

Letter from the Town Supervisor

As we bid farewell to another year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for all that we have achieved together as a community in 2024. It has been a year of remarkable accomplishments and significant milestones for our beloved town, and I am honored to share some of the highlights with you.

2024 Highlights and Accomplishments

Infrastructure Improvements

This year, we made substantial commitments to upgrading and maintaining our town's infrastructure. These projects are not meant to be an all-inclusive list. It just highlights a few of the accomplishments from this past year.

- The installation of new streetlights along the Uptown Canandaigua 332 corridor was just completed. These lights will both beautify and improve safety in that part of the town.
- Many of our town's roads have received new beautiful surfaces with corresponding drainage improvements. Kudos to our highway department for keeping our roads the best in the area.
- Progress continues on the Canandaigua Farmington Water Tower which will provide clean, safe water for the northern portion of the Town of Canandaigua. It will also allow us to meet the growing need for water in that area of the town.
- In cooperation with Canandaigua Lake Watershed Manager Kevin Olvaney and the Watershed Council, numerous water quality projects were completed that both provide greater water storage capacity, and provide greater water filtration keeping dangerous sediment from entering the lake.
- As a Town Board we made a conscious effort to commit funding to improve public safety, by approving a monumental North Road reconstruction project. This would not be possible without the support of our town residents who understand how important it is to invest in safe roads.
- We were also fortunate to receive almost \$150,000 in grant funding which will allow us to study our aging culverts and the effectiveness of our municipal stormwater management systems.

Sustainability Initiatives

We are proud to have launched several sustainability initiatives aimed at preserving our natural resources and promoting eco-friendly practices.

- We were thrilled to complete the addition of almost 13 acres of land to Onanda Park. Not only does this provide more hiking trails and beautiful views, it also protects the quality of Canandaigua Lake.
- Our transfer station and recycling area continue to provide a vital service for town residents. I am proud to say that our waste diversion remains strong and kudos to so many of you who are so invested in composting and recycling.

Parks and Recreation

This year saw the grand opening of the inclusive playground at Motion Junction. This is one of the only fully certified inclusive playgrounds in the United States. This is without a doubt one of the most utilized parks in the entire county. Children and adults of all abilities and ages travel from near and far to relax and play on this state of the art facility. Many thanks go out to all of the volunteers and the Bentley family who made this happen. We would not have this without all of their efforts.

Economic Development

Economic growth has been another area of success for Canandaigua in 2024.

- We welcomed several new businesses to our town, from restaurants of all shapes and sizes to auto parts stores. We also saw several businesses make significant expansions to meet the growing demand of their nation-wide footprint. Each of these businesses provide jobs and needed services. We are fortunate to have very few vacant storefronts within the Town of Canandaigua.
- The Town also partners with the City of Canandaigua and the Ontario County Chamber of Commerce in the operations of the Canandaigua Local Development Corporation, the CLDC. This group meets monthly with the goal of bringing government and business together for open dialogue that will help drive the economic growth for the Canandaigua area. This group has been responsible for bringing in hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant money to the Canandaigua area. One of the biggest recipients of funding has been Winter in Canandaigua. The CLDC applied for and received grant funding to help get this project off the ground. The CLDC also financially supported the City of Canandaigua and their Downtown Revitalization Grant application. If successful, this could bring millions of dollars into the Canandaigua area.
- In this economy you can't talk about economic development without mentioning housing. I am having regular discussions with realtors and developers who want to bring attainable housing to Canandaigua. My priority is and will always be doing everything we can to provide opportunities for attainable home ownership within the town. Home ownership is one of the most important drivers of individual and community success. 2024 saw the groundwork laid for many projects that will help to accomplish this goal.
- 2024 was extremely busy for our Development Office and Code Enforcement Office. From new construction to additions and remodeling, there is work happening in the town. To meet the growing demands we have had to add more staff to our codes enforcement office. We have also partnered with the Town of Farmington to hire a shared stormwater inspector to make sure we meet the growing mandates set by New York State.

Introduction of the My TOC App

One of our most exciting developments in 2024 has been the launch of the My TOC app. This innovative tool is designed to streamline communication between residents and town officials, providing a convenient platform for accessing town services, reporting issues, and staying informed

about local events and updates. The My TOC app is available for download on both iOS and Android devices, making it easier than ever for you to stay connected with your community.

Establishment of the Community Advisory Panel (CAP)

2024 also saw the beginning of our new citizen's committee, the CAP. The CAP is focused on fostering dialogue between residents and town leadership. The CAP provides a forum for community members to voice their concerns, share ideas, and work collaboratively on solutions to enhance the quality of life in Canandaigua. For the past several months the committee has been gathering data from a community survey. This data will be used to guide the group for the upcoming year. Residents from all stages and from all walks of life are on this committee. Look for many exciting things to come.

Financial Strength

I am also happy to share that the Town of Canandaigua is in strong financial position. We have significant reserves set aside for future projects and unforeseen needs. We have one of the lowest tax rates in Ontario County. The Town Board carefully audits expenses and account balances to make sure funds are used appropriately and conservatively. In the beginning of 2024, I was pleased to have the town partner with 3+1, a consulting group that helps municipalities and school districts leverage their financial resources and earn the most possible through appropriate investment. Through their guidance and the hard work of our financial staff, we have been able to become fully diversified with both short-term and long-term investments, capitalizing on beneficial interest rates while at the same time ensuring that we have access to the funds that we need for day to day town operations. Because of these adjustments, we are earning more interest and keeping our financial position strong.

Celebrations

- Our annual Halloween at Onanda event was a resounding success this year, bringing together families and friends for a fun-filled evening of festivities. From the haunted trails to the costume contests and pumpkin carving, it was a delight to see the community come together and celebrate in the spirit of the season.
- We were thrilled to participate in the 4th of July parade, showcasing the pride and unity of Canandaigua. This year, we also made a significant investment in bringing back fireworks for the 4th of July celebration. The spectacular display lit up the night sky and was enjoyed by residents of all ages, marking a memorable and patriotic occasion for our town.
- The year ended with our second annual Wreaths Across America events at Hunn and Academy cemeteries on December 14th. Throughout the entire United States, wreaths are laid on the graves of those who served our country during periods of war. We have 14 Revolutionary War soldiers interred at Hunn cemetery which sits on the corner of CR32 and Woolhouse Road. Many thanks to our Cemetery Team, our Wreaths Committee, state and

local representatives and the local chapters of the SAR and DAR who helped make this possible. Freedom is not free, and we need to always remember those who sacrificed so much for all of us.

As we look ahead to 2025, I am confident that we will continue to build on these accomplishments and work together to make Canandaigua an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. I am deeply grateful for the dedication and hard work of our town employees, volunteers, and residents who have made this year's achievements possible.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our community. Wishing you all a happy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Jared Simpson

Town Supervisor, Canandaigua