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REPORT:

A. Border Related News Media

Border Counter-Narcotics Strategy Meet Held Locally Watertown Daily Times – May 6, 2011

Richard S. Hartunian, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, convened a meeting of regional law enforcement leaders with White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Deputy Director Benjamin B. Tucker on May 2nd - 3rd in Massena and Lake Placid concerning development of a northern border counter-narcotics strategy. The meeting was prompted by the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act of 2010, which was signed into law in January and requires the Office of National Drug Control Policy to develop and submit to Congress within 180 days a northern border counter-narcotics strategy. Federal agencies participating in the meeting included the Drug Enforcement Administration; Homeland Security Investigations (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), the Border Patrol, the Coast Guard, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations, the Customs and Border Protection Office of Air & Marine, and the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. State agencies participating included the New York Department of Public Safety, the New York State Police, the New York Office of Homeland Security, the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, and the New York National Guard Counterdrug Detachment. The Chiefs of Police for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department and Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service participated, as did the Franklin County District Attorney, Jefferson County District Attorney, and representatives of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Ontario Provincial Police. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), a component of the Executive Office of the President, was established by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. The principal purpose of ONDCP is to establish policies, priorities, and objectives for the nation's drug control program. The goals of the program are to reduce illicit drug use, manufacturing, and trafficking, drug-related crime and violence, and drug-related health consequences. ONDCP also evaluates, coordinates, and oversees both the international and domestic anti-drug efforts of executive branch agencies and ensures that such efforts sustain and complement state and local anti-drug activities. ONDCP includes the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program, which enhances and coordinates drug control efforts among local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies. Four of the border counties in the Northern District of New York -

Clinton, Franklin, Jefferson, and St. Lawrence counties - are included in the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. The Northern District of New York borders Canada for about 300 miles, and includes the St. Regis Mohawk territory, or Akwesasne, where the St. Lawrence Seaway turns north and away from the international boundary, and eight of the eleven ports of entry in New York. A large volume of people and goods pass through the northern border from the major population centers of Canada into the United States. Criminal organizations smuggle drugs by capitalizing on the significant volume of commerce and travel between nations and the remote forests, fields, and waterways straddling the international boundary. United States Attorney Hartunian thanked ONDCP Deputy Director Tucker for coming to the Northern District of New York and thanked the regional law enforcement leaders for communicating the challenges faced and their ideas for a strategy to meet those challenges. United States Attorney Hartunian said, "We recognize the national significance of northern border security and understand that international drug trafficking destroys lives and communities and provides funds and routes that increase the terrorist threat. "Federal, state, local, tribal, and Canadian law enforcement agencies work cooperatively to combat international drug smuggling and trafficking, and these efforts can be enhanced by the sort of national emphasis reflected in the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act. "We have had many successful investigations and prosecutions of criminal organizations that smuggled thousands of pounds of high-potency marijuana or thousands of ecstasy tablets into the United States for distribution, and are grateful for the thorough and courageous work done by law enforcement officers along and near the border every day."

Border security to get a boost
Watertown Daily Times – May 4, 2011

Additional border security is coming to Massena, Sen. Charles E. Schumer announced Tuesday. Mr. Schumer, D-N.Y., said the Obama administration will set up a multiagency team to boost border security — including additional border agents — while smoothing commercial transportation between Northern New York and Canada. While exact figures weren't available, the cost of the team is expected to be less than \$1 million. The effort is a result of funding Mr. Schumer and other lawmakers secured last month in a spending bill covering all federal agencies — a measure that also averted a government shutdown. It covers the fiscal year through Sept. 30. The effort is led by U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement but also will involve Mohawk tribal police as well as local, state and Canadian law enforcement. In addition to additional ICE agents to be stationed at Massena, the funding will expand border facilities there to accommodate the changes and expand a downtown Massena building housing the federal agency, officials said. A similar team is in place near Buffalo and has improved enforcement against smuggling, Mr. Schumer's office said. "This team will go a long way towards making our border safer," Mr. Schumer said in a news release. In pressing for the team in Massena, Mr. Schumer has cited a need to crack down on smuggling of aliens and drugs, primarily across the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation. The decision to establish the team, called a border enforcement security task force, came from the Department of Homeland Security, after Congress passed sufficient funding to allow it. Mr. Schumer had urged the department to put more resources generally into the northern border.

More ICE Officers Coming To Massena
Watertown Daily Times – May 4, 2011

The Massena community will see an influx of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers who will comprise a new Border Enforcement Security Task Force that is expected to be established in the next one to two months. U.S. Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., who has been working on the initiative with ICE officials for approximately the past year, announced the

