteur, les actions ont été énumérées en fonction du niveau de priorité qui leur a été attribué: très grande priorité, grande priorité, priorité et autres actions à considérer.

Les niveaux de priorité sont sujets à des modifications selon les problèmes qui surviendront. Le plan fera l'objet d'une mise à jour constante et la mise en œuvre des actions, peu importe leur niveau de priorité, dépendra de la disponibilité des fonds.

UN PLAN EN ÉVOLUTION CONSTANTE

Depuis 1991 un grand nombre de rencontres publiques, de sondages, de discussions ciblées et d'ateliers techniques ont eu lieu dans le cadre du Programme de mise en valeur du lac Champlain. Des projets de recherche, de suivi et de démonstration ont été menés annuellement. Selon les informations fournies par le public au moment d'entreprendre l'élaboration du plan, les éléments suivants du plan doivent être maintenus:

- *Le plan ne devrait inclure que les projets bénéficiant de subventions.*
- *Le plan devrait mettre l'accent sur l'éducation au lieu de la réglementation accrue.*
- *Le plan devrait encourager et stimuler la vitalité des organismes actuels.*

QUE CONTIENT LE PLAN?

Le plan *Perspectives d'actions* comporte six chapitres. Le premier présente l'ensemble des thèmes et des priorités du plan. Le chapitre 2 porte sur les actions visant la protection et l'amélioration de la qualité de l'eau du lac Champlain. Le chapitre 3 examine les ressources naturelles vivantes et le chapitre 4, les ressources culturelles et récréatives du bassin. Le chapitre 5 répertorie les stratégies pour la mise en place du plan, dont les recommandations pour un cadre institutionnel pour l'avenir. Il comprend également des sections traitant de l'engagement local, de la sensibilisation et de la participation du public, du suivi et de la mesure du taux de réussite ainsi que de l'obtention de subventions. Ces sections ont été regroupées dans le chapitre de la mise en place du plan, car c'est principalement par elles que les recommandations seront mises de l'avant. Le chapitre 6 décrit les conditions économiques qui prévalent dans le bassin et l'importance des questions économiques pour la mise en place du plan. Le document contient en dernier lieu des références, un glossaire, des abréviations et des annexes.

Pour de plus amples informations ou pour obtenir un exemplaire des documents du PBLC, veuillez communiquer avec le Programme de mise en valeur du lac Champlain au (802) 372-3213. Des informations sont également disponibles à la Corporation Bassin Versant Baie Missisquoi (CBVBM) au (450) 248-0100.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

City of Burlington



Lake Champlain's 587 miles of scenic shoreline include wide, sandy beaches, secluded bays, bustling harbors, and rocky outcrops.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN RESOURCES

The Lake Champlain Basin, stretching from the peaks of the Adirondacks to the Green Mountains and north into Québec, is renowned as one of North America's most beautiful and valued resources (See Figure 1, inside front cover). Long home to Native Americans and inhabited by more than 600,000 people today, the Basin draws millions of visitors to its waters and other natural and historic features. Virtually everyone in the Basin depends on the resources the Lake provides for a wide variety of uses, from drinking water and recreation to agriculture, industry, and waste disposal. The challenge is to manage our resources in a way that sustains all of these uses now and in the future.

The importance of the Basin's healthy natural resources to many of the region's industries and to the economy as a whole is indisputable. Agriculture in the Basin, for example, which requires land for production and clean water for animals, generated about \$526 million in sales of agricultural products—such as milk, cheese, maple syrup, and apples—in 1997. Recreation-related industries also depend on a clean lake. Sport fishing generates tens of

millions in revenues annually. Bird and other wildlife viewing activities generate more than \$50 million a year in Vermont (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, 1996). Tourism brought an estimated \$3.8 billion dollars overall to the Basin in 2000.

Dollar figures alone cannot convey the full value of Lake Champlain's resources. The biological riches of the area and unparalleled beauty of the mountains, historic resources, agricultural landscapes, small towns and villages, and rivers that flow into the magnificent Lake provide experiences and opportunities unique to the Lake Champlain Basin. While the benefits of healthy resources are difficult to quantify, they are equally important to any evaluation of the costs and benefits of resource management decisions.

RESOURCE ISSUES FACING LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Although Lake Champlain remains a vital lake with many assets, there are several serious environmental problems that demand action. Phosphorus levels in parts of Lake Champlain, such as those found in Missisquoi Bay, are so high that they cause excessive algal growth.

