March 2019 www.TownofCanandaigua.org



FROM THE DESK O THE TOWN MANAGER



congratulations on a job well done!

fter 29 years of

service to the Town of Canandaigua, Mr. Dennis Brewer has retired as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Canandaigua. Mr. Brewer (as many of the younger attendees at our parks have called him over the years) has overseen so many positive changes and improvements since first beginning the Town's Parks and Recreation program in 1990.

During his tenure Dennis's work included the acquisition and development of Onanda Park, Miller Park, Blue Herron Park, McJannett Park, Leonard R. Pierce Memorial Park, and West Lake Road School House Park. Construction and reconstruction of cabins, lodges, beaches, playground equipment, and trails are examples of the many improvements Dennis brought to life.

Recreation programs including the Summer Day Camp programs (joint City/Town), Summer Kiddie Camp, Preschool Arts and Crafts, Pre-school Playground, Onanda Park Activities, Disc Golf, Archery Class, and Canoeing are many of the programs he got started.

Dennis recently helped to oversee the completion of a Town of Canandaigua Parks and Recreation Master Plan that will help guide the Town's Parks and Recreation programs for the next five to ten years. Also recently started was an adult senior recreation program, and ground breaking for new ball fields at Outhouse Park West.

Dennis will continue to serve our residents in an advisory capacity part-time as a Guest Relations Manager,



making sure that all of our guests no matter their age have an extraordinary time in our parks this summer.

Samantha Pierce from the Town Manager's Office has been working closely with Dennis the past two years to provide oversight to our Parks and Recreation programs. Samantha will coordinate all parks and recreation activities utilizing existing staff by separating parks, improvements, expansions, and recreation programs.

So the next time you see Mr. Brewer, please join me in congratulating him on a job well done!

Upcoming Events

Click links for more info or see related attached flyers.

3/27/19: <u>Kick-Off for the Comprehensive Plan</u>

3/30/19: <u>E-Waste</u> <u>Recycling Event</u>

3/30/19: <u>Backyard Wildlife</u> Workshop

4/1/19: Last day to pay Town/County Tax Payments (by 4:00 pm)

4/3/19: NY DEC Trees for Tribs Program Due Date

4/21/19: Easter

4/22/19: Earth Day

4/23/19: Rain Barrel Workshop

4/24/19: Partnering with Trees Workshop and tree giveaway (flyer attached)

4/26/19: Arbor Day

4/26/19: <u>Paper</u> <u>Shredding Event</u>

4/27/19: <u>Household</u> Hazardous Waste Event

March 2019 www.TownofCanandaigua.org





A Note from Your
Town Planner
Regarding the
Comprehensive Plan

n the ideal form of American Democracy, representative governments are open and responsive to the citizens they serve. While certainly not perfect, the employees and officers of the Town of Canandaigua genuinely endeavor to operate as that ideal. We want to be leaders in our Nation, State and County, and we do our very best to ensure transparency, responsiveness and overall great public service.

In furtherance of this goal, we need your help and guidance. Throughout 2019 and finishing in 2020, the Town will be updating its Comprehensive Plan, and your input as residents or stakeholders is critical to the future efforts of the

Happy Spring! Town and to ensure that we are properly representing our constituents.

The Comprehensive Plan is the most important document that the Town will create. It directs our efforts and sets the goals and vision we seek to attain. It provides the direction to say "build this Community Center", "extend this sewer line," "preserve that land," and, perhaps most importantly, "PROTECT OUR LAKE." But this document is not and must not be static. We understand that people change, circumstances change, and new people or businesses enter our community from time to time, bringing with them new ideas.

To account for the changing times,

every 5 to 10 years the Town seeks to update its plan. The last formal update was prepared in 2011, meaning it is time to revise and to set goals for the Town of Canandaigua in the 2020s. (Time flies). Your engagement during this process will help us correctly calibrate our vision and goals for the future so we hope that you will consider joining us in this important process.

If you have questions about the comprehensive Plan, the process, or would like to participate in or follow along with the process, please contact me, Eric Cooper, Town Planner, at 585-394-1120 x2254 or by email at ECooper@townofcanandaigua.org.



March 2019

www.TownofCanandaigua.org



Highway and Water Projects

By Highway and Water Superintendent, Jim Fletcher

Winter is almost over and the construction season is about to begin!! Every year in upstate NY there are two seasons, and we are getting close to the next one:

CONSTRUCTION

SEASON!