formation of the task force in a news release on Tuesday. There are currently 21 BEST units along the U.S.-Canadian and U.S.-Mexico border, the next closest being in Buffalo. The Massena team would consist of personnel from ICE, Customs and Border Protection, and police from local Indian tribes as well as local and state police in the United States and Canada. No numbers have been attached to the new Massena team, but the release from Sen. Schumer said he anticipates the cross-border economic development will create jobs in the region, as well as spur economic activity with the addition of the new ICE employees who will come to Massena to implement the BEST team. They will be housed in the Harrowgate Commons building that had formerly been an office for Drs. Neil and Joanne Cichetti. Developer Richard E. Maginn has received approval from village officials to expand the 3,620-square-foot building to 15,000 square feet, including a 4,550-square-foot garage. Approximately 8,600 square feet of that space will house ICE personnel, General Services Administration spokeswoman Renee M. Miscione said recently. The GSA signed off on a lease for the space with Mr. Maginn in November. Its current lease on a separate 2,450-square-foot building in Harrowgate Commons expires in 2012. Once the BEST team is in place, they would offer better protection and regulation of the New York and Canadian border, according to Sen. Schumer, who said he advocated for more funding that would focus on New York border security. He said the BEST team will coordinate joint responses from the Massena location to track and apprehend illegal cross-border activity. He said their goal is to identify, disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations from posing significant threats to border security, meaning an increased security in border communities while allowing more fluidity for cross-border businesses and job-creating economic development. "It is absolutely essential that we fully secure our northern border, with federal, state, and local law enforcement working hand-in-hand to make sure that terrorists and drug smugglers don't sneak into the United States," Sen. Schumer said in the news release. "That's why I pressed for a Border Security Task Force that will help coordinate all levels of law enforcement as we seek to improve border security. This team will go a long way towards making our border safer, and I'm going to keep pushing to make it as safe as it possibly can be," he said. Rep. William L. Owens, D-Plattsburgh, agreed that the move would be beneficial for Massena, St. Lawrence County and the border communities. "DHS clearly made a sound decision to choose Massena as a location to expand the BEST program. This funding will bring much-needed jobs to St. Lawrence County while enhancing safety and security in the region," Mr. Owens said in an e-mailed statement. "I look forward to working with local leaders to help implement the program and see the economic and national security benefits that it will bring. In conjunction with my Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act, which is now law, this program will improve border security and increase the fluidity of lawful citizens and goods across the border," he said. Officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection did not return a phone call or email for comment Tuesday.

Security at U.S.-Canadian border remains normal following bin Laden death
The Niagara Gazette - May 2, 2011

There was a "heightened state of vigilance" at international border crossings and other transportation hubs on Monday, but no significant or easily visible increase in security measures in the aftermath of the death of Osama Bin Laden. Traffic appeared to be flowing smoothly across both the Rainbow and Lewiston-Queenston bridges. Operations at Niagara Falls International Airport were described as "normal." While some people have expressed concerns about possible Al Qaeda retaliation for the death of Bin Laden, officials with the Department of Homeland Security said the task of protecting the nation has never revolved solely around Bin Laden. "We remain completely focused on protecting our nation against violent extremism of all kinds," Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said. Napolitano said there would be no increase in the recently revised National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS). "We remain at a heightened state of vigilance, but the Department of Homeland Security does not intend to issue

an NTAS alert at this time,” Napolitano said. “We will only issue alerts when we have specific or credible information to convey to the American public.” Federal law enforcement officials have said they have no specific or credible threat information at this time. A Homeland Security official, speaking on background, said there has been no significant change in the nation’s current threat assessment. “We take very seriously the threat of attacks from Al Qaeda and its affiliates, and have in fact thwarted several attempted attacks in the last two years,” the official said. “Our domestic security posture will continue to respond appropriately to protect the American people from an evolving threat picture both in the coming days and beyond.” The officials said DHS anticipates threats of retaliation, but those may not rise to the level of “credible threats.” “This is an organization that declared war on the United States more than a decade ago — threats from Al Qaeda are not a new phenomenon,” he said. “We remain at a heightened state of vigilance and our security posture, which always includes a number of measures both seen and unseen, will continue to protect the American people from an evolving threat picture both in the next days and beyond.” Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster said the city has responded to calls from Gov. Andrew Cuomo for “heightened vigilance.” The mayor declined to discuss any specific actions city police might take, but added that the department has not been made aware of any credible threats at this time. “Obviously, we react when the state makes changes in its alert status,” Dyster said. “Obviously, there are a lot of agencies that are involved in security in our region as well.” Agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection declined to comment on the record, however, they stressed they are keeping a close watch on the Niagara Region’s border crossings. “CBP continually evaluates the latest threats and screening measures, which are implemented based on the latest intelligence,” a Homeland Security official said. “As always, those utilizing our ports of entry may notice a variety of security measures. We ask the traveling public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the authorities.”

Amtrak's Albany-to-Montreal service to resume today
Plattsburgh Press Republican - May 5, 2011

Amtrak is resuming passenger service between Albany and Montreal, a day after trains were halted because of flooding along a stretch of tracks in the eastern Adirondacks. CP Rail owns the north-south tracks used by Amtrak, which runs one train each way daily between Montreal and the Albany-area station. CP Rail closed the tracks Wednesday just north of Whitehall after they were inundated by flooding. Whitehall is located on Lake Champlain's South Bay 65 miles north of Albany. Amtrak used buses to transport passengers between Albany and Montreal. Amtrak says train service between the two cities will resume Thursday morning. The eastern Adirondacks sustained millions of dollars in damage after several days of rain last week caused major flooding in the region.

Chamber Endorses Bridge Funding Plan
Watertown Daily Times – May 5, 2011

The need for additional government funding to fully overhaul the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge was given a key local endorsement Wednesday. The Greater Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce unanimously approved a resolution supporting the span's owner, the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, and its campaign to secure \$95 million. OBPA officials have said the funding is needed to ensure the 1.4-mile crossing's good condition. The authority is currently implementing a \$22 million rehabilitation of the bridge. The Chamber's resolution made it clear that the span is an important tool for economic development. "The Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge is an international conduit for the annual movement of an estimated \$3 billion in goods between the United States and Canada and the commercial and passenger traffic is vital to New York and its residents," the resolution said. The 61-year-old bridge, according to

the resolution, "provides an essential linkage to Canadian investment and job creation in a region that suffers from one of the highest unemployment and per capita incomes in all of New York State." The 500,000 vehicles that cross the bridge annually, Chamber President Jack F. McGrath said, contain the antidote to those unencouraging statistics. "I think that it's paramount to the economy of this area," Mr. McGrath said. The \$22 million rehabilitation of the bridge is scheduled to be finished later this year. The \$95 million project will take three years to complete and, according to OBPA officials, create 741 construction jobs. Copies of the resolution will be sent to Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and federal and state elected officials.

