

Contents

Introduction	59
Government Facilities	59
Fire and Police.....	59
Public Utilities	59
School Districts.....	60
Library	61
Medical Services	62
Water/Sewer Districts.....	62
Recreational Facilities	63
Recreation Needs.....	66
Community Facility and Recreational Priorities:.....	68

Introduction

Community facilities and services are the most visible aspect of the community's involvement in the life of its citizens. Within the Village of Alexandria Bay, the most visible community facilities are the school, library, fire station, Village Offices, and pavilion at Scenic View Park. These facilities are an important focal point for many community activities providing for the needs of the local government and its citizens.

The planning for community facilities is an important aspect of the Comprehensive Plan. By seeking out creative ways for funding and providing facilities to meet the needs of the community, the Village can become more effective in the delivery of public services.

This chapter provides an overview of the existing public facilities and services available in the Village of Alexandria Bay.

Government Facilities

The Village of Alexandria Bay Offices are located on Walton St. The Mayor's Office is located there, along with the Village Clerk, Zoning Officer, and the Village Court.

Fire and Police

The necessity to provide police protection is a matter of public policy and also based upon the public's perception of security. The Town does not have its own police force, but instead relies upon State Troopers, stationed in the new NYS State Trooper Barracks on NYS Route 12, adjacent to I-81. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement in the Town as well.

The Village is served by its own Police Force, housed in the Village of Alexandria Bay Municipal Building.

The Village of Alexandria Bay Volunteer Fire Department, also located in the Village Municipal Building, provides emergency services to both the Town and Village. In addition there are volunteer fire departments located in Redwood, Plessis and on Wellesley Island.

Public Utilities

National Grid provides electric service to residents of both the Town of Alexandria and Village of Alexandria Bay. The Village and surrounding area is served by a three-phase, 13.2 kV electric distribution system. This

CHAPTER 4.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

system is capable of serving electric loads of up to 2,500 kVA (kilovolt amperes). Contact National Grid for more information and potential location availability.

Spectrum Cable, Ridgeviewtel, and Castle Cable provide television and broadband internet service to area residents. There is also a fiber optic line, owned by the Development Authority of the North Country that runs along NYS Route 12. However, many areas of the Town do not have access to cable television and instead rely upon satellite access for television programming and high-speed internet service.

There are a number of cell towers located throughout the Town and Village, housing antennae for numerous service providers.

School Districts

The Village of Alexandria Bay and the Town of Alexandria is served primarily by the Alexandria Central School district. However, small portions of the Town fall within the LaFargeville Central School district, Hammond Central School district and the Indian River Central School district.

The Alexandria Central School District is a rural school district with a UPK-12 population of about 560 students housed in one building and a staff of 75 full-time personnel. The school offers many extracurricular and interscholastic activities. Eighty-eight percent of graduates enroll in schools of higher learning. The school is considered the hub of the community where



many civic, social and cultural activities take place.

At Alexandria Central, technology is integrated into the curriculum at all grade levels. Both elementary and high school students also receive technology instruction in the computer lab. Classrooms are equipped with computers, Smart Boards, document cameras and projectors. Four mobile laptop carts and one iPad cart are utilized for instruction on a daily basis as of 2014.

The district's distance learning room has been updated with state-of-the-art

CHAPTER 4.

technology equipment which is utilized by high school students who are enrolled in distance learning classes. Students in all grade levels have the opportunity to take virtual field trips via videoconferencing equipment.

The Library Media Center services all grade levels. In addition to print resources, many online resources including online databases and e-books are available for teacher and student use.

Elementary classes include two half-day sessions of Universal Pre-Kindergarten and all-day Kindergarten. The district strives to maintain small classes to enable students to receive individualized instruction. Guided reading and writing is the foundation of the elementary curriculum and is integrated into the NYS Common Core Standards.

In addition to the state required curriculum, the district provides many other course offerings and electives. Alexandria Central participates in the Jefferson EDGE program, where students are concurrently enrolled in high school and college courses that count for college credit. The EDGE program is NACREP (National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Programs) accredited.