The Town of Canandaigua has planned a number of road and water projects that will be happening in 2019. The largest project this year for the highway department will be the reconstruction of the Canandaigua Farmington Town Line Road. The Town

of Farmington and the Town of Canandaigua will be partnering on this work. The two highway departments will begin the first phase of a three-year road reconstruction of the Canandaigua Farmington Town Line Road this spring. The road will be closed to all traffic for several months in 2019 between New Michigan Rd and Opal Drive.

Some of the other projects the Town of Canandaigua Highway Department will be working on are the cold in place recycling of Smith Road between Route 21 and Goodale Rd, micro paving of several Town roads, cast in place concrete pipe on Butler Road, and the replacement of cross culverts on some Town roads.

The Town will also be installing a new twelve-inch water main along County

Road 10 and an eight-inch water main in the area of Route 364. The improvements are for the purpose of fire protection, looping dead-end water mains, providing redundancy to keep the water on in the event of a water main break, and water quality. This work will all be performed by the Town of Canandaigua.

Another water project will be on North Road in the Canandaigua Farmington Water District. A new water main will be installed to replace the antiquated water main that has had many breaks in it over the years. This should occur sometime this summer. Should you have any questions about these projects or about the Highway and Water Department, you may call 585-394-3300, or you can email Jim Fletcher or Kaitlynn McCumiskey.

DEC Announces New Trees for Tribs Initiative

DEC has <u>announced</u> a new initiative from the <u>Trees for Tribs</u> program called **Buffer in a Bag**, which is designed to help increase riparian buffers throughout New York State. Qualifying public and private landowners may apply for a free bag of 25 tree and shrub seedlings to plant along streams, rivers or lakes to help stabilize banks, decrease erosion, protect water quality and improve wildlife habitat.

To qualify, landowners must have property that borders at least 50 feet of a stream, river or lake, and provide photos and map coordinates of the planting location. Landowners with 100 feet or more may apply for up to two bags of seedlings a year. A total of 350 bags will be available statewide for this first round of applications, and recipients will be



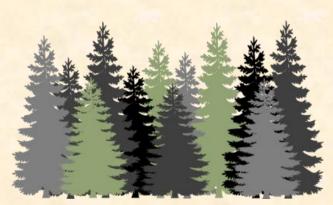
chosen on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit <u>DEC's web page</u> for more information about the Buffer in a Bag application process and requirements. **Applications are due by 3 p.m. on April 3, 2019**.

March 2019 www.TownofCanandaigua.org



ome join us at Outhouse Park Lodge every Thursday morning from 9:30 am – 11:30 am for cards, coffee and snacks. The Town and City are working together to offer seniors in the Canandaigua area with a spot to gather and socialize. No registration is required and there are no residency restrictions. See flyer at the end of the newsletter for more details.





Partnering with [FREE] Trees! April 24 @ 6PM

n honor of this year's Arbor Day, the Environmental Conservation Board will be hosting a tree giveaway and workshop, "Partnering with Trees," on Wednesday, April 24. A second tree giveaway will be hosted by the Town Republican Committee at the Transfer Station on Saturday, April 27th. See flyer at the end of this newsletter for details about the workshop on the 24th.

Statewide, it is illegal to burn from March 16 through May 14 - every year. Even when the burn ban is not in effect, it is illegal to burn household garbage, construction debris and leaves. Call your local fire department for local burning laws and check for <u>fire danger</u> in your area.

Exceptions to state prohibitions include:

Open burning is prohibited in New York, with several exceptions:

- Campfires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width or diameter are allowed.
- Small cooking fires are allowed.
- Fires cannot be left unattended and must be fully extinguished.
- Only charcoal or clean, untreated or unpainted wood can be burned.
- Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires are allowed.



March 2019 www.TownofCanandaigua.org



Natural Resource Protection News From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental

Conservation Board

Woodlands in the Town of Canandaigua by: Saralinda Hooker, ECB Member

The Town's Open Space Master Plan, completed and adopted in 2018, makes for good reading on the subject of the various ecological communities found within the Town boundaries. Based on a land cover survey from 2002 and a category system developed by the NYS DEC's Natural Heritage Program, all undeveloped parcels were mapped according to their ecological community type. Even more so than an aerial photograph, the resulting maps give a bird's eye view of the character of the Town's open space - where to find active farms, abandoned farms returning to shrub lands, wetlands, and forests of different types. Follow this link to explore the map in detail.

