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For Immediate Release

HUDSON CROSSING BI-COUNTY EDUCATIONAL PARK

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Hudson Crossing Park Receives \$4000 from Washington County Association of Snowmobile Clubs towards Rehabilitation of Dix Bridge

Northumberland, NY – On a chilly Sunday morning, January 23, the **Washington County Association of Snowmobile Clubs** (www.wcasc.snowclubs.com) presented **Hudson Crossing Park** (www.hudsoncrossingpark.org) with a check of \$4000 as their contribution towards the local match of the transportation enhancement grant awarded to **rehabilitate Dix Bridge**.

Please see attached photo. Attending the ceremony from left to right are:

Dave Linendoll, WCASC President
Claudia Irwin, Hartford Ridge Riders
Mike Irwin, Hartford Ridge Riders
Sara Idleman, Supervisor, Town of Greenwich
Tom Richardson, Supervisor, City of Mechanicville
George Morrow, Battenkill Snow Drifters
Judy Dashnaw, Kingsbury Barnstormers
Doug Brownell, Sno-Kats
Marlene Bissell, President, Hudson Crossing
Cliff Howard, Greenwich Trail Blazers
Hank Dashnaw, Kingsbury Barnstormers
Dave Perkins, WCASC
Ben Gaines, Hoosick Trail Masters
Ed Leonard, Kingsbury Barnstormers
Jason Hammond, Greenwich Trail Blazers

Hudson Crossing Park has been leading the charge to rehabilitate the historic bridge since it was closed in 1999. Marlene Bissell, president of Hudson Crossing Park said, “The Washington County Association of Snowmobile Clubs, with Dave Perkins at the helm have been exceptionally supportive of Hudson Crossing Park and rehabilitating the Dix Bridge. We are so grateful!”

(more)



(WCASC donates \$4000 towards Rehab of Dix Bridge – page 2)

The clubs of the Association value the opportunity to put in place a safe, non-ice trail crossing from Washington County into Saratoga County. With the restored Dix Bridge providing the trail connection, snowmobilers will finally be able to ride from many parts of New York State into Washington County and access the excellent trail systems of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The clubs that donated \$500 from their own fund-raising efforts include Battenkill Snowdrifters, Granville Border Riders, Greenwich Trail Blazers, Hartford Ridge Riders, Hoosic Trail Masters, Kingsbury Barnstormers, Sno-Kats and Northern Washington County Trails Blazers.

Additional information:

The Board of Directors of Hudson Crossing Park undertook the challenge to preserve the Dix Bridge over ten years ago. In a pro-active intermunicipal effort, Saratoga and Washington Counties, the Towns of Saratoga, Northumberland, and Greenwich, and the Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership have come together to preserve a significant piece of history and provide safe passage over the Hudson River for hundreds of pedestrians, bicyclists, and snowmobilers. Funding for this significant project will be acquired primarily through a federal transportation enhancement program. Local organizations and agencies are coming together to provide the remaining funds necessary.

Engineers from Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. have begun work on plans to rehabilitate the historic Dix Bridge. Extensive structural inspections have taken place to ensure proper stabilization of the bridge. Work on the Dix Bridge will commence in 2011. It is hoped the Bridge will re-open as a shared use recreational trail late in 2012. The bridge will not be open to automobiles.

In addition to providing safe passage across the Hudson River for snowmobilers, the Dix Bridge will serve as the link between Saratoga and Washington Counties for the NYS Canalway Trail. In the near future, a 67 mile-long Champlain Canalway Trail will link communities from Whitehall to Waterford and join the Erie Canalway Trail leading to Buffalo. The economic benefit of the Canalway Trail statewide was estimated in 2007 to be \$27,705,731.* The new Champlain Canalway Trail will help bring a portion of those dollars to our local communities.

* Eric Mower and Associates, Economic Impact Study of Canal Tourism, 2007, page 19.

For more information about this event or the Hudson Crossing Bi-County Park, please call Marlene Bissell at 518.859.1462 or visit: www.hudsoncrossingpark.org. Hudson Crossing is a bi-county educational park project centered on and near the Champlain Canal Lock 5 Island of the Hudson River.