

Part 2

Walk Thru History with the Niagara Frontier Volkssport Club

by Terry McFarland

Hello, future conventioners!

This is the second of the Niagara Frontier club's thumbnail impression articles of our club seasonal walks. We hope that you might include a few in your pre- or post-convention planning.

Twenty miles south of the Thousand Islands is our Watertown walk. Watertown includes Fort Drum, home of the Army's most deployed division, the 10th Mountain. Think of Watertown and you think snow, and lots of it! Not your problem in June, 2019, fortunately. You will also discover an indoor mall dating back to origins in the 1890s and the original Woolworth store. The Olmstead park includes a zoo and if you are collecting those streets with state names, we have 6 of them for you.

Traveling West and South of the New York State Thruway is the Finger Lakes District and two seasonal walks that are fifteen miles apart and on lovely lakes. The scenic Finger Lakes are so-called due to the many adjacent lakes' long, thin outlines resembling fingers on a hand (retreating glaciers) scraping the earth. The Geneva walk begins on the Seneca Lake shore. Seneca is the largest of the glacial Finger Lakes of New York, and the deepest lake entirely within the state. Geneva is promoted as being the lake trout capital of the world, and is host of the National Lake Trout Derby on Main Street. The route includes beautifully preserved homes and winds through the campus of Hobart & William Smith Colleges and various residential neighborhoods before ending along the Seneca Lake shore. There are boat tours available.

Historic Main Street in the town of Canandaigua, county seat of Ontario County, is lined with quaint shops and stately civic buildings. Canandaigua has been a water crossroads dating back to pre-colonial days and, later, saw busy canal, steamboat and railroad traffic.

The town was the site of the historic trial of Susan B Anthony for casting her 1873 illegal vote. If you time your walk right, you could add a view of

the lake from the magnificent Canandaigua Lady paddlewheel tour boat. Purchase tickets at the dock for lunch, dinner or just a guided cruise as you wish. The boat parking lot is the remote start for the 5K after the YMCA walkbox sign-in. Put on your swimsuit and cool off with a dip at the town lakeside change room/locker facility. The lake is shallow for wading or safe swimming.

The 10K route passes the impressive Sonnenberg Mansion and Gardens, a NYS historic park, and the Granger Homestead on Main Street which has an extensive display of carriages and conveyances from the past for you to enjoy.

Rochester is our next stop and is easily accessed North from the NYS Thruway.

Walk options include the city walk through the Corn Hill Victorian residential community or walking through beautiful Olmstead- designed Highland Park, site of the glorious Lilac Festival. Have lunch at restaurants above the old Erie Canal shipping route that used to cross the city and is now a scenic byway. (Dinosaur BBQ is a club favorite.) Rochester is the city of Eastman-Kodak and photography and film are celebrated at the Eastman Museum. Another highlight of this walk is HighFalls with a scenic walkway that leads walkers to the Genesee Brewery. If it is a hot day, get a flight of beer - you will walk it off!

As you travel these roads, you will see many, many vineyards along the Wine Trail. New York State wines are excellent and the 2016 vintage was especially good.

Let's plan on raising a glass at next year's meeting to the committee now hard at work for our 2019 Convention. That 2016 bottle will be perfect then!