What and where are the main types of woodlands and forested wetlands in the Town?

Successional Northern Hardwood Forest – This is the most common forest type in the Town, with 6,748 acres. These are hardwood or mixed forests on sites which were historically cleared for farmland or logging, and were abandoned to reforestation over the past 40 to 90 years. They occur most densely in the southern half of the Town, where the land is steeper and less productive for farming than the northern half. These large continuous forest stands provide habitat for breeding birds and for mammals such as deer, fox and bobcat. Shallow seasonal wetlands (vernal pools) within these forested areas are also critical habitats for some amphibians.

Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest – This type of forest is found on the steep slopes along streams leading to the lake. We have about 147 acres of this forest type in the Town, mainly along Tichenor Point Creek, Menteth Creek, Barnes Creek, and a few other gullies at higher elevations. The

Hemlock Overlook trail at the top of Onanda Park offers a terrific example of this forest type. The majestic hemlocks are well adapted to steep slopes, and their evergreen shade moderates the temperature fluctuations in summer and winter, providing valuable habitat to deer, fox, porcupines and coyotes.



Looking up the gully at the hemlock-northern hardwood forest in Barnes Creek

Floodplain Forest – When a hardwood forest occurs within a seasonal floodplain, the result is a floodplain forest. These areas flood regularly in the spring and typically dry out during the summer months, sometimes flooding again during wet periods later in the year. These areas, which total about 325 acres, are particularly important for flood control, as they allow swollen waterways to expand their footprint, slow their momentum and drop their heavy loads of silt and debris. The Town's largest areas of Floodplain Forest lie continued on next page...

March 2019 www.TownofCanandaigua.org



...continued from previous page...



Example of a silver maple-ash swamp

along the Canandaigua Outlet, between Routes 5&20 and Ontario Street Extension, and on the north side of Grimble Road, along Schaeffer Creek. Floodplain Forests are rated as

"very vulnerable" by the DEC, with fewer than 100 occurrences of this type of forest in the state.

Silver Maple-Ash Swamp – We have roughly 1,687 acres of Silver Maple-Ash Swamp scattered around the central and northern parts of the Town. This type of forest community happens in a poorlydrained depression, and usually has standing water year round. Some of the Town's largest areas of this forest type are between Middle Cheshire Road and Route 21, south of Nott Road (108 acres), east of Woolhouse Road between Nott and Bliss Roads, north and south of Buffalo Street Extension east of Cooley Road, and along Padelford Creek in the northern part of the Town. Silver Maple-Ash Swamps are considered "somewhat vulnerable." They provide important habitat for birds, amphibians, especially breeding salamanders, and mammals such as beaver.

Canandaigua Lake may be our most impressive natural resource, but our forests and wetlands also contribute to our special rural character, and make a good home for our feathered and furry friends too.

The following story is brought to you by the Town of Canandaigua Agricultural Advisory Committee. Follow this <u>link</u> to learn more about the committee.

'Just' a farm kid is a job prospect extraordinaire

By Rudy Taylor
February 21, 2013
Montgomery County Chronicle

hile attending a job fair last week where Taylor Newspapers manned a booth, I met lots of job seekers.

Some brought resumes. Others just moseyed by, picked up the free stuff on our table and asked a few questions.

But one young woman created a memory for me.

She was a senior in high school, seeking summer employment before starting to a community college in the fall.

"Are you hiring?" she asked.

We said probably not, but we're always looking for good resources, such as part-time photographers and writers.

"We'd be happy to take your resume," I told her.

Then she said something that stuck with me. "I'm afraid my resume wouldn't be too impressive," she said. "I've spent all my life working on my parents' farm. I go to school in the continued on next page...

March 2019

www.TownofCanandaigua.org



...continued from previous page. daytime and do chores morning and night."

Whoa.

I told her to go home and create a resume, and write down exactly what she had told me.

As a farm girl, one who has driven a tractor since she was 12, one who has

cleaned out barns, scooped grain until her back ached, fed chickens, pigs, cattle and goats --- this girl knows the meaning of work.

She knows about dependability and getting jobs done on time. The morning school bus won't wait until a farm kid finishes those chores. They'll be

done on time or the young student will miss that all-important ride.

A young person who has put up hay, helped her dad and mother in the farrowing house or candled eggs has something more than words to jot on a resume.