PM says he won't move Canada hard to the right
Buffalo News – May 3, 2011

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Tuesday he won't shift to the hard right after his Conservatives won a long-sought majority in Canada's Parliament. Monday's election marks a change in the country's political landscape with opposition Liberals and Quebec separatists suffering a punishing defeat. Harper said the Conservatives won their mandate because of the way they've governed so far and sought to allay fears he would implement a hidden right wing agenda. Harper, who took office in 2006, has won two elections but until Monday's vote had never held a majority of Parliament's 308 seats, forcing him to rely on the opposition to pass legislation. Harper has deliberately avoided sweeping policy changes, but now has an opportunity to pass any legislation he wants with his new majority. "We got that mandate because the way we have governed and Canadians expect us to continue to move forward in the same way," said Harper, who has incrementally moved Canada to the right. In past elections, Harper did not explicitly ask for a majority to avoid raising fears among Canadians that they would implement a hidden right-wing agenda and on Tuesday sought to reassure the country of his commitment to public health care. "I think we've made it very clear that we support Canada's system of universal public health insurance," Harper said after the Conservatives won 167 seats, which will give him four years of uninterrupted government. While Harper's hold on Parliament has been tenuous during his five-year tenure, he has managed to nudge an instinctively center-left country to the right, gradually lowering sales and corporate taxes, avoiding climate change legislation and promoting Arctic sovereignty. He has also upped military spending, extended Canada's military mission in Afghanistan and staunchly backed Israel's right-wing government. The White House said President Barack Obama called Harper to congratulate him on his victory and said Obama is looking forward to renewing a commitment to improve security and trade along the border. Harper also congratulated Obama for his successful operation against Osama bin Laden. Despite their political differences, Harper is said to get on better with Obama than he did with George W. Bush, possibly preferring the current U.S. president's cerebral style to his predecessor's backslapping Texan charm. Harper appeared happier than ever Tuesday. "I obviously am feeling great," said Harper, who joked that his staff forced him to take a swig from a champagne bottle after his big victory. Meanwhile, Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff announced he will step down from the post following the party's worst defeat in history. Ignatieff even lost his own seat in a Toronto suburb. Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe also lost his own seat and immediately resigned after French-speaking voters in Quebec indicated they had grown weary with the separatist party, which had a shocking drop to four seats from 47 in the last Parliament. Harper said he was disappointed the Conservatives didn't benefit from the dramatic shift in votes in Quebec but said he was encouraged the shift is toward federalism and he took some credit for it. "As a Canadian and a federalist I am encouraged by the collapse of Bloc," Harper said. "I believe that the way we've been managing the federation and our relations, our significant and important relations with Quebec, have made a big difference in bringing about that change for the benefit of the entire country and now for the benefit of the NDP." The leftist New Democratic Party went from one seat in Quebec to 58 and became the main opposition party, with 102 seats overall,

tripling their overall support in a stunning setback for the Liberals who have always been either in power or leading the opposition. The Liberals, who ruled Canada for much of the last century, dropped to 34 seats overall from 77 - finishing third for the first time in Canadian history. The Conservatives had blitzed the country with TV ads targeting the Liberals' leader, running them even during telecasts of the Academy Awards and the Super Bowl. The ads made relentless use of the more than 30 years Ignatieff lived in Europe and the U.S. "Michael Ignatieff. Just visiting," went one election ad. "Back in Canada. But for how long?" mocked another. Ignatieff said the Conservatives engaged in a "absolutely unscrupulous campaign of personal attack" but said he's not going out a sore loser. Harper was helped by the NDP surge, which split the left-of-center vote in many districts, handing victory to Conservative candidates, especially in Ontario, where the Liberals were decimated in their last national stronghold. Former colleagues of Harper say his long-term goals are to shatter the image of the Liberals - the party of former Prime Ministers Jean Chretien, Lester Pearson and Pierre Trudeau - as the natural party of government in Canada, and to redefine what it means to be Canadian. Stephen Clarkson, a professor of political science at the University of Toronto, said the 52-year-old Harper should now be considered a transformative figure in Canadian history. "It's a sea change," Clarkson said. The New Democrats' gains are being attributed to Layton's strong performance in the debates, a folksy, upbeat message, and a desire by the French-speakers in Quebec, the second most populous province, for a new face and a federalist option after two decades of supporting a separatist party in Ottawa. Bruce Hicks, a political scientist at the Universite de Montreal, said that the Bloc had originally answered the need for a Quebec protest, but had never converted that support into a long-term political identity. Hicks said separatism was still an important force, despite the province's rejection of the Bloc. The provincial separatist Parti Quebecois are expected to take power in the next provincial election. "I would caution anyone to think that the independence movement is dead at any time," said Hicks. Many Quebecers said they liked the NDP's social democrat ideology and expressed weariness with the Bloc Quebecois. "I was just a bit tired of them talking about separation," said Emma Potvin, a 29-year-old server in Montreal. "I haven't seen a difference with the Bloc Quebecois, and I thought it would be good to have a national party." The NDP's gains marked a remarkable shift in a campaign that started out weeks ago looking like a straight battle between Harper and Ignatieff, a distinguished academic, with the 60-year-old Layton recovering from prostate cancer and a broken hip. Harper counted on the economy to help hand him the majority. Canada has outperformed other major industrialized democracies through the financial crisis, recovering almost all the jobs lost during the recession while its banking sector remains intact. He said he would continue his plan to create jobs and growth without raising taxes. The Conservatives have built support in rural areas and with the "Tim Hortons crowd" - a reference to a chain of doughnut shops popular with working class Canadians. Harper plans to pass a budget and toughen Canada's crime laws when Parliament resumes. He also plans to cut off public subsidies for political parties, something that will further harm the centrist Liberals who have had trouble raising funds. Gerry Nicholls, who worked under Harper at a conservative think tank, has said that having the New Democrats as the main opposition party would be ideal for Harper because it would define Canadian politics in clearer terms of left vs. right.

