

**Skenandoa House**  
**LEED Silver Plaque Dedication**  
April 23, 2007

**Remarks by Charles Belson, AIA**  
EwingCole Architects Engineers and Planners

Thank you for inviting EwingCole to participate in your Earth Day Celebration.

To those students who are pursuing Environmental Studies, I would like to say that you are at the right place, at the right time. Hamilton is at the forefront of the sustainable design movement. Environmental Studies at Hamilton College, and at a relatively small number of other colleges and universities, include three important characteristics:

- 1) A serious environmental studies program, with dedicated faculty and strong student leadership.
- 2) An active and environmentally aware campus community, with sophisticated conservation and recycling plans in place.
- 3) An administration committed to advanced sustainable design principles in terms of the renewal and replacement of the campus physical plant and infrastructure.

The planning, design and construction associated with Skenandoa House followed the rigorous Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) protocol developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. The approach is very comprehensive. Goals include low impact site design, with minimal disturbance, as well as materials recycling throughout. Conservation in all its forms is an essential component of the LEED process.

Improvements at Skenandoa House include repair and replacement of original but damaged exterior building materials, an 18 well geo-thermal ground water source heating and cooling system, day lighting of all major spaces, energy-efficient lighting systems, extensive building materials reuse, construction waste management, certified green power as well as commissioning services to improve building performance.

The result is a high performance, sustainable building. Skenandoa House has become the first historic structure in New York State to be LEED certified. Only four New York State colleges or universities have received a LEED certification.

LEED certification is a complex and demanding process. Careful design documentation by the architect, and detailed construction verification by the contractor are critical to a successful outcome. One person especially needs to be thanked for his patience and determination in pulling everything together for the College. Thank you, Bill Huggins. Without Bill, the LEED Certification process would not have been completed.