Farm kids don't need to take art appreciation classes in school. They witness picturesque landscapes, sunrises and changes in seasons as they grow up.

They ride horses, drive four-wheelers and neatly stack big bales at the edge of meadows.

They fish in their ponds, learn to handle firearms and shoot deer, rabbits and turkeys.

They work as a family in the garden, raising, harvesting and canning their

e who has raising, harvesting and canning their recognize

Photo courtesy of Rawpixel.com

own vegetables.

Farm kids learn to keep good records on their livestock. When they raise and sell a 4-H calf, they can calculate the profit gained after deducting feed, vet medicines and other costs.

They typically know how to stand on their own two feet and give project talks, or give oral reasons for judging a class of lambs or swine. Many of them earn leadership roles in church, 4-H or FFA, so they can moderate a meeting to perfection using Roberts Rules of Order.

They learn early in life the tactics of conservation --- how to keep topsoil from washing into Oklahoma; how to plant wind barriers and how to recognize grass-cheating weeds that

need sprayed.

Any farm kid can handle a paint brush, spade a garden, pull worms from tomato plants, gather hen eggs, mow grass, groom animals and take one grain of wheat, bite down on it and determine if it's time to start the combine.

And, this girl thinks her resume might be lackluster?

Oh, I don't think so.

Put her to work in a hardware store, newspaper office or grocery store, and she will enter the front door looking for things to do.

It's that way with kids who grow up as farm and ranch kids.

Their resume is written on their foreheads and in their hearts.

They should never apologize.

Never.

March 2019 www.TownofCanandaigua.org



Local History Notes

Canandaigua's Multi-Tasking Utility Boat

Before the days of the motor boat, the jet-ski, and the wind surfer, boating for recreation and short travel on Canandaigua Lake was a quieter and more leisurely affair. In



An unidentified lone sailor navigates the lake on a St. Lawrence Skiff - note the businessman's attire.



St. Lawrence Skiff pulled up on shore at the Marks cottage, Menteth Point, c. 1920

the late decades of the 19th century, one wooden boat model gained special popularity - the St. Lawrence Skiff. It originated in 1868 as a guide's workboat on the St. Lawrence River, and gained popularity through the Thousand Islands and beyond. Wide and pointed at both ends, it was fast and well suited to rowing, sailing, fishing trips, and sightseeing. Its flat bottom made it easy to beach and extremely stable. It had no centerboard or rudder, and when under sail it was steered by shifting one's weight.

In the 1890s the Natural Science Camp at Tichenor's Point was equipped with over a dozen St. Lawrence Skiffs for the use of their pupils, once they demonstrated that they could swim. The camp's 1892 brochure stated that "The boats are intended for the campers' use, and visitors will not be permitted to monopolize them when the campers want them. In case there are boats to spare visitors may rent them for twenty-five cents per hour by applying to the boat master."

For more information, see St. Lawrence Skiff exhibit at Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, NY:

https://www.abm.org/index.php/exhibits/ongoingexhibits/the-st-lawrence-skiff-our-indigenous-watercraft/



Out for a row in 1898 - boaters are Alexander Davidson, Bob Johnson and Herb Ellis

March 2019 www.TownofCanandaigua.org

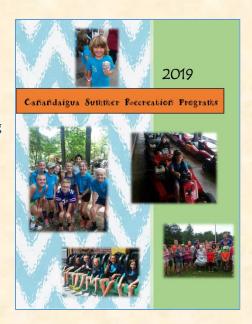


Town Recreation Programs

- Registration is now open for Town and City Summer Recreation Programs for all ages. Click image at right to access the guide online.
- Senior Programs and trips
 - Cabin Fever Reliever is still at Outhouse Park every Thursday morning but will switch to Jefferson Park beginning July 1st.
 - The Town will again offer day trips from Covered Wagon Tours this
 year; the first will be in May. See attached flyer for information on
 the May trip. See the brochure at right for information on later trips.

Bristol Hills 4-H Camp

- Day camps and overnight camps are available for children and teens
- See Ontario County Cooperative Extension's <u>website</u> for details or check out the camp guidebook <u>here</u>.