Canadian unemployment rate slips to 7.6 percent
Buffalo News - May 6, 2011

Canada's economy created 58,300 jobs last month, bringing the unemployment rate down to 7.6 percent, matching the lowest jobless level since the early months of the recession, a reporting agency said Friday. Statistics Canada said most of the gains were in the service sector, and almost all of them were in Ontario. Although the jobs increase was dominated by part-timers, there were 17,200 new full-time jobs created in April. April's gains bring the year-over-year increase in employment to 283,000, enabling the recovery of all the full-time jobs that were lost in the 2008-

2009 recession. The encouraging signals stopped the recent slide in the Canadian dollar, which rose by almost one US cent in early morning trading to 104.25 US cents, largely reversing Thursday's 1.05 US cent dip. Economists had expected a more modest 20,000-job pickup following a weak March. "This is a pretty encouraging report," said Douglas Porter of BMO Capital Markets. "There was a sense we could be hit by a negative jobs report, but what we see this morning is that the recovery continues to roll forward." Using a three-month average, jobs have risen at an average of 24,000 job gains a month and full-time employment by 28,000 a month, a strong forward momentum, Porter pointed out. The U.S. jobs situation, while still lagging behind Canada, also put in a strong month, adding 244,000 new workers. Normally, a strong employment report would put pressure on the Bank of Canada to raise interest rates as a precaution against inflation. Scotiabank economist Derek Holt said he predicts bank governor Mark Carney will likely take solace that the froth appears to be coming off commodity prices, particularly oil, which this week fell below \$100 a barrel. "The correction in commodities, if it sticks, would ease up on the inflation concerns across a number of global central banks," Holt said. "As well, wage growth actually decelerated a bit in the past month to 2.4 percent year-over-year using the Bank of Canada's preferred permanent employees measure. That can constrain inflation concerns more than any upside surprise in jobs in terms of spooking the bank" Holt still believes Carney won't hike the trendsetting interest rate from the current one percent until October.

Expansion brings Canadian firms to area
Buffalo News - April 30, 2011

Two Canadian companies have expanded to Western New York this month, adding 16 jobs and \$400,000 in investment. Window and door restorer Kingswood Millwork is expected to hire six employees for the facility it has leased at 951 Lovejoy Ave., where it plans to spend \$350,000 on machinery and equipment. Women's clothing distributor Fashion Village is now open in Lewiston, where it has hired 10 workers and is investing \$50,000 in equipment and furnishings. Kingswood Millwork opted to come to Buffalo, in part, to qualify as a U. S.-based company for a New York City building project. It is a subcontractor for the firm spearheading the renovation of a Manhattan building completed in the late 1800s. The contract is worth \$800,000. More broadly, the company, based in Port Colborne, Ont., wants to have a shop in New York because much of its work is in the state, and it is close to its headquarters. "It's a convenience thing for us," said Secretary Treasurer Allan Cheynowski. "We'll actually be able to commute to a shop in Buffalo daily." Fashion Village decided to open in Lewiston to avoid tariffs associated with U. S. distribution. The companies were courted by Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, the economic development and marketing agency for the region. Cheynowski described the organization's role in its expansion to Western New York as "pivotal." "My brother [the company president] found them just doing an Internet search," he said. "We had no real experience with this. They put us in touch with all the third parties. . . . They played a very active role in our finding the actual facility."

Setting sail under cloud of uncertainty
Buffalo News - May 4, 2011

Maid of the Mist workers Tuesday hurriedly prepared for the start of the upcoming tourist season -- hoping it won't be the last on the Canadian side for an iconic tour boat company that traces its roots back 126 years. The Maid of the Mist Steamboat Corp. has owned exclusive rights from its Canadian docks below the falls since the company began, but Ontario's tourism minister has ordered the lease on the Canadian side be opened to competitive bidding, in effect putting the long-term future of the company into question. Charter boats will keep ferrying visitors between

the docks at Table Rock and the American, Bridal Veil and Horseshoe falls, but they may belong to a different company and not be part of the small fleet called the Maid of the Mist. "Everything is up in the air," said John H. Percy Jr., president and chief executive of the Niagara Tourism and Convention Corp. on the U.S. side of the border. "Right now, I'm just looking forward to 2011 season and continuing to work with them." Percy said whether Maid of the Mist cedes its rights to a different operation -- dinner cruises and other formats have been rumored -- the decision, for the region, is a momentous one. "The Maid of the Mist name, when we travel and promote Niagara Falls, their name is so synonymous with Niagara Falls, and sometimes their brand is almost stronger than [the] Niagara Falls brand. It's an institution, and a solid product within our hospitality community," he said. A winning bid is expected to be announced sometime this tourist season and take effect next year. Ontario officials have refused to say how many companies, or which ones, have bid on the Canadian contract. There is no place on the American side to dock cruise boats long-term, so the impact of the Canadian decision may be felt on the New York side of the Falls border, as well. Meanwhile, crews worked to make sure the Maid of the Mist boats are ready for this season's opening day today. Deck hands were busy Tuesday power-washing concrete on the Canadian docks of the four Maid boats, testing the vessels and adjusting ramps as a constant rain poured on them, hardening them for their short voyages. "This is our busy time, once the ice clears, and it's a seven-day-a-week job," said senior captain Mal Bunting, who is retiring and will take his final voyage in about two weeks. "It's a scramble to get everything going." As the raincoated crew labored away, company officials remained mum about boat-launching rights that, on the Canadian side, are currently up for grabs. The Maid of the Mist Corp. in 2002 signed a 40-year lease with New York State parks officials for launching rights on the American side. Questions about the contract on the Canadian side arose in 2009. Independent evaluators have been reviewing launching proposals and will recommend one of the bidders to the Niagara Parks Commission. Ontario's tourism minister will choose the final tour company. Commission Chairwoman Fay Booker did not return calls to comment Tuesday on the status of the proposals. As negotiations continue, Bunting is finishing a 35-year career that started, surprisingly enough, on a whim. "I saw an ad in the paper that said they needed a mate," Bunting said. "I came down, applied for the job, and the rest is history." History has changed a lot since he began making his way up through the ranks, Bunting said, and since becoming captain, he's heard his share of amusing questions, including:

* "Do they pump the water back every night?"