Many of the high school students attend vocational and technical training programs through Jefferson-Lewis BOCES. Students also have the opportunity to make-up course credits through the PLATO credit recovery program.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Local opportunities in higher education are available at Jefferson Community College, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Potsdam, Syracuse University, St. Lawrence University, Clarkson University, SUNY Canton college of Technology, and Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Jefferson Community College also has formal collaborations for four year and Masters programs through Empire State College and the SUNY Consortia.

Alexandria Central School also serves as a Red Cross approved disaster center, which can be used during emergencies.

Library

A library is an important community facility that provides a central location for the public to access reading and other research materials. Typical library collections include a variety of materials on many different topics and in different formats. Most libraries house books and digital materials while providing access to regional library loan systems. The presence of a library in a community enhances the overall quality of life for area residents.

The Macsherry Library on Walton Street in the Village is open to the public Monday thru Saturday, and keeps the same hours year round. They offer all kinds of fiction and non-fiction, reference, cookbooks, children's books, gardening books, etc. If they don't have a book you're looking for, they can likely order it through interlibrary loan. They also have books on tape and CD, and a modest selection of movies for borrowing. If

CHAPTER 4.

you need to check your email or surf the web, you can visit the computer room or use their free Wifi.

The library also hosts a weekly story hour, as well as a number of community events such as craft fairs, movie nights, and a silent auction.

Medical Services

River Hospital is an independent hospital that provides access to primary health care to seasonal and year-round citizens in Alexandria Bay and surrounding communities. Some of the services the hospital is able to perform are ambulatory surgeries, emergency services, cardiopulmonary procedures, radiology, laboratory services, physical therapy and behavioral health for both civilians and military.

In addition, the hospital operates River Family Health Center which provides comprehensive family health care for day to day health concerns.

Water/Sewer

As of 2013, the Village of Alexandria Bay treatment plant (capacity of 1,000,000 gallons per day) served the village and 4 other town districts. The town districts include Redwood Water District, Edgewood Water District, Carnegie Bay Water District and the Otter Street Water District. Flow records from 2009 to 2012 indicated average daily flow for 2012 was 203,315 gallons per

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

day with maximum daily demand of 487,000 gallons in July of 2011.

The Otter Street Water District was completed in December of 2012, which added 10,529 gallons per day in demand.

A new Water District along NYS Route 12 will be similar to the village district and existing town districts, in that it will be comprised of seasonal and year round residential and commercial users.

While the new district is anticipated to add 17,100 gallons per day in treated water demand, there is still room for growth within the district according to the preliminary engineering report. The table below summarizes the total anticipated usage for the village, as well as the existing and proposed water districts to be supplied by the village.

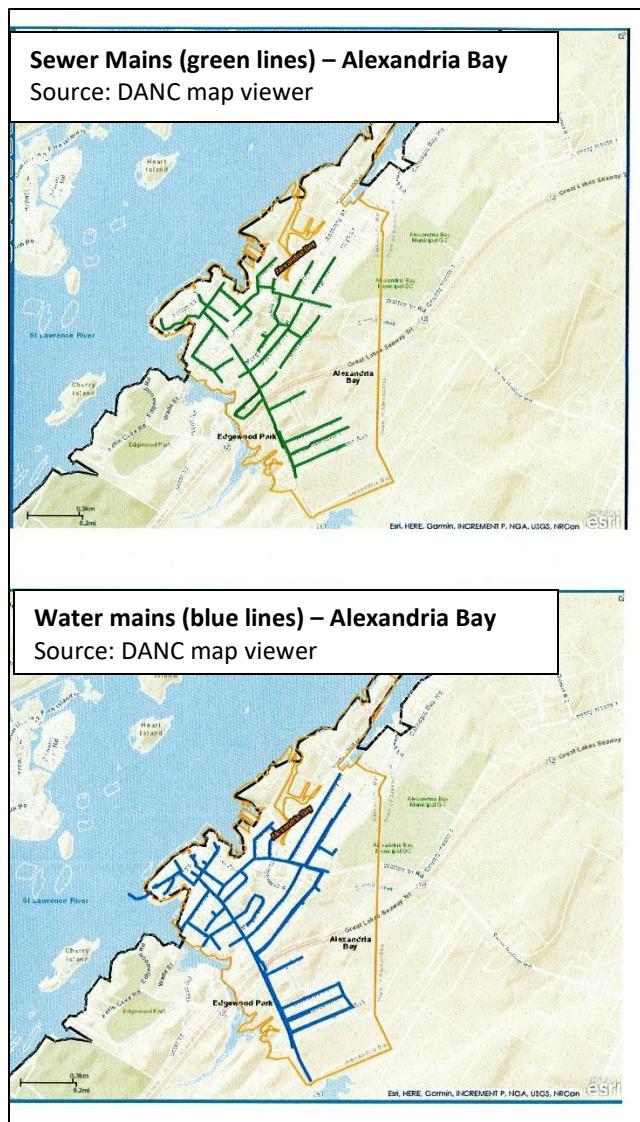
Town of Alexandria – Water Districts supplied by Alexandria Bay (V)		
District	Average Daily usage (GPD)	Peak usage gallons
Village and current Districts	203,315	487,000
Otter St WD	10,529	25,270
NYS Rte 12 WD	17,100	41,040
NYS Rte 12 WD (future growth)	3,750	9,000
Total	234,694	562,310

