

## READER VIEWS

### Two sides of a coin when it comes to NFR

We're compelled to write this letter in defense of Niagara Falls Redevelopment; not, perhaps, the Niagara Falls Redevelopment we all read about in our newspapers or the ones constantly maligned by our always truthful and honest elected officials and certainly not the snake oil-selling, land-grabbing, church-stealing, robber of widows as professed by the few disgruntled citizens who thought they could retire off the neglected and dilapidated properties they owned in the designated footprint of properties being acquired by Niagara Falls Redevelopment.

And finally, not the Niagara Falls Redevelopment as professed by an out-of-state fanatical religious group with no interest in Niagara Falls except to pressure our churches to join them in their own national political agenda, with the false pretense of actually caring about the future of Niagara Falls and its poorest citizens.

The Niagara Falls Redevelopment I'm defending is the one that I, my organization and dozens of other organizations have come to know as a generous, caring and responsible corporate citizen concerned with the present needs and future development of Niagara Falls. What we, as

citizens, don't read about is the fact that this corporation has taken a dilapidated and neglected group of properties off the hands of the city and citizens of Niagara Falls who would have had to pay millions of dollars to fund thousands of demolitions and environmental headaches. I'm defending the Niagara Falls Redevelopment who did something the city could never have done, i.e., to amass a huge, potentially developable property by spending tens of millions of their own dollars in spite of failed promises and constant interference by our so-called "concerned and honest" city administrations, who make even the smallest economic development in Niagara Falls an overwhelming task.

The NFR we've come to know and depend upon is never too busy to return a call about an organization in need of help. The NFR we know has donated large amounts of money and time to help sponsor charitable organizations such as the Community Missions, local soup kitchens, community-based city school programs, and the endless fundraising for non-profit groups dedicated to the betterment of Niagara Falls and some of its poorest citizens. The NFR that I'm defending is the one that never sought credit for these works of charity and funding

it gave to aid our poorest citizens, but considered it their responsibility as a good corporate citizen of Niagara Falls.

So, in closing, I'm defending the taxpaying, property-maintaining, good and responsible corporate citizen of Niagara Falls known as Niagara Falls Redevelopment.

**Jim Szwedo, president**  
**Ron Anderluh, revitalization**  
**coordinator**