* "Where does all the water come from?"

* "Are these boats on a track?"

And, from reporters: "Do you meet any famous people that come aboard the boats?" Bunting said he doesn't pay much attention to passengers, famous or regular, because of the responsibility of safely returning the boat and its riders to shore. But he ticked off quite a list of riders who have passed through during his tenure: Princess Diana, a Chinese president, former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, former President Bill Clinton and -- last year -- Brad Pitt. "Pretty much anyone of note that you've heard of has been here at one time or another," Bunting said. More memorable for Bunting, a former tug boat captain, is the first time he ventured out toward the falls. "I can still remember the first time I did it, and thinking, 'What am I doing here?' Because it's not something for the faint of heart, really. It goes against all your common sense to take a boatload of passengers up into the Horseshoe Falls." It took Bunting about five years to fully learn the intricacies of the falls, he said. At an uncertain time for the long-term future of the company's operations, Bunting's lasting thoughts on being a Maid of the Mist captain centered on his passengers. "I've enjoyed meeting people from all over the world, answering their questions, just knowing at the end of the day that you've made a family really happy," he said. "Because this is a unique tour, a unique ride. I may miss that a little bit."

War of 1812 event draws 'good crowd'

Watertown Daily Times – May 2, 2011

Akwasne historical journalist Darren P. Bonaparte concedes that a good deal of his special knowledge of the War of 1812 may be "arcane" to some. But it is hardly unimportant and certainly worth general awareness, he said Saturday, as he and several other Canadian and U.S. scholars gathered at the Freight House Restaurant to speak at the third annual War of 1812 Symposium sponsored by the Fort La Presentation Association and the New York Council for the Humanities. "This a good crowd," he said of the more than 50 War of 1812 enthusiasts who knew the topic well in the first place. The 200th anniversary of the battle is next year. But Mr. Bonaparte and the other scholars and history buffs want to speak to more than just the faithful. He is keen for people "to pick up history." Sally W. Hartman agrees. The Rensselaer Falls resident is regent of the Swe-Kat-Si Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. "I think it's important for people to know about local history," she said. "I think it's important to get the word out." Fort La Presentation had a little-known but key role in the War of 1812. According to Douglas R. Cubbison, former command historian for the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, its remains were used by the Army to launch raids on British shipping vessels on the St. Lawrence River. Victor J.H. Suthren, an author and historian from Merrickville, Ontario, said a subpar knowledge of local history is not just an American shortcoming. "It seems to be the same in both countries," said Mr. Suthren, who served as director general of the Canadian War Museum from 1986 to 1998. He speaks before audiences that are both informed and uninformed about history and he is pleasantly surprised at what he calls the "Oh, wow!" moments when someone learns something new from him. "Anybody who gets turned on to history, it benefits us all," he said. The Fort La Presentation group hopes eventually to raise enough funds to build a faithful replica of the 1700s French settlement at Lighthouse Point.

Montreal Chamber Music Fest starts tonight **Plattsburgh Press Republican - May 5, 2011**

The Montreal Chamber Music Festival begins its monthlong stint of melodies tonight. Artistic director and founder Denis Brott said that since its beginning 16 years ago, the aim has been to create a very interactive and intimate festival. "A festival where chamber music and the art of chamber music was celebrated," he said. It has always been important, Brott said, to link the genre with other disciplines, such as jazz, theater and film, "to break out of this invisible barrier." Why? He admits chamber music often gets "a bad rap as being inaccessible and only for people of a certain wealth or sophistication or social status." But not true, Brott said, if you consider where chamber music really began. "The tradition of chamber music stems from music in the home," he said. "It was performed after dinner on a Sunday night." Imagine no TV, no Internet. "People entertained themselves by making music, and that's what chamber music was and is." Brott added that chamber music is as democratic a musical genre as you can get. "It is a product where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts," he said. "It's a cooperative. It's democracy at work. There's no conductor. It's musically a meeting of equals."

Feature presentations - This musical meeting of equals is highlighted by a number of magical chamber-music events. Opening the fest tonight is The Art of James Ehnes. "Ehnes is a passionate chamber-music player and perhaps Canada's greatest violinist," Brott said. Ehnes is joined by Canada's 16-year-old piano phenom Jan Lisiecki, former St. Lawrence Quartet member Barry Shiffman on viola and Brott himself on the cello. Next, Beethoven: The Complete String Quartets offers the complete cycle of string quartets by Ludwig van Beethoven in a six-concert series. "It features one of the world's greatest quartets, the Tokyo String Quartet," Brott said. Canada's own Afiara String Quartet and Harvard University's quartet-in-residence, the Chiara String Quartet, also perform in the series. Beethoven: The Complete String Quartets are May 10, 11, 17, 18 and 24. Ehnes returns with his trio as well as a quartet of actors to present

