## Town of Tonawanda Commission for Conservation of the Environment Oversight of the Cleanup and Remediation of Radioactive Waste Sites Along the Town of Tonawanda Waterfront

## 2005 Action Award

From its early days as an Erie Canal community, to its mid-twentieth century role in the Manhattan Project, the Town of Tonawanda has played an important role in world history. Today, the community as a whole is working to preserve its past and continue the tradition of being a premier New York community.

Since the late 1970s, the Town of Tonawanda Commission for Conservation of the Environment has overseen the intense cleanup and removal of well over 400,000 tons of radioactive waste, blemishes left from the Town's role in the Manhattan Project. Meeting regularly with officials from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Tonawanda's Environment Commissioners work directly with Army personnel to ensure that all cleanup efforts within the community are completed promptly and in total. This continued involvement and oversight permits pertinent information to be relayed to Town and County officials and citizens with respect to all cleanup efforts. Most recently, the Town of Tonawanda Environment Commission worked on efforts to secure the cleanup of the municipality's final radioactive waste site along the Niagara River. All costs associated with cleanup efforts have come through the Federal Government's FUSRAP (Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program) project.

For further information contact George B. Melrose, Conservation Commission Chair, at 2919 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217, e-mail at *pcrizzo@buffalo.edu* (Peter Rizzo).