

*Dunkirk Observer – February 27, 2004*

## **Boosting tourism is goal of new site**

By Doug Fenton

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The Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board has launched a new Web site to promote tourism in the three-county region.

“Discover Southwest NY – A Partnership in Progress” was unveiled during a press conference Thursday morning at the STW Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca.

“The Web site is the culmination of efforts of several entities in Western New York and beyond,” said Brian Schrantz, STW’s director of information services.

“The project was envisioned in late 2002 and launched as a live Web site Thursday,” he added. “This site is hosted and maintained by Southern Tier West as well.”

According to Schrantz, information about STW is also available on the new Web site, [www.discoversouthwestny.com](http://www.discoversouthwestny.com).

“Financial support for the project was received from several entities,” he said. “Both public and private funds were utilized to complete the project.”

Financial contributors to the project are: the Appalachian Regional Commission; Niagara Mohawk, a national grid company; STW Development Foundation; PixEarth Corp.; Waypoint Technology Group; Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties; Cattaraugus County Empire Zone; Ellicottville and Wellsville Chambers of Commerce; CCS Development Corp.; and STW Regional Planning and Development Board.

“Beyond financial support, several entities assisted along the way,” Schrantz said.

“Two notable supporters included PixEarth and Eric Mower and Associates,” he added. “Both were an integral part, as consultants, to the functionality of the (Web) site.”

The STW board is a unit of local government serving Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties. This non-profit agency was established in 1969 by the legislatures in these three counties as a partnership for development.

The board’s mission is to help coordinate and enhance planning and development activities in the three counties so as to promote the social, physical, and economic development of this region.

The STW board maintains ongoing active relationships with national, state, and local governments, agencies, and the private for-profit and non-profit organizations.

Of particular importance are STW’s ongoing relationships with two specific federal agencies, the ARC and the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.

In 1969, ARC designated Southern Tier West as one of the Local Development Districts in the Appalachian Region. In this capacity, STW coordinates and oversees the direction of all ARC-funded investment in the three-county region.

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