April Meeting Dates

- 1 Ordinance Committee, 9:00 am
- 2 CIC, 9:00 am
- 2 Economic Development Committee, 12:00 pm
- 4 Local History Team, 8:30 am
- 4 Planning Committee, 10:00 am
- 4 Environmental Conservation Board, 4:30 pm
- 4 Agricultural Advisory Committee, 6:00 pm
- 9 Drainage Committee, 11:00 am
- 9 Planning Board, 6:00 pm
- 11 Finance Committee, 8:00 am
- 15 Planning Review Committee, 9:00 am
- 15 Town Board, 6:00 pm
- 16 CIC, 9:00 am
- 16 Zoning Board of Appeals, 6:00 pm
- 18 Finance Committee, 8:00 am
- 23 Drainage Committee, 11:00 am
- 23 Planning Board, 6:00 pm
- 24 Environmental Committee, 4:30 pm
- 24 Parks & Recreation Committee, 6:00 pm

Town Calendar



Town Hall Address

5440 Routes 5 & 20 West Canandaigua, NY 14424

Phone: (585) 394-1120

Fax: (585) 394-9476

Email

Info@TownofCanandaigua.org

Town Hall Hours

Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Town Clerk's Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Wed- Open until 7:00 pm

Court Clerk's Office Hours

Mon, Tue, Fri:

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Thu: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Town Supervisor

Cathy Menikotz

Town Board

Gary Davis

Linda Dworaczyk

Terry Fennelly

Kevin Reynolds

Town Manager

Doug Finch

Deputy Town Supervisor

Tina Bloom

Highway and Water Superintendent

James Fletcher

Town Assessor

Christopher Lyon, IAO

Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer

Chris Jensen, P.E., MCP, CFM

Town Planner

Eric Cooper

Town Clerk

Jean Chrisman

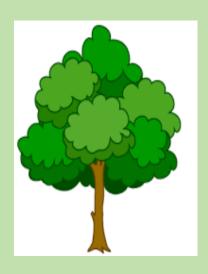
Town Historian

Ray Henry

PARTNERING WITH TREES

April 24, 2019 6-7:30 pm Onnalinda Room (Court Room) Canandaigua Town Hall

Attendees will receive a free tree!



The Value of Trees

Hydrologic, water quality, habitat, well-being, effects on climate change, aesthetics Laura Bailey, Natural Resources Educator, Yates CCE

Invasive Species

Diseases/invasions of trees: HWA, Oak Wilt, Emerald Ash Borer, Spotted Lantern Fly

Patty Wakefield-Brown, Finger Lakes PRISM

How to Plant Trees

Nurturing your tree, soil conditions, testing, fertilization, protection Alaina Robarge, Ontario County SWCD

Notes from the Field

Anecdotes from a resident who has planted hundreds of bare root trees. **David Sauter, Bristol Oaks Farm**

This free Tree Workshop is brought to you by the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board.





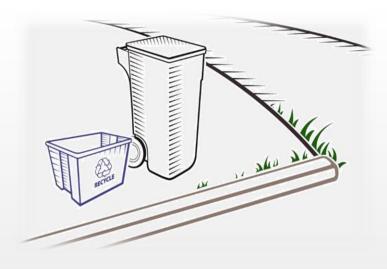




Spotlight on Sustainability

March 2019

From your Ontario County Eco-Heroes



Back to the Basics: Reduce Reuse Recycle

Here are some ideas and reminders about what we can do as individuals to keep up with the 3 R's and keep items out of the landfill:

- 1. Do a waste analysis of your own garbage to see what you are throwing away.
- 2. Then ask yourself...
 - a. Are there ways to keep that certain items out of your garbage can?
 - b. Where are the items coming from?
 - c. Can you avoid bringing these items home?
 - d. Are there other reusable products that could replace that these items?
- 3. Consider the alternatives. For example, buying in bulk can reduce packaging. Or other things like...
 - a. Use cloth and reusable bags when you shop to avoid plastic bags
 - b. For lunches, use reusable containers and silverware and try beeswax wrap in place of plastic wrap.
 - c. Buy food that comes in glass containers or recyclable containers you can reuse these or recycle them instead of putting plastic packaging in garbage.
 - d. Avoid plastic water bottles by using stainless steel or glass containers.
 - e. Set up a compost system at home to keep food waste out of your garbage. And don't forget paper products like paper towels, paper napkins & coffee filters can be composted too!
- 4. Look to recycle or donate everything! Including clothing, batteries, light bulbs, plastic bags, furniture, etc. To find out where you can recycle or donate these types of items visit: OntarioCountyRecycles.org
- 5. Try shopping at consignment stores to reuse already made clothing rather than buy new. Sometimes it can also help save you money!