This turns the water green and increases growth of aquatic plants, which in turn inhibits recreational use of the water, reduces oxygen levels, and causes other problems for the aquatic life in the Lake. The phosphorus that is causing these problems is coming from both sewage treatment plant discharges and stormwater runoff from land in agricultural, residential, and urban uses. Although much progress has been made in the last five years to reduce phosphorus, primarily at sewage treatment facilities and on agricultural lands, phosphorus inputs from point and nonpoint sources must be further reduced to promote a healthy ecosystem and full human use and enjoyment of the Lake. This Plan presents strategies to achieve these reductions.

LCBP



Vermont Governor Jim Douglas and New York Governor George Pataki signing Lake Champlain documents on Earth Day, April 2003.

Toxic substances, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury, have resulted in health advisories about consuming certain fish from Lake Champlain. There are also three areas in Lake Champlain (Cumberland Bay, Inner Burlington Harbor, and Outer Mallets Bay) known to be contaminated with toxic substances at levels that cause problems for aquatic biota or human health. Over the last five years, hazardous waste cleanup and containment projects have been undertaken on the Burlington waterfront at the Pine Street Barge Canal, and in Cumberland Bay near the City of Plattsburgh. Additional research and monitoring efforts are also being undertaken to better understand the extent and causes of mercury contamination in the Basin environment. This Plan presents ways to reduce toxic contaminants like mercury and PCBs and to identify

appropriate restoration strategies for contaminated sections of the Lake.

The fish, wildlife, and other living resources of the Lake Champlain Basin have been negatively impacted by the introduction of nonnative aquatic nuisance species, such as sea lamprey, water chestnut, Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and most recently alewives. Each of these species interferes with the recreational use and ecological processes of the Lake. Zebra mussels, for example, can clog residential, municipal, and industrial water intake pipes, foul boat hulls and engines, and obscure priceless underwater archeological artifacts. The first edition of *Opportunities for Action* (1996) called for a comprehensive action strategy to protect ecologically valuable habitats and to control the spread of these nuisance species. An Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan was approved by New York and Vermont in 1999 and accepted by the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in 2000. Implementation of this management plan is in progress throughout the Basin and results are being carefully monitored.

Other resource issues face the Lake Champlain Basin as well, including continued wetland loss and habitat fragmentation, inadequate public access to the Lake, recreational user conflicts, and loss of cultural resources. *Opportunities for Action* also outlines strategies to address these issues.

Quality of life provided by abundant and diverse natural resources is a major reason why many Basin residents choose to live here. Research shows there is a clear connection between the economy and the health of the

Lake's resources. If investments in plan implementation are not continually made, the cleanup costs will be far greater in the future. Continuing to work to protect and improve Lake Champlain and its natural resources sustains past investments, expands the Basin's economic potential, and improves the quality of life for all Basin residents.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN SPECIAL DESIGNATION ACT

On November 5, 1990, the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act was signed into law (See Appendix A). Sponsored by Senators Leahy and Jeffords from Vermont and Senators Moynihan and D'Amato from New York, this legislation designated Lake Champlain as a

resource of national significance. The goal of the Special Designation Act was to bring together people with diverse interests in the Lake to create a comprehensive pollution prevention, control, and restoration plan for protecting the future of Lake Champlain and its surrounding watershed. The act specifically required examination of water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreational, and cultural resource issues. The challenge has been both to identify particular problems requiring

LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) is a partnership among the States of New York and Vermont, the Province of Québec, the USEPA, other federal and local government agencies, and many local groups, both public and private. Created by Congress through the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-596), the LCBP works cooperatively with many partners to protect and enhance the environmental integrity and the social and economic benefits of the Lake Champlain Basin. The program is guided by the Lake Champlain Steering Committee, a board comprised of a broad spectrum of representatives of government agencies, the chairs of advisory groups representing citizen lake users, scientists, and educators. These advisory groups include: a Technical Advisory Committee, composed of resource managers, physical and social scientists, and business and economic experts; Citizens Advisory Committees from New York, Vermont, and Québec; an Education and Outreach Advisory Committee; and a Cultural Heritage and Recreation Advisory Committee.

The LCBP is jointly administered by the USEPA, the States of Vermont and New York, and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. Other cooperating agencies include the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Department of Agriculture, the US Geological Survey, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Park Service. Formal involvement of Québec occurs through the Lake Champlain Steering Committee, which meets four times a year to coordinate Lake-related management activities.