"Tchaikovsky, I Love You!" Through an exchange of letters, Saturday's theatrical event tells the tale of composers Massenet, Debussy and Tchaikovsky and their relationship with their Russian patroness Nadejda Filaretovna von Meck. Every Friday of the fest means jazz and jeans. Yes, jazz. "I believe chamber music is also jazz," Brott said. "Jazz has the same prerequisites: one person per part, people working together for the whole." The signature marathon always closes the fest. This year's edition is a nod to Russian romantic music. "The marathon is our tradition," Brott said. Arensky, Glazunov, Tchaikovsky and Shostakovitch, "thrown in for good measure," will be performed May 28. This year's festival also comes with some gorgeous new-old digs: St. George's Church downtown. "It's a 600-seat gothic revival church with amazing acoustics," Brott said. "It has resonance and intimacy. It's perfect for what we need. And the inside is absolutely gorgeous." Brott invites one and all to join and enjoy the chamber-music communion. "We live in an age where we have become isolated behind our screen of communication," Brott said. "And the need that every human being has to commune with each other as well as with art is an undeniable need." Important as they are, Facebook and smartphones are simply tools, he said. "They can't replace this kind of communion; this kind of getting together and sharing the love and passion of art together with the public. The performance does not exist in a vacuum. And that's what this festival is all about."

South Allegheny's 'Energy Angels' win week in Canada to study polar bears
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review - May 5, 2011

South Allegheny's Energy Angels' "tireless and passionate outreach" to lower carbon emissions won them a free trip to study polar bears in Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. Freshmen Alexandra Ruhl, 14, of Liberty; Stephanie Mandella, 15, of Port Vue; and Jennifer Urban, 14, of Glassport competed in Project Polar Bear, sponsored by Polar Bears International. Polar Bears International is a nonprofit dedicated to saving polar bears through environmental initiatives to lower carbon emissions, which some scientists believe cause global warming. The warmer temperatures might affect the formation and stability of sea ice that polar bears need to hunt seals. The grand prize winner was announced at an awards ceremony Saturday at SeaWorld San Diego. The four finalists had won an all-expenses-paid trip to SeaWorld and the San Diego Zoo that included behind-the-scenes tours. "It was really overwhelming at that moment because when our team wasn't one of the three they called, we realized we won, and me and Jenny looked at each other and we started crying," Ruhl said. "Before we went to San Diego, we thought that we did enough work to be first or second, and it didn't hit us until we got there how good everybody was." The girls, along with their adviser Jenna Whitney, an eighth-grade science teacher, will travel to Manitoba for a weeklong trip. During the three-month contest, the South Allegheny High School team held fundraisers and educated the community about the benefits of switching to CFL bulbs, which use less electricity than incandescent bulbs. They gave away about 2,000 CFL bulbs, after starting with a goal of giving away 200. "It was a close contest, but the Energy Angels' tireless and passionate outreach, upbeat blog entries and success with community involvement especially impressed the judges," Polar Bears International Vice President Krista Wright said in a prepared statement.

B. Border Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 3, 2011

SCHUMER ANNOUNCES BORDER ENFORCEMENT SECURITY TASK FORCE IN MASSENA; SCHUMER PUSHED FOR MULTI-AGENCY TEAM TO IDENTIFY AND SQUASH BORDER SECURITY THREATS

Border Enforcement Security Task (BEST) Force in Massena Will Identify and Disrupt Significant Border Security Threats, Dismantle Criminal Organizations; Team Will Ease Cross-Border Fluidity and Economic Development

Schumer Fought for CR Budget to Include Creation of Multi-Agency Team on New York-Canadian Border

Schumer: Team Will Create United Front Against Cross-Border Drug Traffickers, Terrorists, and Human Smugglers

Today, United States Senator Charles E. Schumer announced that he has successfully pushed the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to form a Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) team in Massena, New York to better protect and regulate the New York-Canadian Border. BEST teams are lead by ICE, and partner with federal, state, local and foreign law enforcement counterparts to create a multi-agency team that aims to identify, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations from posing significant threats to border security. During CR negotiations, Schumer advocated that budget money be more heavily focused on New York border security, and that funding has made possible the creation of this BEST team in Massena. Once in place, Massena's BEST team will dramatically increase security in border communities, while allowing more fluidity for cross-border businesses and job-creating economic development.

"It is absolutely essential that we fully secure our Northern border, with federal, state, and local law enforcement working hand-in-hand to make sure that terrorists and drug smugglers don't sneak into the United States," said Schumer. "That's why I pressed for a Border Security Task Force that will help coordinate all levels of law enforcement as we seek to improve border security. This team will go a long way towards making our border safer, and I'm going to keep pushing to make it as safe as it possibly can be."

Schumer today revealed that Immigration and Customs Enforcement has confirmed there is sufficient federal funding to create a Border Enforcement Security Task Force in Massena. This BEST team in Massena will join federal, state, local and foreign law enforcement officials to create a multi-agency team that will identify, disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations posing significant threats to border security. Massena's BEST Team will include individuals from ICE, Customs and Border Protection, police from local Indian tribes, local and state police in the United States and Canada. This team will work from the DHS headquarters in Massena, and coordinate joint responses from one location to track and apprehend illegal cross border activity, addressing previous concerns that federal agencies and state and local law enforcement along the Northern Border were working at cross-purposes.

This BEST team in Massena will step up security in border communities, while also allowing for more fluidity for law-abiding citizens to do business and develop local economies. Schumer anticipates this cross-border economic development will create jobs in the region, in addition to the new ICE employees that will go to Massena to implement the BEST team. Schumer points out that an existing BEST team in Buffalo, based out of Seaport, is making serious strides in stopping cross-border drug smuggling and crime, and anticipates the Massena team will have comparable success.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative agency in the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is charged with enforcing a wide array of laws, including those related to securing the border and combating criminal smuggling. The United States borders have experienced a dramatic surge in cross-border crime and violence in recent years. In response to this trend, ICE has partnered with federal, state, local and foreign law enforcement counterparts to create the Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) initiative, a series of multi-agency teams developed as a comprehensive approach to identifying, disrupting and dismantling criminal organizations posing significant threats to border security. The teams are designed to increase information sharing and collaboration among the agencies combating this threat on both sides of the border. In select locations, BEST teams have been established at critical seaports to address smuggling and other criminal activity at maritime ports of entry.

