

CCAT 2004 Year in Review

Organized in 2003, Cheshire Community Action Team works to improve the day-to-day living environment of the hamlet of Cheshire by raising awareness of community issues; fostering better communication between neighbors and providing an informed, effective voice that links Cheshire residents to the Town of Canandaigua. The organization is open to anyone interested in preserving the safety, charm and character of the hamlet.
– CCAT Mission Statement

2004 Year in Review:

In December 2004, an evergreen tree was planted at the south end of the hamlet. Money for the tree was raised from a garage sale CCAT held this past summer. Children from the Monday afternoon "Kid's Art Club" made ornaments and decorated the tree. The Kid's Art Club is sponsored by CCAT's Community Activities Committee chaired by Dory Romanowski. It is held at the Cheshire Community Church.

After one year of research and corresponding with the NY State DOT, the CCAT Speed Control Committee, chaired by Linda Johnston, was successful in getting "Reduce Speed Limit" and larger speed limit signs posted at the north and south ends of the hamlet. The committee's next project is new "sidewalks" in the hamlet, along the side of Route 21. The Town Board has agreed to hire the MRB Group, engineering consultants for the town, to do a sidewalk survey/study in January of 2005.

In May of 2003, CCAT's Community Improvement Committee, Chaired by Dody Bourque, undertook its first community-wide, pre-Memorial Day clean-up of the hamlet. With the assistance of the Town Highway Superintendent, Jim Hecker and approval from the Town Board, an industrial-sized dumpster was parked at Pierce Memorial Park. CCAT members went door to door with a smaller truck and hauled tons of materials to the dumpster, which was filled to overflowing. The dumpster for the May 2004 clean-up was donated by Kevin Pollack who resides in Cheshire. He is the owner of Patriot Disposal in Henrietta. Kevin donated his equipment and time to CCAT's effort and will be doing the same in 2005.

Spring 2004 brought out local "green thumb" volunteers to help beautify the hamlet. They constructed a planter at the south end Welcome sign and planted it with roses donated by Miller Nurseries. Kevin Nixon of Smart Landscaping on Route 21 North, donated plants and did the plantings at the north end Welcome sign. Community volunteers made additional plantings in front of the Cheshire Fire Hall and the Cheshire Community Church. The hamlet looked clean and beautiful.

The highlight of 2004 was the Memorial Day commemoration and community picnic held at the Cheshire Fire Hall. The event was planned and organized by Fred and Nancy Goodnow. The featured speaker was The Hon. Judge Harvey. This was truly a community event...Cheshire Firemen, Cheshire Community Church, children from the community, and CCAT took part to make this event memorable for the third year in a row. Food for the picnic was provided by the families in the hamlet and The Company Store. A beautiful patchwork wall hanging, hand-sewn women in the hamlet, was raffled off to a lucky recipient. For 2005, the quilters will be making a full-sized quilt to raffle off in support of the Memorial Day celebration. Quilters are Sharon Ward, Viola Johnston, Gail Hribar, Cindy Woolley, Ginny Walker Miser and Nancy Goodnow.

With the help of the Town of Canandaigua Parks Director, Dennis Brewer, concrete floors were poured under the picnic shelters at Pierce Memorial Park.

The CCAT Community Improvement Committee chaired by Ginny Miser, has asked the Town Board for a walking trail to be developed at the park and additional playground equipment to be installed. The Town Board has agreed to create the walking trail in 2005.

The CCAT Wastewater Management Committee chaired by Jack Adams, was busy throughout the year. With the assistance of Chris Nill of RCAP Solutions, a water and septic survey was distributed to residents of the hamlet. Stream testing was done by Kevin Olvany, from the Watershed Alliance, several times during the year to determine what, if any, problems were detected in the streams heading into Canandaigua Lake. With the survey and stream testing results, a draft report will be completed by Chris Nill in Spring 2005.

The CCAT Historic Building Preservation Committee, chaired by Pastor Kevin Cotter and Nancy Goodnow, held a "historic hamlet walk" where homes and sites of historical significance were identified. During the summer, a "Yesteryear Luncheon" for former and current older citizens of Cheshire was very well attended - full of lively conversation and special memories. The committee produced a booklet of questions which was distributed at the luncheon, called "My Memories of Cheshire." The committee is in the process of documenting the history of the hamlet with the help of community residents.

Also this summer, the Cheshire Community Youth Group, supervised by Gene Crawford, Rick Nicholson and Pastor Kevin Cotter, painted and spruced up mailboxes of residents in the hamlet.

The CCAT, with the help of Canandaigua National Bank will soon establish an account under the umbrella of Finger Lakes Area Community Endowment (FLACE). This will allow CCAT to solicit and accept tax deductible contributions/gifts as well as conduct fund-raising events. The CCAT also plans to incorporate as a not-for-profit organization in 2005.

The Cheshire Community Action Team, with the help of the community, is working hard to improve and preserve the uniqueness of the Hamlet of Cheshire.