The actions of the LCBP and Lake Champlain Steering Committee are guided by the comprehensive long-term management plan *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin*. Successful implementation of the plan is achieved by developing many joint partnerships among natural resource agencies, citizens, and other lake and watershed stakeholders throughout the Basin. Over the past five years, the LCBP has sponsored a variety of projects to educate and involve the public and gather information about Lake issues. The LCBP has also provided funding for education, planning, demonstration, research, and monitoring projects to help prepare *Opportunities for Action*. This Plan, now in its second edition, is scheduled for updates every five years so that it remains current and relevant to ongoing and emerging issues.



The LCBP's main office is based in the historic Gordon Center House in Grand Isle, Vermont.

management action and to chart an integrated plan for the future of the Lake Champlain Basin. *Opportunities for Action* covers a broad range of issues and incorporates the views of citizens, economic advisors, scientists, and lake users throughout the Basin.

LCBP



In a successful partnership between TNC and the VTDEC, volunteers have hand-pulled hundreds of tons of water chestnuts to prevent the plant's spread. Water chestnut control efforts throughout the Basin have received funding from the LCBP, USACOE, NYSDEC, NYSCC, QC MENV, and nonprofit organizations.

OVERALL THEMES OF THE PLAN

Opportunities for Action is an evolving blueprint for coordinated action to restore and protect water quality and the diverse natural and cultural resources of the Lake Champlain Basin. The first edition of *Opportunities for Action* (1996) was based largely on a five-year program of plan development reflecting the best available scientific and economic data and informed by an extensive program of public involvement.

In updating *Opportunities for Action* in 2001, a program of public involvement through public meetings, Citizen Advisory Committee forums, and written comments has continued to inform the planning process. The ongoing work of the Education and Outreach Committee, the Cultural Heritage and Recreation Advisory Committee, and the Technical Advisory Committee brought the experience of many community representatives and agencies throughout the Basin to this process.

Partnership Approach

Numerous agencies and organizations are currently involved in successful programs to manage the resources of the Basin. Implementation of the Plan relies upon these groups to continue their successful efforts and expand their capabilities through the formation of partnerships. Partnerships can increase communication and coordination among various levels of government, the private sector, and citizens. Partnerships also reduce duplication of efforts; increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of human and financial resources, evolve as needed, contribute to an informed and involved citizenry, accomplish important goals without the use of new regulations or new layers of government, and ensure a sharing of responsibility for implementing the Plan.

Ecosystem-Based Approach

Opportunities for Action calls for an ecosystem-based approach to planning and management that considers the Lake and its entire drainage basin as a whole, interconnected, complex system. Each component of the system, including humans, affects other parts of the system. For instance, increased phosphorus levels in the Lake cause algal blooms that deplete oxygen levels, thereby affecting fish populations and populations of other Basin species that depend on fish as a food source. Sound resource management must take into consideration the ways in which various actions will affect other resources in the ecosystem.

Watershed Approach

More than 95% of the water in Lake Champlain passes through the 8,234 square miles of the Basin as surface and subsurface runoff before reaching the Lake. As a result, land use activities and pollution sources throughout the Basin have a tremendous impact on the Lake and its ecosystems. Restoration or protection based on watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries better address polluted or threatened areas. In addition to applying the watershed approach on a basin-wide level, *Opportunities for Action* encourages the watershed approach at a more local level. This offers opportunities for citizens to improve water quality based on their knowledge of their local area and for neighboring communities to develop innovative ways to solve pollution problems within their local watersheds. Empowering local communities and their organizations to collaborate gives any effort a better chance of real, sustained success. Implementation of the Plan continues to use a watershed approach that links the Lake with activities in its watershed.

