

## **ST. MARYS HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN STREETScape ENHANCEMENT**

The historical Downtown is the heart of St. Marys, providing an invaluable asset to St. Marys' citizens, visitors and potential new businesses and residents. The new Howard Gilman Memorial Park provides an impressive enhancement to the Downtown Waterfront to anchor future Downtown enhancements, especially along St. Marys and Osborne Streets.

A publicly announced presentation was made to the St. Marys Community August 24, 2001 to discuss and illustrate many opportunities to improve the pedestrian experience, mitigate the visual and physical impacts associated with vehicles and reinforce the character of the Historical Downtown. Based on this presentation, the Historical Downtown Enhancement Committee identified St. Marys Street as the first priority to expand the pleasing Park green space into the streetscape from Wheeler Street, past Osborne Street, and also along Osborne Street initially to Stable Alley.

Genesis Group, the Park Consulting Firm, provided a \$20,900 proposal as reflected by the attached Genesis Group Letter of November 28 to develop the associated design and construction cost estimate. The proposal provides for public presentations at 30 percent and pre-final design.

It has been proven by the successful Downtown Park and Walkway projects that construction funds are available for planned, designed and costed projects, especially in Historical Downtown areas.

The Committee recommends approval of the Genesis proposal as the next step in Downtown enhancement.

Historical Downtown Enhancement Committee