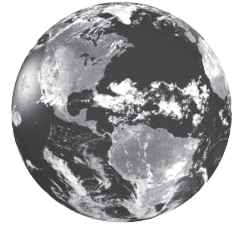


# Owl Light News

Read - Listen - Reflect

FREE



February 23, 2018, Volume II, Number 4

OwlLightNews.com



by Len Geller

A \$365 million trash-burning incinerator with a 260-foot smokestack capable of burning up to 2,640 tons of garbage a day in the heart of the Finger Lakes? It sounds absurd, almost surreal, but in fact that's what Circular enerG LLC, a newly formed company with no track record or experience in solid-waste management, is proposing to build on the former Seneca Army Depot in the town of Romulus in Seneca County.

When fully operational, the trash incinerator would be the largest in New York State, burning between 1350 and 2640 tons of garbage a day, with 50-75 full-time employees, and producing up to 50 megawatts of power in the form of electricity. It would need to withdraw about 445,000 gallons of water from Seneca Lake each day to cool the incinerator machinery before returning the heated water to the lake. The trash would come from all over the state including New York City, first just by truck and then by rail and truck. According to Circular enerG, this would require as many as 176 waste-hauling truck loads and 62 other truck loads carrying ash, scrap metals, and other materials per day, but once the rail service is up and running, this traffic would be greatly reduced. By how much is unclear.

Who is Circular energy, LLC? The company's incorporation papers do not list owners, directors, or investors, and when Alan Knauf, the company's lawyer and representative, was asked this question, he declined to answer. What we do know is that the company was formed in January of

2017. It shares a Rochester address with Seneca Depot LLC, Flaum Management, and Top Capital of New York. Seneca Depot LLC owns the 48-acre parcel of land at the former Seneca Army Depot on which the proposed incinerator would be built, and David Flaum, a Rochester developer and partner in Seneca Depot LLC, is cited by Knauf as the seller of the property. According to Knauf, Top Capital is "affiliated with" but does not own Circular enerG. Although Knauf has declined to specify the nature of this affiliation, it is clear that Top Capital is the likely source of Circular enerG's funding for the project.

Who is Top Capital of New York, LLC? According to their sparse website, Top Capital is a Rochester based "capital investment firm and business development private equity company" involved in funding businesses ranging from manufacturing and commercial real estate to the hospitality industry and senior living. Founder and Chairman Zheng "Gene" Zhou, originally from China but now a naturalized citizen, said in a July 2017 press release that Top Capital plans to invest "more than \$200 million in a 'circular economy' project that will create energy from trash." Who are Zhou's investors? We don't know, but in a January 2016 press release, Top Capital announced a partnership with CEA International, a consulting firm specializing in immigration and EB-5 applications for foreign investment. Created by Congress in 1990, the federal EB-5 program allows foreigners to obtain visas leading to permanent residency in the U.S. in exchange for investing at least \$1 million (or half a million under some circumstances) in

business projects that are viable and create U.S. jobs. Nearly 90% of foreign investors under the EB-5 program are from China. In the press release cited above, Louis Giardino, President and CEO of CEA International, said that EB-5 investments provided critical financial assistance in developing Top Capital's Senior's Choice at Heritage Square, an upscale independent and assisted living community for seniors in Brockport, New York. When environmental blogger Peter Mantius (<https://waterfrontonline.blog/>) asked Alan Knauf if EB-5 investment funds would be used to finance Circular enerG's Romulus incinerator, Knauf emphatically said no.

What are we to make of all the secrecy surrounding the project? Knauf's unwillingness to reveal both the source of Circular enerG's funding and what company will actually operate the trash incinerator raises a huge red flag. What we do know is that Circular enerG is obviously a front company for capital investors and corporate interests who want to remain in the shadows. When I asked Dr. Paul Connett, anti-incinerator activist and keynote speaker at the January 7 forum at the Romulus Central School, for more details about Circular enerG, he said that if it secures the necessary permits to build the incinerator, it will most likely sell the facility to Covanta, a New Jersey company that owns or operates 7 of the 10 trash burning plants in New York State. If Connett wasn't an expert on the politics surrounding waste incineration, I would probably dismiss his remarks as pure speculation. But since he is an expert with decades of experience fighting waste incineration, his prediction

has credibility.

