



December 9th, 2008

Dear Champlain Canal Stakeholder,

The New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC) and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) would like to thank you for your participation in the Champlain Canal Aquatic Invasive Species Stakeholder Meeting held on November 6th, 2008 in Fort Edward, NY. Over seventy people attended the public stakeholder meeting including representatives from New York, Vermont, and Quebec State/Provincial agencies, business owners, legislative representatives, cultural heritage and recreation organizations, lake and watershed organizations, the media, and most importantly concerned citizens.

All of us in the NYSCC and LCBP Partnership, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Office of Invasive Species Coordination (NYSDEC-OISC), were pleased with this shared effort to work together to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species in the Champlain Canal.

We heard presentations from the NYSCC, LCBP, and NYSDEC-OISC about their organizations and learned of the economic and ecological threats of aquatic invasive species that have traveled through the Champlain Canal to the Lake Champlain Basin. The meeting included a review of aquatic invasive species mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce the risk of new introductions. The US Army Corps of Engineers explained how they might be involved with a Champlain Canal barrier feasibility study, implementation, operation and maintenance.

Nine stakeholders contributed statements to the public meeting, which was followed by a lively discussion about invasive species spread prevention actions. This discussion added valuable insights to the NYSCC and LCBP Partnership about which mitigation measures are most publicly acceptable. We will take these comments into consideration as we move forward to take actions to reduce the impacts of aquatic invaders in the Champlain Canal.

A summary of the Champlain Canal Aquatic Invasive Species Stakeholder Meeting and stakeholder comments will be sent to all meeting participants and will be available on the Lake Champlain Basin Program web-site at www.lcbp.org.

Thank you again for your participation. We look forward to our continuing work with you to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species through the Champlain Canal.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carmella Mantello in blue ink.

Carmella Mantello

Director, New York State Canal Corporation

Handwritten signature of Bill Howland in blue ink.

Bill Howland

Manager, Lake Champlain Basin Program