

# *Town of Canandaigua*

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Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424  
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*Established 1789*

## 2018 Town Historian's Report

In keeping with the guidelines outlined for the N.Y. State's Registered Historian performance, I endeavor each year to pattern my activities accordingly: to reach the public and school children, to publish, speak, collect, preserve, and protect the Town of Canandaigua's history and heritage, through the categories of Research & Writing; Teaching and Public Presentations. The following, therefore, represents my efforts for 2018 to the extent possible.

### **Research & Writing**

- The "Walking Tour of Cheshire" project was completed. It included house styles, oral histories from "older" residents, pictures, and a brief history of each house. It also included the schools, fire departments and other commercial/industrial properties. After the sale of the first 50 copies, a second 50 have been add and are presently being sold.
- I recently completed a dissertation on the William Gorham House about "Canandaigua's beautiful and historic". Story excerpts are quoted from a 1973 article by long time City of Canandaigua Historian, Herbert J. Ellis and also from a 2010 RIT University News article titled: *Storybook house connects professor, alumna*, by RIT Associate Director of University Communications, Mindy Mozer.
- Responded to 26 research requests from Town residents and others interested in the history of the Town of Canandaigua and/or its early settlers. These were primarily email requests. In addition, many phone calls requesting information were handled on a weekly basis.
- Maintained Office hours at the Town Hall for 95% of all Tuesdays (8am to 4pm) and Wednesdays (8am to 12 noon). Also was available by appointment. I also attended most Town Board meetings.
- Replaced the historical display of miscellaneous with a Town of Canandaigua Agricultural Display in the upper level display case.

- I have completed a survey of all the Town's Historic and Cultural Resources which could and should be included on an updated version of the Cultural and Historic resource map. Of note, there are approximately 175 pre 1907 historic barns still in existence in the Town, additionally, 437 pre-1920 built homes.
- We have recently (10/10) visited FaBa farm, the large dairy farm on Cooley Rd. owned by John Knopf

### **Teaching & Public Presentations**

- Developed and presented the following Power Point Programs to Town residents as well as other members of the public:
  - History of the Tours of Barns & Farms of Ontario County - South Bristol Historical Society

### **Historic Advocacy**

- We completed work on the Wovlerton Cemetery. Jay Dutcher's son, Josh, received a commitment for a group of "SeaBee"s for aid in the clean-up and restoration project, as well as some scouts, Rotarians, and DAR members. On September 8th, this group met and completed this work. Peter Ellison, our 'Conservationist' has met with me to examine the work still to be done. This completes Josh's work and Peter will submit an estimate for next year's work.
- The New York State Council of the Arts, the Preservation League of New York State and the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation in September, announced Canandaigua as one of 11 regional recipients of funding through the Preserve New York grant program. The Town was presented the sum of \$ 8,192 for funding for studies in preservation efforts. This represents Phase 1 (\$10,240 of a total estimate) of a proposed 2 phases. The estimated total for Phase 2 (2019) will be \$14,700. These surveys will consist of the inventorying the Town's existing historic buildings and landscapes to identify architecturally and historically significant resources, including extant buildings, structures, landscapes, and districts.

### **2019 Goals:**

I have actively participated on the CIC (Citizen's Implementation Committee) with my specific emphasis on their following effort: Preserve the history of the Town of Canandaigua and support the protection of significant historic properties. My goals for 2019 are intended to be aligned with that effort and will be ongoing for the next few years:

Goal 1. Review all requests for the demolition of existing farm and residential structures, for the purpose of further documentation of what exists today; on-

going. This will be accomplished with the continued cooperation of the Code Enforcement Officer.

Goal 2. Create a listing of the Historically Significant Sites of the Town of Canandaigua. Prepare a booklet and/or power point program and expand the History Website about these sites for public education and evaluate the feasibility of creating informational signs for posting at these sights. Make a presentation to the Town Board prior to notification. On-going...

Goal 3. Consider developing a Driving Tour Booklet and Audio Tour of these sites with GPS information. Work with the Technology Committee. Make recommendation to the Town Board.

Goal 4. Oral History: Continue my on-going interviewing of Canandaigua Town Residents for their life stories and stories about more of the Historical and Culturally Significant sites in the Town. In conjunction, evaluate the availability of equipment to automatically download interview sessions into a computer. Work with the Technology Committee to create audio programs for the Town's website. Make recommendation throughout 2019 to Town Board.

Goal 5. Have rail fencing installed at Hunn Cemetery at the corner of County Rd 32 and Woolhouse Rd.

Goal 6. To the extent possible, continue to develop and promote a variety of Power Point Presentations for interested groups within the Town of Canandaigua, Ontario County, and Western New York including some more on the History of the Town of Canandaigua.

Goal 7. Throughout 2019 write descriptions for all the conference rooms for up to 7 or 8 each to describe the Steamboats of Canandaigua lake, as well as booklets that will describe each and every one for the residents. Pending!!!!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Ray Henry, Town Historian*