Hoping that the Romulus Planning Board would act as the lead regulatory agency on his client's proposal and grant it a special use permit as a "renewable energy producer", Alan Knauf, after months of covert maneuvering (see Peter Mantius' Water Front Blog entries of January 8th and 25th for details), submitted the proposal to the board for the first time in November 2017. On December 6 the Planning Board announced its intention to assume the lead agency role but was overruled two weeks later by the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on grounds that the proposed waste-to-energy facility would require six DEC permits and had the potential for impacts that were not primarily local. In the same letter to the Planning Board Chair, DEC Regional Permit Administrator Scott Sheeley also indicated that since Article 10 of the Public Service Law may apply in this case, Circular enerG should request such a determination from the the Department of Public Service (DPS), and if Article 10 does apply, the project would be exempt from a State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) and instead fall under the purview of the Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (Siting Board).

Once authority for the permit decision was removed from the Planning Board and taken over by the DEC and possibly the DPS, Knauf withdrew Circular enerG's application for a special use permit on January 5, 2018. But the story does not end here. Failing to secure a special use permit on the local level, Knauf has indicated that

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## A simple fix

An oft-cited argument in favor of manufactured obsolescence is employment and resulting higher standards of living, translated as more wealth – which does not necessarily equate to greater happiness. My grandmother, Alice, and many of her peers were the early working class beneficiaries of mass production, spending their days working on factory floors in cycles of repetitive assemblage of consumer goods – in her case cash registers. Back then, many manufacturers provided for their workers' retirement. My grandmother did retire with a good pension and spent her retirement years traveling by motorcycle and boat, growing flowers and bowling with former co-workers.

Factory work these days, when not done by robots and grossly underpaid workers in developing countries, is a much less stable and sustainable vocation. Shutdowns and relocations of these massive creators of consumer goods results in little long-term security, not to mention a plethora of potential health hazards.

What if instead of being makers of (mostly) useless and poorly made mass-produced goods, more of us took on the role of repairers. No, seriously, this is what people used to do instead of running out to buy the next poorly made version of that thing that just got trashed. My father fixed all kinds of things, from cars to toasters to a jukebox he and I salvaged from the neighborhood landfill. At that time such facilities would allow people to come in and walk about amongst heaps of discarded objects to take home, refurbish or repair. Come to think of it, Alice, his mother, was also a great fixer of things.

A couple things got me to thinking about people being fixers: this *Owl's* focus on sustainability, which morphed out of a trashy proposal; and an article about a man who fixes umbrellas. In a BBC video clip\* that features Thierry Millet speaking about his work, he laments the wastefulness of a consumer society. According to Mr. Millet, there are an estimated five hundred million umbrellas thrown away each year, enough to build ten Eiffel Towers – a year – with the discarded metal. Millet is one of very few artisanal umbrella repair people worldwide. He works out of his small shop in central Paris - Maison Pep's, repairing all kinds of umbrellas, saving them from the landfills. Although he seems humbled by his contribution, given a likely increase in rain with current weather trends, umbrellas *are* important.