Integration of Environmental and Economic Goals

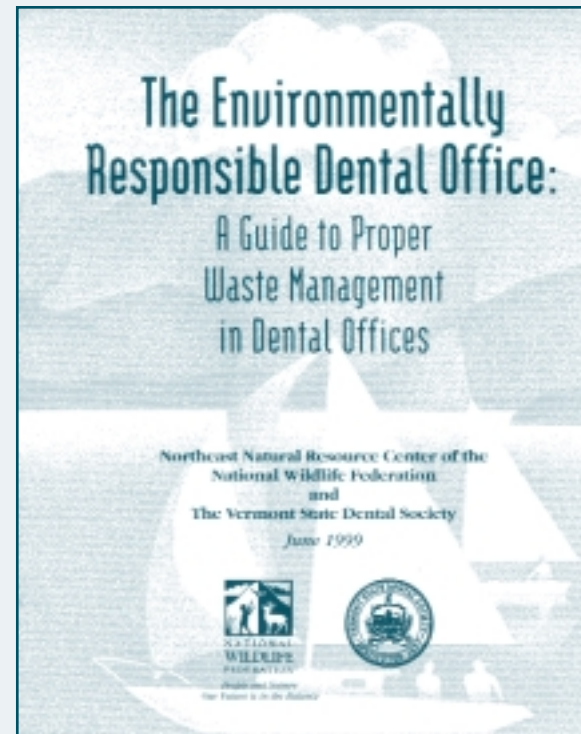
A healthy Lake Champlain is crucial to a strong regional economy, and a strong economy is good for the Lake. This Plan recommends actions to protect and restore the ecological and cultural resources of the Basin while ensuring economic benefits for long-term positive change in the Lake.

Finding the most cost-effective actions to protect and enhance the quality of the Lake while maintaining the economic health of the region is an extremely important and difficult task in implementing the Plan.

Opportunities for Action includes recreational and cultural heritage interests in its basin-wide approach to watershed protection. Protecting and expanding opportunities for Basin residents to enjoy clean water and encouraging public appreciation of the rich cultural heritage associated with the Lake are integral elements of both watershed protection and regional economic goals.

Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention focuses on reducing or eliminating the generation of pollutants at their sources. Pollution prevention efforts often cut industrial and public costs in the long run by reducing the need for expensive waste treatment, hazardous waste disposal, and cleanup. Such efforts can also reduce the need for regulatory compliance measures, which are costly and time consuming. Pollution prevention is often more economically feasible than subsequent remediation of polluted sites and is a prime method for deterring future harm to ecosystems.



The LCBP funded an innovative program by the National Wildlife Federation to inform dental offices about properly managing waste from mercury and other toxic substances. The program also collected 40 lbs. of mercury.

Consensus-Based, Collaborative Approach to Decision-Making

Opportunities for Action is the result of numerous cooperating agencies, organizations, and individuals combining their efforts to protect and enhance the resources of the Lake Champlain Basin while solving identified problems. Implementing the Plan continues to involve a broad range of participants in a consensus-based approach to decision-making. Encouraging numerous stakeholders to provide input strengthens the outcomes of the decision-making process and broadens the base of citizens and organizations responsible for and active in Plan implementation.

Flexibility

Opportunities for Action is an evolving plan to restore and protect water quality and the remarkable natural and cultural resources of the Lake Champlain Basin. Building flexibility into programs and organizations ensures that this evolution continues to be responsive to public needs throughout the Basin. Successful program implementation relies on feedback loops among policy development, implementation, existing legal requirements and available funding, and requires adaptable organizations that can change their programs accordingly.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Opportunities for Action identifies specific goals and recommended actions to protect and restore the ecological and cultural resources of the Basin while maintaining a vital regional economy. Based on comments from citizens and other stakeholders at public

meetings and the recommendations of advisory committees, four goals have been designated as the highest priorities of the Plan:

Goal: Reduce phosphorus inputs to Lake Champlain to promote a healthy and diverse ecosystem and provide for sustainable human use and enjoyment of the Lake.

(See Actions 1 through 11 in “Reducing Phosphorus Pollution,” pp. 17-22). Priority sub-basins have been identified through extensive research on phosphorus loadings to the Lake from major tributaries. These actions suggest comprehensive ways to reduce point and nonpoint phosphorus loads from these tributaries and their watersheds to achieve the in-lake phosphorus concentration standards established in 1996.

Goal: Reduce toxic contamination to protect public health and the Lake Champlain ecosystem.

(See Actions 1 through 8 of “Preventing Pollution from Toxic Substances,” pp. 26-30). These actions will offer a comprehensive strategy to restore areas of the Basin where pollution from toxic contaminants, such as mercury and PCBs, is a problem and to prevent future pollution from these contaminants.

Goal: Minimize the risks to humans from water-related health hazards in the Lake Champlain Basin.

