

State of the City of Canandaigua

One hundred and two and still going strong. (Not my age.) That's the City of Canandaigua!

We have a new city logo, the result of a branding initiative led by the City Manager David Forrest.

Development

We are a historic community so it stands to reason that much of our development is redevelopment. Reconfiguring and combining older sites and repurposing or removing older buildings is more complex than the "greenfield development" that occurs in growing communities. Many projects are "Brownfield" projects, where environmental remediation must be done before redevelopment can occur. The complexities of these projects impacts costs and financing strategies and these projects often require support from the public sector, whether that be the local or state government. Many of these projects are crucial to our community, key sites that would not move forward on their own but sites that need to be redeveloped to remove the blight of past development and redefine the city's economic future.

The creation of Canandaigua Finger Lakes Resort on the old Steamboat site is slated to be completed in 2016. It will add 111 rooms, 44 condominiums and have 12,000 feet of conference space available to the public. .

The North Shore Project continues to develop. Plans have been submitted and approved. The developers are working with the city staff to finalize details and the city engaged a firm, SWBR, to review the building plans. The cost of this review is borne by the developer not city taxpayers. The land transfer is slated to take place mid May, but construction mobilization is expected to begin as early as next week. This includes equipment being brought to the site, construction silt fences being installed and some site work.

The Mobil Station at the corner of Saltonstall and South Main is being addressed. An RFP has been issued for the property which has some "clean-up issues". I'm told there is substantial interest on the part of several developers.

The Labelon Building – Good news – the asbestos has been removed and now the owner can move forward to determine the extent of any contamination. We are looking forward to this happening because it is a key part of our downtown.

The Triss Building has received significant interest for potential projects, but none have moved beyond inquiry. The building is subject to Code Enforcement proceedings in City Court. The judge has ordered the building repaired and brought up to city code or be sold by October. This process is similar to the process used with the Outhouse Building on Ontario Street. The building sold recently and the new owners are slated to begin repairs this summer.

I'm sure everyone remembers the old car wash on Parrish St. That property was purchased and redeveloped. A creamery will soon open on the site. Our Economic Development Initiative with the Chamber of Commerce played a part in making this happen. I will talk about the Economic Development Initiative a bit later.

There was a recent ribbon cutting at 59 Chapin Street. Habitat for Humanity redeveloped the site which had been a single family home. They built a new home for a family that met their guidelines. The property is back on the tax roles and the family has a wonderful new home thanks to Habitat.

Habitat also partnered with the city to address homes in need of fix-up especially in regards to painting and repairs.. While the effort was originally geared to the Chapin Street area, it was later expanded to the entire city.

In addition to partnering with Habitat the city also partnered with Pathstone and established a program that helped property owners improve their homes. Their focus was on energy saving items such as insulation and energy saving infrastructure and appliances.

Redevelopment and upgrading will continue in other sites in the city. Portions of the West Avenue Plaza still need to be addressed and it my understanding that recent inquiries have been made in regard to the property.

New Residential Development –

Reidman & Wegman inc is proceeding through the approval process for a subdivision entitled "Canandaigua Cottages," which will be located on Bristol Street adjacent to the Town of Canandaigua's Hammocks Development. Covington Place, in the Classics area off North Main Street, is slated to begin completion this summer. Saxton Lane will be completed and Sibley Court will be started.

There are some additional open areas of the city that can be developed. In the Northeast quadrant there are acres zoned for residential development. In the Southeast Quadrant there are areas currently zoned for manufacturing that are

underdeveloped. Our City Master Plan also suggests this area might be considered for rezoning.

Business

The BID We have been fortunate to have a BID in place since the early 1990's. It has helped us maintain a retail presence in our business area. Last year the BID raised over \$ 50,000 to buy amenities for our newly constructed Main Street area. We were fortunate to get a \$385,000 EFC grant to complete the infrastructure, sidewalks and add rain gardens to our city streetscape. Although this delayed the project by a year I think we are reaping the benefits at this time and I understand BID amenities including benches, trash and recycling containers and flowerpots are to be added as soon as next week.

The Plaza on 5 and 20 continues to upgrade. Plans for the addition of a KFC have been approved and construction should begin soon on a parcel between Volunteers for America and Key Bank.

The City has an Economic Development initiative in place with the Chamber of Commerce and Thomas Lyons has been instrumental in working to establish and maintain businesses in Canandaigua.

Constellation Brands has a distribution facility on North Street and AJ Glass is expanding and plans are afoot to address the Meridian property.

Recreation

Bill Taylor, a former Council member who recently moved to Colorado brought to council a Complete Streets Program and sheperded it through the approval process. An off shoot of this was the Walking Trail from Main Street to connect to Pathways on Ontario Street. As a part of this Betsy and Greg Russell came forward and donated a bike rack shaped like a train engine and money for the painting of a mural on the back of the Murphy's Tire Building. Greg and Betsy have come forth once again to donate their time to maintain the trail this summer from Main Street to the Niagara Street Parking area.

Love your Parks Day is Saturday, May 2 and we plan a community activity and opportunity for the public to come to Lagoon Park and help with some clean-up spruce-up activities.