Source: Fourth Coast, Inc.

The proposed distribution system for the new NYS Route 12 Water District was: 16,970 feet of 12", 1,160 feet of 10", 685 feet of 8", and 160 feet of 6" water mains

CHAPTER 4.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES



along Route 12 from Otter Street to the Interstate 81 Interchange. The village's existing 10" water mains are capable of delivering up to 1,800 gallons per minute to the proposed pump station site. Hydrants were to be placed at a maximum spacing of every 600 feet.

Town Sewer Districts exist in the Hamlet of Redwood and a portion of NYS Route 12 near Interstate 81. Much of the remaining area

along NYS Route 12 is part of a proposed sewer district described below.

The new NYS Route 12 sewer district connects to the Orleans/Alexandria Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is expected to service the bulk of the remaining sections of developable land along NYS Route 12 between the existing served area and the Village, except for the New York State Park properties. The Plant is currently permitted for a 30 day average flow of 197,000 GPD. However, the Plant will be expanded to a capacity of 390,000 GPD. More information about the new sewer district can be obtained from the Town or the Town's Engineer.

Recreational Facilities

Alexandria Bay and Alexandria's riverfront and island areas provide the backbone for the area's major industry, namely seasonal tourism and resort based activities. Tourism is a major component of the Village's economy. The Thousand Islands region and the Village have attracted visitors since great hotels and summer homes began to be built in the second half of the nineteenth century. The region offers unlimited options for sightseeing, lodging, dining, fishing, boating and other water related activities for residents and visitors to the area. There are a number of hospitality and service businesses in the Village and Town. Along the shoreline are numerous marinas and boat launches, both public and private.

The Village's largest public park is Scenic View Park, consisting of 3.6 acres on and over a large rock outcrop and island that

CHAPTER 4.

overlooks the St. Lawrence River's shipping channel, Bolt Castle, and several of the Thousand Islands. Scenic View Park consists of a public beach, playground, and large public pavilion with bathroom facilities that overlooks Casino Island complete with a footbridge that crosses part of the St. Lawrence River. It also has picnic tables along walking pathways that connect to the riverwalk which goes along the shoreline in front of River Hospital to Cornwall Brothers museum and store. The Riverwalk provides the closest public view of Boldt Castle short of riding in a boat.

Along the St. Lawrence River, there are a number of scuba diving opportunities. One of the most popular scuba sites is a dive park located in the Village, just north of the hospital. The park offers parking, easy access, entry and support. The main attraction of the site is the wreck of "The Islander", an 1871 side-wheel steamship in 40 feet of water, but there are other dive sites of interest in the area as well.

The Carnegie Bay Trail offers approximately 2.5 miles of hiking just outside of the Village of Alexandria Bay.

The Village Municipal Golf Course is a nine hole public golf course that has carts available with 9, and 18 hole rates. Season passes are also available. Another recreation option is the "Back Nine" trail, jointly owned by the Town and Village. It is a 2.5 mile trail located on the perimeter of the Town and Village line, which is open to the public as a walking trail in the summertime and as a cross-country ski or snowshoe trail in the

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

winter. The school also uses the trail for many of its classes.

