

## **KIWANIS CLUB ISSUE CHALLENGE HELP BUILD FORT DE LA PRÉSENTATION INTERPRETIVE CENTER**

**OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK, May 26, 2011** – The Kiwanis Club in Ogdensburg, NY has challenged more than 20 service clubs to match or top the club’s donation of \$15,000 over three years to the Monumental Phase of the Campaign for Fort de la Présentation.

The Kiwanis Service Group Challenge Committee is spurring regional fraternal groups and social organizations to support the Fort La Présentation Association’s efforts to construct an Interpretive Center on Ogdensburg’s Lighthouse Point. The Fort Association owns the 22-acre property by the St. Lawrence River, which it is developing as a major heritage tourism site.

“In evaluating where we can have the most impact, the Kiwanis Club felt the Fort’s Interpretive Center project was a key cause to support at this time,” said Billy Hosmer, co-chair of the Kiwanis Service Group Challenge Committee. “Even without a building on the site, the events the Fort sponsors bring thousands of visitors and their dollars to Ogdensburg and surrounding communities each year.”

“They’ve proven themselves, and the building they have planned will help the Fort have an even stronger impact on the region,” Hosmer added.

The Ogdensburg Kiwanis Club was one of the first groups to help when efforts to reconstruct the Fort were revitalized by the Fort Association in 1999. Ogdensburg is rooted in the founding of Fort de la Présentation in 1749.

“Kiwanis believed in us before a lot of other people did,” said Barbara O’Keefe, Fort La Présentation Association President. “Through the years, they’ve helped us behind the scenes and with sponsoring our annual activities. They have seen us go from a small group of history buffs to pulling off major heritage events that attract people from all over the world.”

“We’re delighted that the Kiwanis Club has chosen to issue this challenge, and with the generous lead gift they’ve made to kick it off,” she added. “We are already thinking about fun ways we can individually recognize all the groups who get behind us – history can be very entertaining!”

Some clubs can give more than others, but every contribution helps the Fort Association reach its goals.

“If we can get to \$100,000, the Fort will name one of the rooms in the new Interpretive Center in honor of the spirit of community service that our groups represent,” said John Pinkerton, co-chair of the Kiwanis Service Group Challenge Committee. “We really felt that it was the time for us, as service, fraternal and social clubs, to stand up for the Fort project. If we lead the way, others will follow.”