

Conversation with the Mayor August 6, 2007

Vicky Daly

Looking Back and Around

By the time you read this column, our portion of the *Grand Journey of the Lois McClure* will be history. Writing this, I have a wide range of feelings - hope that the weather cooperates; that there are no last minute unexpected glitches; that everything goes even better than anticipated; appreciation for all the time and energy that has been expended to make it happen, and true amazement as to the number of people and organizations involved. Everyone has worked so hard to make *Pirates of the Erie Canal Weekend* something really special for Palmyra and the region.

As they say in some circles, this project had legs. More has come out of it than just the weekend itself. I have not seen such a collaborative effort in the six years I have been in office and I think it is great. What has been created? An enjoyable weekend (I am always optimistic.); new friendships; a sense of accomplishment for having pulled it off, and a strengthened sense of community. It was 'our' party and it was 'our' effort that made it happen!

And who is the 'us' that 'our' refers to? Residents; merchants from one side of the town to the other, VOA to Hasseltine's; service clubs; churches; the Community Center; Historic Palmyra; the Chamber; people off the street who expressed an interest and offered to help. (We always say thank you and yes, please.) Everybody! And to everybody, I offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you. You have shown what we can do working together.

Do you remember the game 'I Spy'? Or 'Where's Waldo'? You have to look to see what and who is where. Have you been doing that in Palmyra lately? Have you seen the great new paint jobs at Canal Town Hots or on the buildings in the block behind the flag pole and the Woodens' buildings on Fayette? The ongoing work on building and grounds at Lorri's Secret Garden? (I am told they are taking reservations for wedding parties next summer!) You may have seen also the signs that the Village Bookmarket has opened where Kavanagh Books had been and that Hasseltine's Liquors has made a sea change in the building previously occupied by NAPA. Who knew it was so large? Stroll down Church Street and see the handsome treatment of the green space between Western Presbyterian Church and St. Anne's Church. I suspect Towpath residents are pleased with the new refrigerated cooler for bread and milk and the like at Family Dollar. Handy is nice. Did you know we had a chirporactor in the Village? Tonya DeCann has opened her practice on East Main Street. Moving slightly east, take notice of Bob Merla's new sign at the barber shop. Doug Hare's Antiques, specializing in high end glass, will be opening shortly where Country Connections had been. Going even farther east, take a look at the new floor plan at the VOA. Look for some bargains while you are there. Help yourself and those whom the VOA helps through your patronage. What did I miss? You tell me.