Ice skating appears to receive considerable support in the Town of Alexandria and Village of Alexandria Bay. While there is an ice arena in the Village, owned by the Town, residents who skate and have used facilities in neighboring communities, indicate the need for a larger and upgraded facility with additional fan capacity, better ice surface and locker rooms, more parking, and adequate handicapped accessibility throughout.

The Village, being located in heart of the Thousand Islands Region of the NYS Parks system, means it is also close to many state parks including Keewaydin, Kring Point, and Mary Island in the Town, as well as Grass Point, Wellesley Island, and Rock Island Lighthouse State Parks, all within less than a mile. During the summer months, the parks offer visitors destination opportunities for camping, fishing, boating, picnicking as well as visiting a historic lighthouse. Winter activities include cross-country skiing and ice fishing at most of the parks as well.

During the winter months, the Thousand Islands Snowmobile Club maintains a NYS Snowmobile Corridor trail stretching from near the Village of Alexandria Bay and travels through the Town to Clayton, Cape Vincent, Chaumont, Depauville and LaFargeville. It also now connects northward into St. Lawrence County's trail system. The snowmobile club is continuing to grow in membership and to date, has over 80 miles of trails. Linkages to services such as gas,

CHAPTER 4.

food and lodging have been advantageous to helping snowmobile corridor businesses during the off-season.

Otter Creek Preserve is a 107 acre preserve in the Village of Alexandria Bay. The forested areas serve as breeding habitats for neotropical migratory song birds. Also, the combination of mature oak/pine ridges and field edges serve as habitat for a variety of raptors including Osprey, Bald Eagles, Barred Owls, Great-horned Owls, Red-tailed Hawks, etc. The preserve also features freshwater wetlands, including NY State designated Class I wetlands. Grasslands on the preserve are ideal nesting habitat for NY State threatened grassland species, including Henslow's Sparrow, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark, as well as migrating waterfowl.

Opened in Fall 2015, Otter Creek Preserve now offers 1.9 miles of trail for walking, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. It also offers dramatic views of both Otter and Lynch Creek. A wildlife observation tower overlooks the Golden-winged Warbler Demonstration Area, highlighting Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) shrubland bird management. A cable suspension bridge connects the trail system and gives you the feeling of being in deep woods. The lower section of the observation is ADA accessible and offers an ADA loop through the shrublands as well.

Another TILT preserve, Crooked Creek Preserve, located in the Towns of Alexandria and Hammond, consists of 1,525 acres of class I wetlands, uplands and forest along Crooked Creek. It is one of the most

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

significant wetlands on the St. Lawrence River. The creek meanders for miles and can be used for paddling or putting in your outboard.

A highlight of the preserve is the Macsherry Trail, given to TILT by the children of Dick & Mary Macsherry in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. The trail has become a popular destination for hikers and naturalists. Roughly three miles long, it begins at a trail head off of Indian Point Road in Hammond. Passing beaver ponds and meandering through woods, it leads to the creek itself with a wonderful view of Chippewa Bay, before circling back to the trail head.

The preserve is also a popular destination for snowshoe treks and is available for hunting, with prior permission from TILT.

The Cranberry Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 13.4 acre tract of NYS DEC owned land, located north of the Village of Alexandria Bay on Swan Hollow Road.

Cranberry Creek WMA consists of wooded upland and wetland that includes a deep emergent marsh. The habitat supports rare reptiles and birds like the Blanding's turtle and least bittern, warm water fish, furbearers, and waterfowl.

The WMA also has a memorial grave site dedicated to the American soldiers that died during the War of 1812 Battle of Cranberry Creek. There are informational signs depicting the history of the battle.

CHAPTER 4.

Cranberry Creek WMA offers recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, bird watching and hiking. There is a short foot trail from the parking area allowing easy access to the memorial gravesite and the water.

Recreation Needs

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standard, ten acres of park and recreation related open space should be provided for every 1,000 people. While this standard has been used by many municipalities for years, recreational planners are now recommending that communities use the standards as a starting point and determine what the specific recreation needs are for their area. When this standard is applied to the Village, with a 2017 estimated population of 1,057 residents, the minimal amount of park and recreation open space recommended is approximately 10 acres.