And don't forget! If you hear of a way to reduce, reuse or recycle or find a neat trick to avoid putting something in the trash, share it with your Eco-Heroes so we can pass the tip along!

2019 Collection Event Calendar

March 30th – E-Waste

April 26th – Paper Shredding

April 27th – Household Hazardous Waste

September 21st – Household Hazardous Waste

October 18th – Paper Shredding

November 9th – Pumpkins

For event details check out:
http://ontariocountyrecycles.org/150/Events



Bioplastics:

Thinking of purchasing bioplastics, also known as plant-based plastics, to green your lifestyle? Here is what you need to know...

As the production of plastics climbs past 8 trillion pounds consumers and manufacturers continue to look for alternative materials and bioplastics have taken the forefront, **but are they the solution?**

What are bioplastics? Bioplastics are plastics made from plant or biological material rather than petroleum. Common products made from bioplastics include bottles, utensils, and textiles.

The argument for bioplastics:

- They reduce the carbon footprint of plastics production. Currently about 8% of the world's oil is used to make plastics.
- Since plants harbor less carbon than oil the amount of carbon released during degradation is much less.
- Plants are a renewable resource that can support a rural agrarian economy, while our oil supply is finite and only found in certain regions.

The argument against bioplastics:

- Increased fertilizer and water use.
- More and more land is being diverted from food production for the production of bioplastic ingredients.

How do you dispose of bioplastics? The time it takes a bioplastic to break down is not much different than that of regular plastic. Therefore if these plastics make their way to marine environments, which most plastics do, they will still break down into micro-sized plastics as regular plastic do and persist for decades, posing a threat to marine life. However bioplastics can be composted, but only effectively in industrial composting sites, which reach the necessary heat to degrade bioplastics. With inadequate composting infrastructure and consumer know-how most bioplastics do not complete the intended lifecycle. Many environmentalists say the outcome of disposing of bioplastics is not much different from regular plastics and deem bioplastics an example of 'greenwashing'...a coined phrase signifying when consumers are misled about how sustainable a product truly is.

Cheshire Community Action Team
Presents an



Friday March 29, 2019 4:00—7:00 PM At the Cheshire Volunteer Fire Depart. 4285 State Route 21 South



Adults - \$10.00 Children (6-12) - \$8.00 Children under 5 - Free

~* Take Outs Available *~

Pasta, Meat Sauce, Veggie Sauce,
Bread, Salad, Dessert and Drinks
Gluten free pasta available
Arbor Hill Wine &
Peacemaker Beer Tasting
To Benefit the Cheshire Theatre and Meeting Hall

An American Salute

at Kleinhans Music Hall Buffalo, NY Friday, May 24, 2019



Tour Includes:

- Round-trip deluxe motorcoach transportation
- Morning performance of An American Salute
 at Kleinhans Music Hall, with orchestra seating
 and coffee and donuts provided before the
 show
- Family-style lunch at Chef's Restaurant
- Buffalo Highlights City Tour
- Gratuities for motorcoach driver, restaurant waitstaff and local guide

Tour Price: \$142.00 per person

Celebrate American history through 200+ years of music with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Experience our heritage from the Civil War forward, saluting our troops throughout the ages. Following lunch at Chef's Restaurant, embark on a Buffalo Highlights City Tour. Travel through Frederick Law Olmsted's Delaware Park, view Delaware Avenue's "Mansion Row" and see the fully-restored Theodore Roosevelt's Inaugural Site where President Roosevelt took the Presidential Oath of Office. You will also enjoy views of Lake Erie, the Buffalo Harbor and the downtown Buffalo Skyline, plus see the Buffalo Naval & Military Park, featuring three WWII warships.

For further information, please contact:
Canandaigua Parks and Recreation
Dennis Brewer
(585) 394-1120



Departure Times and Locations (choose your pickup location from the following options):

| Town | Departure Time | Location | Address |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------------|---|
| Canandaigua | 7:45 am | Canandaigua Park and Ride | Plastermill Rd in Farmington off Route 332 |
| Victor | 8:00 am | Victor Presbyterian Church | 70 East Main St |
| Henrietta | 8:30 am | Henrietta Senior Center | 515 Calkins Road |

Approximate Return Time: 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm



Help protect Canandaigua Lake by incorporating healthy lawn care practices to protect water quality

Excess nutrients in our lake can contribute to harmful algal blooms, increased aquatic plant growth, and the degradation of our water quality. Challenge yourself to use best practices!

