To the Town Board of Cape Vincent,

I am writing today regarding the Village of Cape Vincent’s plan to resubmit an application for the “Restore NY" Grant Program to stabilize the Carleton Villa. I am in opposition to this course of action.

I am not a resident of the area, but visit frequently to enjoy the serene and unhurried lifestyle that the river and surrounding area has to offer.  On one such visit last summer, I was fortunate enough to enjoy a boat ride around its relatively undeveloped shoreline and swim in its pristine waters.  We caught dinner that night and enjoyed it on the mainland, watching the sun set over the island.  I travel a lot, and it is becoming more and more rare to find places like Carleton Island and the surrounding mainland towns, where you can lose yourself in the quiet and natural beauty.

Opening up the island to development in the name of revitalization is, in my opinion, shortsighted and dangerous.  Too often these projects give rise to unforeseen and unwelcome consequences for both the natural environment and the surrounding communities.   The appeal of the area and its peaceful, untouched nature is exactly why year-round residents and seasonal visitors are drawn here.  There is no good rationale for "revitalizing" a place that has such unique beauty and history,  other than for a developer to make a profit.  The area is best left alone.  Conservation, not capitalism, should be the order of the day and seems better aligned with the values of the Village.  Focus your fundraising efforts on projects that actually reinforce the town's infrastructure and benefit the local residents.  Leave Carleton Island as it is.

I strongly urge you to do the right thing by not putting your support behind this grant application.

Respectfully yours,

Alison Spade

Seasonal Visitor to Cape Vincent