Following that we will be organizing some community voluntary work activities for Saturday mornings. The DPW will select particular parks areas and the opportunities will be well publicized. May 9th will be the first Community Work Day.

The skateboard park continues to be an active place for youth and young adults. We get many visitors who travel from local communities to use what the developer describes as "the best little skate park in the northeast."

City Government

Partnered with Geneva regarding IT Services – This began about 2 months ago. This arrangement has already been very beneficial in regard to upgrading our I T Department.

Partnering with Geneva regarding Assessment- We are currently in the process of hiring an Assessor with Geneva. It is great to see the two Ontario County cities working together. Yesterday as I finalized these remarks I received a call from NYCOM saying that Monday evening we (Cities of Geneva and Canandaigua) will receive an award for this effort at the annual NYCOM Conference..

Partnering with the Town of Canandaigua-

The City and Town continue to work together on the parks and recreation programs. Katie Outhouse and Dennis Brewer deserve recognition for their efforts to provide quality services to the Canandaigua area. Our summer program registration is now underway and Katie says registrations are brisk.

We currently are partnering with the Town regarding bulk items. Since we no longer have a contract for operation of the city transfer station we have an agreement with the Town for use of their facility for drop off. Discussions for future cooperation regarding this are also underway with the DPW's of both municipals. Our DPW Director, Jim Sprague, and his staff are credited for all they do to maintain our city infrastructure and services.

Street Reconstruction - The City tries to address major street reconstruction every 3 to 5 years. This year we are slated to address Scotland Road, Hubbell, Brook, Dungan, Bates and Antis Streets. Bids came in much higher than expected so we are in the process of making a decision to drop Antis and Bates. We may consider resurfacing Bates and Antis and consider them in the next project.

Scotland Road residents and the Tree Committee have been working with the DPW to retain as many trees as possible. The Tree Committee has been a great addition to the

city. They work hard with the DPW to monitor our urban forest and our status as a "Tree City USA."

Watershed Council- We are pleased to host the office of the Watershed Council Director Kevin Olvany. The work of the Council is very important to the health of the lake and we rely on Kevin's guidance and assistance as we join the other 13 municipals striving to keep our lake healthy.

Quality Water - You may have seen the media coverage regarding our water quality. Once again we receive high rankings for the quality of water taken from Canandaigua Lake and distributed to several municipalities beyond the city limits. Peter Virkler and the staff at the Water Treatment Facility are to be commended.

Sewer - Over the past several years we have been upgrading our sewer treatment plant. It was the first major upgrade for the facility since it went on line over 30 years ago. Kudos to the City Council responsible for building this quality plant. We have reaped the benefits for decades. Will Clark, and his staff are to be commended for the work they do treat our affluent as well as provide revenue by being select in accepting affluent from other communities.

Police Department – Public Safety is so important to every community. And we are fortunate to have a state accredited police department. The department was originally accredited five years ago in 2010, and was just reaccredited in March of this year. To become accredited requires a rigorous evaluation process comprising 133 standards that the department must successfully meet. The Canandaigua Police Department has been accredited since the 1990's

Fire Department - The Canandaigua Fire Department's success is based on just nine professional fire fighters, mutual aid from neighboring fire departments, and a core of highly-trained volunteers. Since 2013, the City has been recruiting young college students to volunteer through what we call the "Bunker Program." In exchange for their volunteer service, the City pays a portion of their college tuition. Recently I had an opportunity to speak with one of the student volunteers who does this and was very impressed. Not only was he completing his program at FLCC, he was also taking Fire Fighting 1 and bunking at the fire house several nights a week.

City Administration

Planning and Code Enforcement are important departments for determine the quality and look of our homes and businesses and thus the community. Rick Brown and his code important staff are deserving of thanks and appreciation.

David Forrest, Michele Smith and John Goodwin deserve kudos for the work they do every hour of everyday to insure we provide a safe community with many services. They also get to put up with 9 bosses and determine a way to keep things on track.

Upcoming Topics

Solar Array We are partnering with New Energy, RER Energy Group and Hunt Engineers to construct a solar array at the transfer station property. The system will produce enough energy to power the equivalent of 400+ homes.

Small Cell Tower Proposal - We are in preliminary discussions with CMA regarding the establishment of a small cell network in the city.

Dog Park – We continue to explore the creation of a dog park. Canine Campus, a volunteer group, is presenting a proposal for the location of a park on Ontario Street.

Audit Ending on a positive note. Each year we have an independent audit performed on our city finances. On Monday we received a report from our 2014 review. We were pleased to learn in audit language “there were no material weaknesses and no deficiencies” which means in my language “we received a high rating.” When asked how we compared it was pointed out there were most of the 61 cities ranked below us.

In checking the Comptrollers website I found only one city ranking better than Canandaigua. That is what qualifies us to not be on the distressed cities list. A good place to be but, also a concern in being eligible for grant opportunities. It is a topic I always mention to the Governor and his staff.

If time permits

We must continue to look for ways to work with other communities. Communication, Coordination, Collaboration and Cooperation are the necessary “4C’s needed to achieve shared services. Canandaigua is fortunate to have a City Staff that supports this effort.