Start simply - how you mow matters!

Keep mower blades sharp.

- Dull blades shred the tips of grass increasing susceptibility to insects and disease. They increase the amount of fuel you need by up to 20%.

Mow grass no shorter than 3 - 4 inches.

- Taller blades shade out weeds and help to prevent their germination.
- Less fertilizer is required to keep the grass green.
- Deeper roots develop, requiring less water and reducing potential runoff.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn (grasscycling).

- Grass is made up mostly of water and nutrients including nitrogen. You can get 25% of your lawn's required nitrogen by leaving clippings in place.
- Mow leaves in fall with a mulching lawn mower so that grass can still peak through. Here is another source of nutrients and organic matter!



Reduce erosion by establishing heathly, dense growth.

- Seed bare spots! Thin, patchy lawns will have an increased amount of runoff and will transfer more nutrients to the lake (even if they are not fertilized).

Plant a native vegetation buffer along shoreline.

- Native trees, shrubs, and low vegetation act as sponges for storm water runoff, catching sediment and other pollutants before reaching the lake. The root systems hold soil in place reducing erosion of the shoreline. An added bonus - buffers act as a barrier to discourage geese from walking on your property!

Keep yard waste and leaves out of the lake, streams, and storm drains.

- Yard waste adds unwanted nutrients to our waters.

Plant a rain garden.

- Divert stormwater into an attractive planting bed that will work like a natural filter to clean the water and let it percolate slowly into the surrounding soil.

Remove all pet waste - bag it and throw it in the trash.

- Did you know that 15-20% of bacteria in our waterways comes from pet waste?

Limit watering.

- Consider letting grass go dormant during summer months. The tips may brown, but the roots are still healthy. Most lawns will survive on a quarter inch of water per week.
- If you must water, do so in the morning. Cooler temperatures decrease evaporation and the heat of the day allows the grass to dry, minimizing disease.



Be mindful of the chemicals that can enter our waterways.

Misuse or overuse of fertilizers and pesticides can negatively impact our lake though runoff and may lead to unhealthy conditions for your family and pets.

Limit pesticide and herbicide use.

- Head off pests and disease by selecting native plants that are naturally disease and insect resistant.
- Tolerate some levels of weeds and pests before considering pesticides.
- Weeding is easiest when the ground is moist. Use a shovel or hand tools to remove the whole root.
- Try spot treating persistent weeds with a 10% vinegar or acetic acid solution.
- Apply corn gluten to established lawns in early spring to prevent weeds from germinating. This is also a nitrogen source, reducing the need to fertilize.

Test your soil!

- Before you fertilize, test your soil to find out what your lawn really needs. Many soil reports in the Canandaigua Lake watershed indicate no need for phosphorus. Call Cornell Cooperative Extention at (585) 394-3977 for more information on soil testing.

If you must fertilize:

- Avoid popular 4 step lawn care programs. Instead, focus on fall fertilization.
- Avoid "weed and feed" products. It can actually damage the health of lawns by harming microorganisms, beneficial insects, and earthworms that are essential to maintaining healthy soil and healthy turf.

FOLLOW THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NYS NUTRIENT RUNOFF LAW:

DO NOT:

Use lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus unless you are establishing a new lawn, or a soil test shows that your lawn does not have enough phosphorus.

DO NOT:

Apply ANY lawn fertilizer December 1-April 1. Don't apply fertilizer on sidewalks, driveways or other impervious surfaces. If fertilizer spills, sweep it up to prevent it from washing into drains or waterways.

DO NOT:

Apply lawn fertilizer within 20 feet of any water body unless there is at least a 10-foot buffer of shrubs, trees or other plants between the area you are fertilizing and the water.

If you use a lawn care company, here are some questions to ask:

Do they test the soil first?

Will they share the results with you?

What pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides do they routinely use?

Will they use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) if you request it? Identifying the pest/problem first and then using the safest control methods possible?

Will they provide custom treatment based on your site conditions?

Do they apply compost and/or compost tea? If not, do they have slow-release fertilizer options?

If you are considering hiring a lawn care service, seek out "natural" or "organic" lawn care companies and ask the same kinds of questions.



Become a Lake-Friendly Lawn Care leader in your neighborhood

Proudly display a lawn sign and talk to your neighbors about the choices you make to help protect Canandaigua Lake.