

Town of Canandaigua

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Established 1791

January 30, 2020

2019 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 2019 to the extent possible.

Research & Writing

- On September 10th, 2019, I was presented with an "Excellence in Promoting Local History Award" from the "Association of Public Historians of New York State" and the "New York State Museum" in Albany at the 2019 Annual State Conference.
- I recently moved my office to the Front Reception Office for better availability. As a result, I have responded to approximately 150 (An increase from 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 Town Hall for 95% of all Tuesdays and Wednesdays (9am to 1pm). I was available by appointment and attended most Town Board meetings.
- Replaced, periodically, the historical display of miscellaneous with a Town of Canandaigua display in the upper and lower level display cases.
- 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.
- The Town of Canandaigua has recently (7/16/2019) visited Brock Acres farm, the large crop farm on Brace Rd. owed by Brocklebank family for the receipt of a PDR for land reservation.

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 Steamboats of Canandaigua at Yacht Club Cove on 8/23/09
 - History of the Tours of Barns & Farms of Ontario County at the Farmington Town Hall on 9/12/09.

- History of the Tours of Barns & Farms of Ontario County at the Newark Historical Society on 10/2/09.
- I took part in the OCHS National History Day judging video displays for all High School ages.

Historic Advocacy

- On Oct. 4th and 5th, work was completed on the Split Rail fence at Hunn Cemetery. Eagle Scout candidate, Zac Palmer with his father, Matt Palmer, Dennis Brewer, Barb Henry and I all met with Kyle Hammer of Hammer's Topsoil and Stone and several other Scouts for all the labor. On Nov 3rd, this group met with Cathy Menikotz, Preston Pierce, the SAR, DAR, Peter Ellison (Conservatist), the OCHS, other Ancestors of the Veterans and members of Local Historians groups. Flags were flown and a Bench was installed with Gordy Crosby's (Deceased and Former Mower).
- The New York State Council of the Arts, the Preservation League of New York State and the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation announced in the fall of 2018 that the Town of Canandaigua was one of 11 regional recipients of funding through the Preserve New York program. The Town was presented the sum of \$ 8,192 for funding for studies for preservation efforts. **This represents Phase 1 (\$10,240 of a total estimate) of a proposed 2 phases. The estimated total for Phase 2 (2020) will be \$14,700. These surveys will consist of the inventorying of the Town's existing historic buildings and landscapes to identify architecturally and historically significant resources, including buildings, structures, landscapes, and districts. The report for Phase 1 was completed by BERO Architecture in June 2019 and is available to view in hard copy at the Town Hall and digitally on the Town's website.**

2020 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 2020 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. This will be accomplished with the continued cooperation of the Code Enforcement Officer. **Ongoing.**

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. **Ongoing.**

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 Historically 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 2020 to Town Board. **I suggest Jim Erdle and Earl Coleates for two.**

Goal 5. Have rail fencing installed at Remington Cemetery on Nott 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Henry, Town Historian