



WINDHAM

Sister City Committee

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James F. Collins, US Ambassador to Russia praises Windham's Sister City Efforts



Embassy of the United States of America

Moscow, Russia

February 17, 2000

Mrs. Barbara A. Coish
9 Golden Brook Road
Windham, New Hampshire 03087

Dear Mrs. Coish:

I write you after a very pleasant and exciting weekend in Suzdal. I first visited the town in 1966 and had not been back since. You will appreciate how much I saw changed and how pleased I was to learn that Suzdal has an American hero.

As I travel around the country here, one of the most satisfying and rewarding things I hear is about the connections and ties that American citizens have made and sustained with Russian counterparts. I can tell you that Windham is on Suzdal's map in a way that is unimaginable for one who started in this country over 30 years ago when contact with foreigners was all but prohibited for any but the senior members of the Communist party. Today the work that you and your friends and colleagues in Windham are doing through the Sister City relationship with Suzdal contributes to building a very different kind of relationship between America and the new Russia.

I simply wanted you to know that as Ambassador to the United States in Russia, I am very proud of what the people of Windham with your clear leadership and enthusiasm have done and that it makes a difference.

Please accept my personal best wishes and my enthusiastic thanks for all that you have been doing. You have some true friends in Suzdal.

Sincerely,

James F. Collins
Ambassador