(See Actions 1 through 6 of “Protecting Human Health,” pp. 34-36). These actions address potential health threats associated with poor water quality in Lake Champlain. They are designed to reduce risks from drinking water, eating fish and wildlife, and swimming in the Lake, and to support the protection of drinking water sources throughout the Basin.

Goal: Control the introduction, spread, and impact of nonnative nuisance species in order to preserve the integrity of the Lake Champlain ecosystem.

(See Actions 1 through 12 of “Managing Nonnative Aquatic Nuisance Plants and Animals,” pp. 55-60). These actions are designed to restrict the spread and reduce the populations of invasive species through a cooperative effort among agencies, organizations, and individuals.

The Lake Champlain Steering Committee considers these four goals to be the most important for addressing the long-term health of the Lake Champlain Basin and recommends that agencies and organizations strive to make these their top priorities for action in managing and enhancing the resources of the Basin.

In addition to these highest priorities, the Lake Champlain Steering Committee has selected several high priority actions in each of the

issue areas. The Committee finds that these actions are needed to accomplish the goals of each issue area and should be implemented as soon as possible. Priority actions have also been designated for each issue area. These priority actions are considered important to a management program that addresses the issues facing the Lake Champlain Basin. Complementing the priority actions are other actions for consideration. The Lake Champlain Steering Committee feels that these actions contribute to the comprehensive nature of the Plan but are less crucial to the present health of the Lake and its Basin.

As time progresses and the Plan is updated as new issues emerge, the priority status of these actions will be re-evaluated.

In each of the issue areas, the actions have been listed according to their designated priority status: Highest Priority, High Priority, Priority, and Other Actions for Consideration. Implementation of all actions, regardless of priority status, is contingent upon the availability of funds. Refer to Chapter 5 for information on funding strategies for the Plan.

AN EVOLVING PLAN

Since 1991, the LCBP has been working hard to involve the public and respond to current research in developing and implementing this Plan. Numerous public input meetings, citizen perception surveys, focus group discussions, technical workshops, research, monitoring and demonstration projects have been conducted. All of these actions have helped identify the issues and priority actions presented in this Plan. Guidance from the public in the initial

plan formulation process has been reinforced through public comments during the first five years of implementation. According to this guidance, the following core elements should be maintained in the Plan:

- *The Plan should be written so that it is understandable by the general public who will help implement it. Actions presented in the Plan should be prioritized.*
- *Summary economic information should be presented with the Plan. Chapter 6 focuses specifically on this issue and provides additional economic information. A supplemental economic analysis of "Opportunities for Action" (1996) is also available.*
- *The Plan should oppose any inclusion of unfunded mandates. The Plan does not establish any regulations or unfunded mandates.*
- *The Plan should emphasize education rather than expanded regulation. The Steering Committee holds that education is preferable to regulation and has emphasized that educational programs be incorporated into the implementation of all parts of the Plan.*
- *The Plan should promote and foster the vitality of existing organizations. The Steering Committee intends that actions taken at the local level be an important means for implementing the Plan. Nearly 500 local implementation grants awarded by the LCBP in the first decade of operations underscore this commitment to support existing organizational and civic infrastructure (see Chapter 5).*

Over the last ten years, the public has played an integral role in the development and implementation of *Opportunities for Action*. Readers should find most of their concerns and suggestions incorporated into this revision, and feel welcome to continue to provide input into the planning process. Please contact the LCBP at 1-800-468-5227 or (802) 372-3213, or visit www.lcbp.org, for more information on public meetings and other informational sessions, and to receive copies of LCBP materials.



Gary Randorf

Fort Ticonderoga

WHAT IS IN THE PLAN?

Opportunities for Action is divided into six chapters. This chapter presents the overall themes and priorities of the Plan. Chapter 2 presents actions to protect and enhance water quality in Lake Champlain. Chapter 3 concerns living natural resources, and Chapter 4 focuses on recreation and cultural resources of the Basin. Chapter 5 identifies strategies for Plan implementation, including recommendations for an institutional framework for the future. Chapter 5 also includes sections concerning local-level involvement in Plan implementation, informing and involving the public, measuring and monitoring success, and securing funding. These sections identify the primary means through which Plan recommendations will be implemented. Chapter 6 describes the economic conditions in the Basin and the importance of economic considerations in the course of plan implementation. A list of references, glossary, acronyms, and appendices are presented at the end of the document.



Carolyn Bates

A cyclist enjoys a Lake Champlain sunset.