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Trusted Traveller CATSA Security Line

What is the Trusted Traveller CATSA Security Line?

The Trusted Traveller CATSA Security Line began in early 2010 as an initiative of the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA), in partnership with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Transport Canada (TC). A pilot program ran at three Canadian airports for domestic and select international flights (excluding travel to the United States) which allowed pre-

approved NEXUS cardholders access to designated screening lines.

The success of the pilot program led to the installation of fully operational lines in February 2011. Trusted Traveller CATSA Security Lines are now available in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Halifax, and Winnipeg.

Who can use the Trusted Traveller CATSA Security Line?

The designated screening line may be used by members of **NEXUS**, a joint Canada Border Services Agency/U.S. Customs and Border Protection program that expedites the border clearance process for pre-approved, low-risk travellers.

Family members or other travel companions who do not have a NEXUS card cannot accompany card holders through the Trusted Traveller CATSA Security Screening Line.

To apply for a NEXUS membership, you must meet all the eligibility requirements. Please go to the [NEXUS page](#) on the CBSA Web site for details.

What benefit does the Trusted Traveller CATSA Security Line provide?

The primary purpose of NEXUS is to provide pre-approved, low-risk travellers expedited customs and immigration processing when crossing the Canada/U.S. border. The Trusted Traveller CATSA Security Line is an additional benefit for NEXUS members that allows them to pass through pre-board screening checkpoints at designated airports more quickly by accessing a dedicated queue and screening line that results in shorter wait times.

How does the designated screening line work?

NEXUS members must show their NEXUS card and boarding pass to enter the specially marked screening line at the airport security checkpoint. All other passengers go through a regular screening line. Access to the designated line is not based on class or cost of an airline ticket, or frequent flyer status.

Do NEXUS members undergo any security screening in the designated line?

Yes. Those using the Trusted Traveller CATSA Security Line must still undergo pre-board screening and are required to comply with all requirements as directed.

How can I get a NEXUS card?

You can apply online through the [CBSA Web site](#), or obtain an application form from the Web site or a NEXUS enrollment centre at some Canadian airports. Once you have filled out the form and paid the non-refundable \$50 processing fee, the CBSA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection will verify that you meet the program requirements. If both countries approve your membership, the card will be issued within six to eight weeks and is valid for five years.

What is a "Trusted Traveller"?

After undergoing a rigorous risk assessment process, successful applicants carry a special photo ID card containing security features, such as an RFID (radio-frequency identification) chip. Membership in these programs gives them access to expedited service at designated border crossings and Canadian airport security checkpoints.

Where can I get more information?

If you have additional questions about the Trusted Traveller CATSA Security Line, please call 1-

888-294-2202.

For more information about the NEXUS program, visit the [CBSA Web site](#) or call 1-866-NEXUS-26.

The Quai Richelieu port of entry remains closed due to flooding

Montréal, Quebec, May 2, 2011 – Due to the Richelieu River flooding, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) must postpone the opening of the Quai Richelieu port of entry, which was scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 2.

The Quai Richelieu serves as a border crossing for pleasure crafts and is open from the beginning of May to the end of October. Additional information concerning services offered at this office can be found on the CBSA Web site at www.cbsa.gc.ca/offices.

The CBSA will continue to closely monitor the situation and will advise when the affected port of entry resumes normal operations.

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CBP's Trusted Traveler Programs Reach One Million Members

(Thursday, May 05, 2011)

Washington - U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced today that the agency's Trusted Traveler Programs have reached one million members. Trusted Traveler Programs include Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST.

"CBP's Trusted Traveler Programs support one of our core missions, to facilitate trade and travel by expediting low-risk, frequent travelers' entry process into the U.S. when arriving at our ports of entry," said CBP Commissioner Alan D. Bersin. "We encourage frequent travelers to join the one million members and apply to the Trusted Traveler Program that will best match their travel needs." ([Video: CBP's Trusted Traveler Programs](#))

Global Entry is a voluntary pilot program that streamlines the international arrival process for pre-approved travelers through use of self-service kiosks located at 20 major U.S. airports. The pilot program is an alternative to regular passport processing lines and currently reduces average wait times by 70 percent.

Applications to Global Entry must be submitted online at www.globalentry.gov. A fee of \$100 is collected via the website for a five-year membership. Applicants must then complete an interview and fingerprint data collection in person at any of the 20 airport sites.

Once enrolled in the pilot program, Global Entry members may proceed directly to the kiosks in the international arrivals area upon arrival in the U.S. At the kiosk, members insert their passport or lawful permanent resident card into a document reader, provide digital fingerprints for comparison with fingerprints on file, answer customs declaration questions on the kiosk's touch-screen, and then present a transaction receipt to CBP officers before leaving the inspection area. (More information on Global Entry can be found in the most recent issue of Frontline magazine.) ([Frontline](#))

NEXUS is a joint CBP-Canada Border Services Agency program that both implemented to enhance border security while simplifying the entry process for pre-approved, low-risk travelers. NEXUS was established in 2002 and currently has more than half-million members.

NEXUS applicants must go through background checks in both Canada and the United States.

The application fee for NEXUS is \$50 and enrollment is for five years.

Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection or SENTRI provides expedited CBP processing for pre-approved, low-risk travelers entering the U.S. at land ports of entry from Mexico.