Developed park and recreational facility acreage owned by the Village such as Scenic View Park is 3.6 acres, Capt. Thomson's Playground is 0.44 acres, while the Alexandria Central School ball-fields are on a 24 acre parcel.

Certain types of recreational facilities rely on population density to determine the level of need. The population density within the Village was 1,382 people per square mile in 2010.

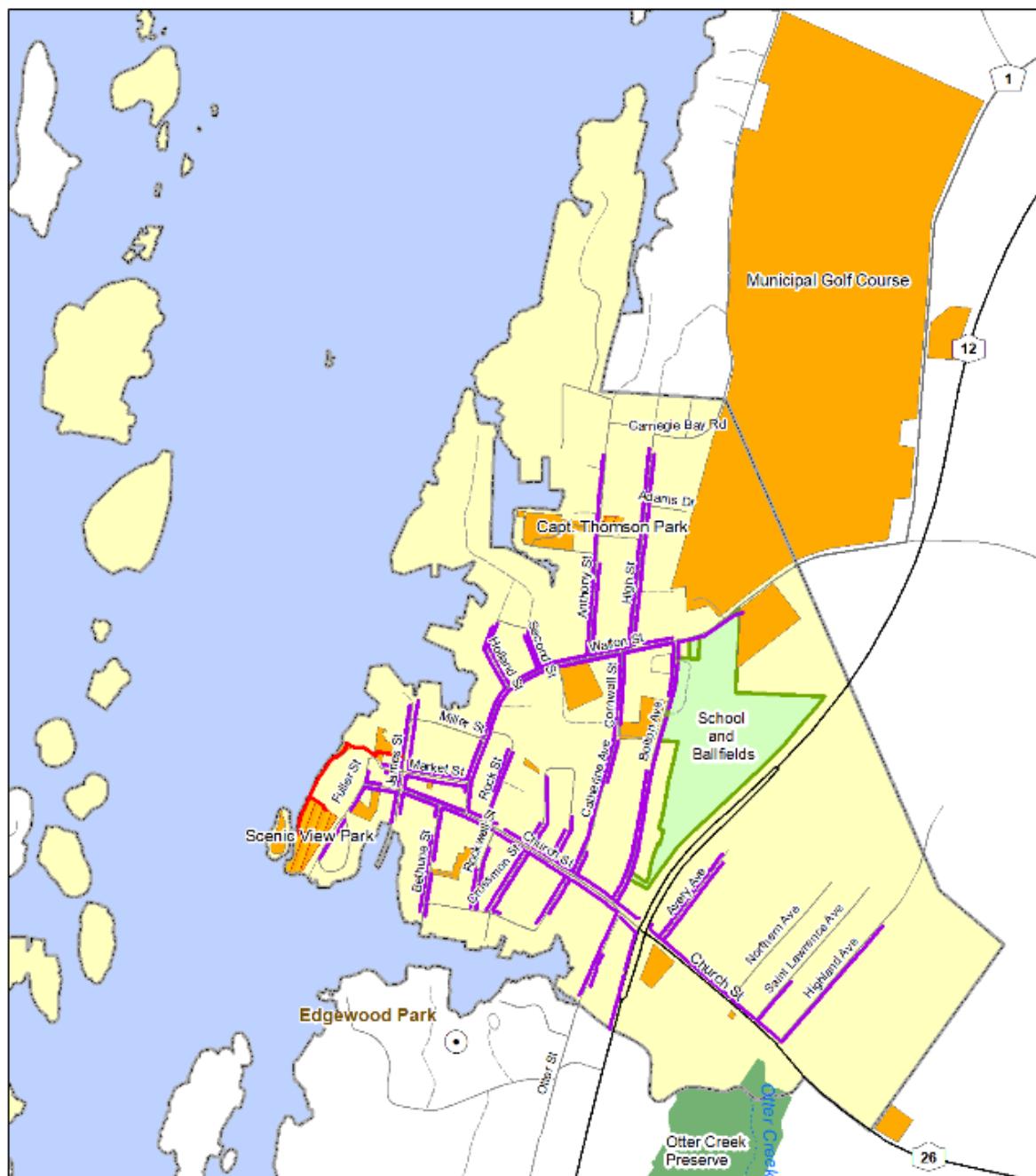
According to the NRPA, playgrounds are the chief center of outdoor play for children up

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

to twelve years of age. They also offer some opportunities for recreation for younger adults and families. Playlots should be provided for preschool children up to six years of age, primarily in conjunction with multi-family developments and where desirable, in single-family neighborhoods which are remote from elementary schools.

