

**Transcript of interview between Peter Van de Water (PV) and Brad Edmondson (BE):**

PV: See, what set us off here was Horizon Corporation.

BE: When did you first learn of that?

PV: Well, I'm not sure I can give you an exact date. But they were up here in St. Lawrence County, in Canton, because they were trying to woo the local legislators and bankers and real estate agents and so forth because they had this big, supposedly, second home city that was planned for Colton. We never really knew whether they were planning the second home city that they said they were, or whether they were just doing a lot of ballyhoo so they could sell lots. You know, swamp land in Florida kind of thing.

BE: Right. I know, actually, the Horizon Corporation was active in Florida where I grew up.

PV: Well, it was a big deal, you know. The county chamber of commerce welcomed them, and this was going to be an economic bonanza for the North Country and this city of 30,000 people would be the biggest city in St. Lawrence County. That was the way they talked. My bullshit antenna went right up. I said, "This is not going to be good." So that's when I got interested. There were, we'll say, eight or ten of us in Canton and Potsdam who had the same reaction and we started to meet. We said, "This is something we need to oppose. It's not going to be good for the area." So before I knew it, I was elected chairman of the group, and we called ourselves with the grand name "Citizens to Save the Adirondack Park."

We started putting out letters to the editor and so forth, and it snowballed. I must have been about thirty years old. Eventually we had 2,600 members and people were sending us money contributions, and editorials in the New York Times. The Christian Science Monitor wrote a whole series. CBS Evening News came up—I mean, it was a big deal!