The SENTRI program was first implemented at Otay Mesa, Calif., in 1995, and has grown to include 16 lanes at the nine largest ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border including San Ysidro, Calif., Calexico, Calif., Nogales, Ariz., two crossings in El Paso, Texas, and the Texas ports of Laredo, Hidalgo and Brownsville.

The FAST (Free and Secure Trade) program offers dedicated lanes and expedited border clearance for importers, carriers and drivers who have passed rigorous risk assessments that include fingerprinting.

The program is available on both the northern and southern borders. There are about 80,000 members enrolled. FAST members report saving an average 27 minutes when transporting goods into the U.S., and an average of 18 minutes when entering Canada.

All Trusted Traveler Program applicants must voluntarily undergo a background check against criminal, law enforcement, customs, immigration, and terrorist indices; a 10-fingerprint law enforcement check and a personal interview with a CBP officer.

In December 2010, CBP added Global Entry benefits to NEXUS and SENTRI members.

A NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST card also fulfills the travel document requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative which requires a passport or other secure travel document by all U.S. and Canadian citizens when entering the U.S. by air, land or sea. Each approved NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST member receives a WHTI-compliant, radio frequency identification card.

For more information on CBP's Trusted Traveler Programs please visit the CBP Travel web site. ([Travel](#))

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

Secretary Napolitano Announces Funding to Strengthen Interoperable Emergency Communications Along and Across U.S. Borders

Release Date: May 2, 2011

For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
Contact: 202-282-8010

Border Interoperability Demonstration Project Fact Sheet

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano today announced \$25.5 million in grant funding under the Border Interoperability Demonstration Project (BIDP)—a one-time competitive grant program focused on developing innovative solutions to strengthen interoperable emergency communications along the U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico.

“The projects funded through the Border Interoperability Demonstration Project strengthen the security of our northern and southern borders, and our nation’s overall preparedness and emergency response capabilities,” said Secretary Napolitano. “These BIDP grants provide our state, local, and tribal partners with resources to explore innovative, effective, and adaptable solutions for improving emergency communications.”

Border Interoperability Demonstration Project Selected Communities*

- **City of Yuma, Arizona—\$3,994,443** for the Yuma Full Voice and Data Integration Demonstration Project.
- **San Diego Fire-Rescue, California—\$3,852,580** for the Regional Command and Control Communications Tactical Border Communications Project.
- **County of Washington, Maine—\$3,963,163** for the Enhanced Communications Infrastructure and Partnerships for Border Security Project.
- **Wayne County, Michigan—\$4,000,000** for the Southeast Michigan Border Interoperability Solution Project.
- **Interoperability Montana, Montana—\$3,895,425** for the Northern Tier Consortium Border Interoperability Demonstration Project.
- **Lake County, Ohio—\$3,998,200** for the Multi-Agency, Multi-Jurisdictional U.S. Regional & International Interoperable Communications Infrastructure and Maritime Domain Awareness Project.
- **City of McAllen, Texas—\$1,940,000** for the Rio Grande Valley Border Interoperability Regional Project.

* Estimated funding is subject to change pending final negotiations.

Funding under the BIDP can be used for equipment purchases, planning, training and conducting exercises. The demonstration projects selected represent varying geographic regions and population densities in order to explore innovative approaches that can serve as models for other communities located along the borders with Canada and Mexico.

The *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007* called on the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications

(OEC) to establish the BIDP to identify solutions that facilitate emergency communications along and across the border, and ensure that emergency response providers can communicate during natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other catastrophic events. The legislation authorizes DHS to select no fewer than six communities to participate—at least three along the U.S.-Canadian border and at least three along the U.S.-Mexican border.

OEC will provide the selected communities with technical assistance and support while these projects are implemented. Through BIDP and other programs such as capability assessments, training, and technical assistance, DHS continues to identify and institute effective solutions for improving emergency communications throughout the nation.

For more information about BIDP and selected projects, please visit www.dhs.gov/xopnbiz/grants/gc_1304103761902.shtm.

Embassy: Canada's Foreign Policy Newsweekly - <http://www.embassymag.ca/>

C. Editorials/Columns

Canadian elections - Northern neighbor shifts to the right Watertown Daily Times – May 5, 2011

Canadians on Monday delivered to Prime Minister Stephen Harper the solid parliamentary majority he needs to press ahead with his fiscally conservative policies. Prime Minister Harper's Conservatives will hold 167 seats in the 308-seat Parliament, the first time he has had an all-Conservative majority since he came to power in 2006. The New Democratic Party overtook the Liberals as the main opposition party in the new government. New Democrats tripled to 106 their seats, while Liberals sustained their worst defeat in Canadian history as they lost more than half, dropping from 77 to 35 seats. Voters had little support for the Quebec separatist movement. Bloc Quebecois held on to just four of its 47 seats. Leaders of the Liberals and Bloc Quebecois lost their seats. Stephen Clarkson, a professor of political science at the University of Toronto, called the elections a "sea change." Prime Minister Harper has moved Canada from the center-left more to the right, the Associated Press reported. He has cut sales and corporate taxes and opposed climate change legislation that might interfere with domestic oil production in his home province of Alberta. He has also increased military spending and maintained Canada's participation in Afghanistan. During his leadership, "Canada has outperformed other major industrialized democracies through the financial crisis, recovering almost all the jobs lost during the recession while its banking sector remains intact," the Associated Press reported. Mr. Harper will no longer rely on opposition support to pass legislation, freeing him to implement his Conservative agenda. One task will be to adopt a 2011 budget. During his campaign he said he would look for \$4 billion in savings to balance the budget by 2014 and help fund tax cuts. He is also expected to stop subsidies to political parties. The problems facing Canada are similar to those of other nations — government spending, high taxes, the need for jobs. Seeking solutions, Canada is moving to the right.

D. Citizens Views (write-in letters)