It is recommended that three acres of playgrounds and/or playlots be provided for every 250 families. According to the 2012-2016 Census estimate, there were 282 families in the Village. Therefore, there should be a little over three acres in the Village. Scenic View Park has a ship themed playground, while Capt. Thomson's Playground on the corner of Anthony and Cross Streets within the eastern side of the Village has traditional playground equipment.

Playfields are multipurpose recreation areas, primarily for the use of adolescents and young adults. They often include athletic fields for such organized sports as baseball, football, soccer and track while playgrounds for the use of smaller children are also often included on the same site. Per NRPA standards, three acres of playfield space should be provided for each 1,000 persons served. According to this standard, there should be approximately three acres of playfields provided within the Village. Currently there are playfields within the Village at the school, with two baseball diamonds, a skinned softball diamond and three soccer fields when the baseball diamonds are not in use. In addition, the



Recreational Facilities Village of Alexandria Bay Area

0 1,000 2,000
Feet
Sources: Jefferson County Real Property Tax Services,
NYS Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination

Legend

- Riverwalk
- Sidewalk
- (●) NYS DEC Boat Launches



Recreation Areas

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Property Type | |
| ■ State Park or other State Lnd | |
| ■ TOWN or VILLAGE Property | |
| ■ SCHOOL | |
| ■ IRLCI; TILT; NC (Land Trusts) | |

Facility type

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| ■ Golf Course |
| ■ Municipal Park/Playground |
| ■ New York State |

Map prepared by
Jefferson County Department of Planning
September 2018

CHAPTER 4.

Village contains public tennis courts and a golf course.

Standards indicate a need for one skating site for every 2,500 residents. The Town and Village's population would indicate a need for one and a half skating facilities. An outdoor skating area could be considered a half-site. However, the standard and strong local support would seem to place a high priority on the development of another site beyond the current aging facility that has limited capacity for fans, locker rooms, parking and handicapped accessibility.

Community Facility and Recreational Priorities:

- ✓ In conjunction with the Village priority for sidewalk safety and maintenance, continue to seek ways to enhance and expand the existing sidewalk systems and trails to fill gaps and enhance connectivity throughout the Village.
- ✓ Explore opportunities to expand the existing farmer's market open from the end of May to the mid September annually, and examine the potential need to find a centrally located venue a walkable distance from more village residents with adequate parking.
- ✓ Promote winter-time village recreation opportunities while exploring feasible options.
- ✓ Consider developing wintertime recreational activities at the golf course such as skating on a frozen pond or flooded area, sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or other
- winter activities that could be utilized with the Village Offices used as a warming center/bathroom facilities.
- ✓ Focus on sidewalk and trail connections in the village to provide enhanced pedestrian access and flow leading to enhanced walkability.
- ✓ Enhance/upgrade boat launch facilities with more parking or dockage as use levels or crowding may warrant.
- ✓ Explore funding sources to upgrade the skating arena or construct a larger, more efficient arena outside the Village that could offer state of the art support services, accommodating events to serve as a year-round destination with more parking spaces, capacity for more fans with an enhanced fan experience, also be truly handicapped accessible throughout.
- ✓ Consider promoting destination information or a link on the village's website to the Chamber website that includes recreation information including parks, trails, docks, shopping, restaurants and other tourism related information.
- ✓ Incorporate recreational ideas and recommendations from the Design Charrette process still relevant today for future project and amenity needs.
- ✓ Consider simple but coordinated way-finding signage for pedestrians to locate parks, businesses, and other landmarks throughout the Village to enhance the user experience and promote pedestrian use to limit walker\traffic conflicts.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- ✓ Consider simple but coordinated way-finding signage for vehicles to locate public parking areas, public parks, public docks and boat launches, etc.
- ✓ Examine the feasibility of extending the wooden Riverwalk through to Scenic Park along the water to safely maintain its continuity further up the St. Lawrence River.