

Conversation with the Mayor - January 18, 2010  
Vicky Daly

## **Random Thoughts**

There is so much going on, so many extra events between Thanksgiving and the first of the year, that tasks, meetings, obligations which can be postponed often are shunted off until 'after the holidays'. I think it has been always thus. This year is no different and now, in mid January, we are playing catch up. This used to be called the 'lull after the holidays'. No more. We are back to business with a vengeance. There is no choice because our responsibilities continue.

What has struck me this year, as I go to meeting after meeting, is that so many of them have the same goal – collaboration. The Commissioners of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission adopted a workplan which calls for partnering with communities within the Canal Corridor. The village officials in Wayne County are planning on cross advertising and collaboration. Merchants advertise together. County school officials are investigating a regional high school option. Palmyra Village and Town have been collaborating for years in multiple realms to the benefit of residents of both municipalities. We collaborate successfully with other municipalities as well. It is just the way things need to happen in our present fiscal climate.

Money aside, it is a good thing to do. Each municipality has its own distinct personality and one has to assume that, for the most part, its residents must like it that way or they would change it. That personality or reputation derives from more than just its appearance, although that is a huge part. It comes also from how it is perceived through its people and its government. Do they play well with others? Do they see the big picture and realize that for not just survival, but prosperity, there must be interaction? Are they proud of their community and what they bring to the county? If they do, it shows and is appreciated.