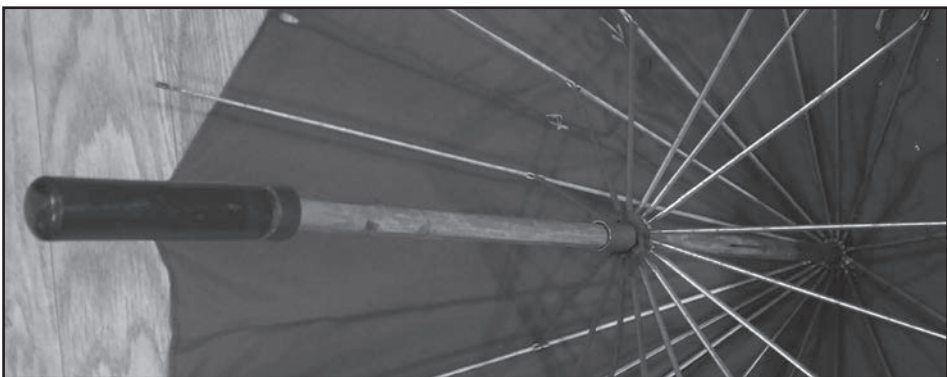
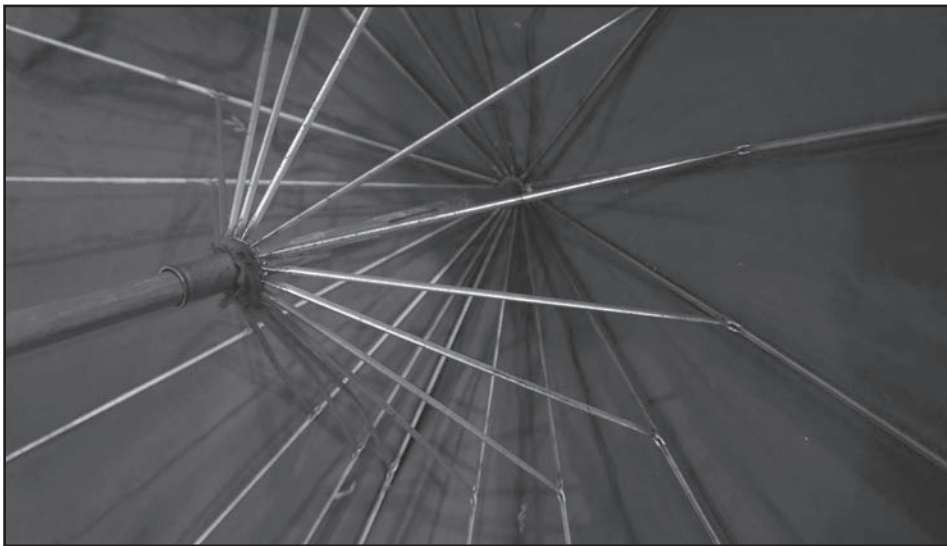
Reducing the amount of garbage we produce, and repairing things, all kinds of things, is one small step toward us becoming a Zero Waste world.

Back to the idea of factories and "making" jobs to make things that we do not need. What if more people fixed things. Not just folks at home making broken things work because they can't afford a new thing and care about doing the right things. What if we could somehow mastermind a grand shift away from making more things to fixing more things, with more people finding ways of being gainfully employed by repairing what's broken – to keep all those things out of landfills.

There is a bit of a movement in this direction, but what we need is momentum. How about we start in the unemployment lines and provide funding and apprenticeships in the fine art of salvage and renewal to actively engage people who can't find jobs. Create a kind of Civilian Conservation Corp of specialized salvage and rehabilitators. There are many more things than just umbrellas in the world that get thrown away simply because people do not have the time or skills to fix them. Isn't it much more satisfying for workers and beneficial to the world as a whole to save items from the landfill instead of helping to manufacture things that will just get thrown away?

I do have an umbrella I have been meaning to fix, a really nice one. This is part of what interested me about this umbrella piece. I also recently had a watch repaired. We all love and cherish things, and it is easier to find joy and meaning in the things we love if we focus on quality, not quantity. Bringing objects back to life is about more than the object – it is about the people they matter to, and people are what creating a sustainable world is all about.

D.E. Bentley  
Editor, Owl Light News



Top: The underside of my umbrella - a thing of beauty waiting to be brought back to life. Even the handle (above) is beautifully crafted.

Any umbrella fixers near Canadice?

Photos D.E. Bentley

My video resource:

• <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-43007051>

And for a little more umbrella information go to - <http://www.vintageumbrellas.com/umbrella-repair-services.html>

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Sunday, April 29, 2018	Friday, May 4, 2018
Sunday, May 13, 2018	Friday, May 18, 2018

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# Tourists *not* Trash ~ not so simple after all

Opinion by William Ouweleen

A start-up Rochester-based company is proposing to build a huge trash incinerator in the heart of Finger Lakes Wine Country.

Circular enerG promotes itself as a brand-new company with no prior experience in garbage burning, but offers every assurance they have it all figured out.

The public has yet to lay eyes on the actual plans for the plant. To date, all the company has offered is a computer-generated illustration of a plant built somewhere in China.

Past news coverage of the project indicated it would be financed with EB-5 investors. Otherwise known as “Green cards for sale” the EB-5 program allows foreign nationals to invest \$500,000 in ‘job-creation’ projects and fast-track citizenship, jumping the line of other immigrants who are following the arduous process of legal immigration to the USA. Records reflect most EB-5 visas are being granted to Chinese investors and their families.

So if I have this right: Chinese investors will buy their citizenship by investing in a garbage burning plant (perhaps the biggest in America), which will bring hundreds of trash trucks and untold trash trains to the Finger Lakes every day, and a company who has no experience in this industry nor has ever engineered, built, or operated a garbage incinerator plant is assuring local folks that they have nothing to fear.

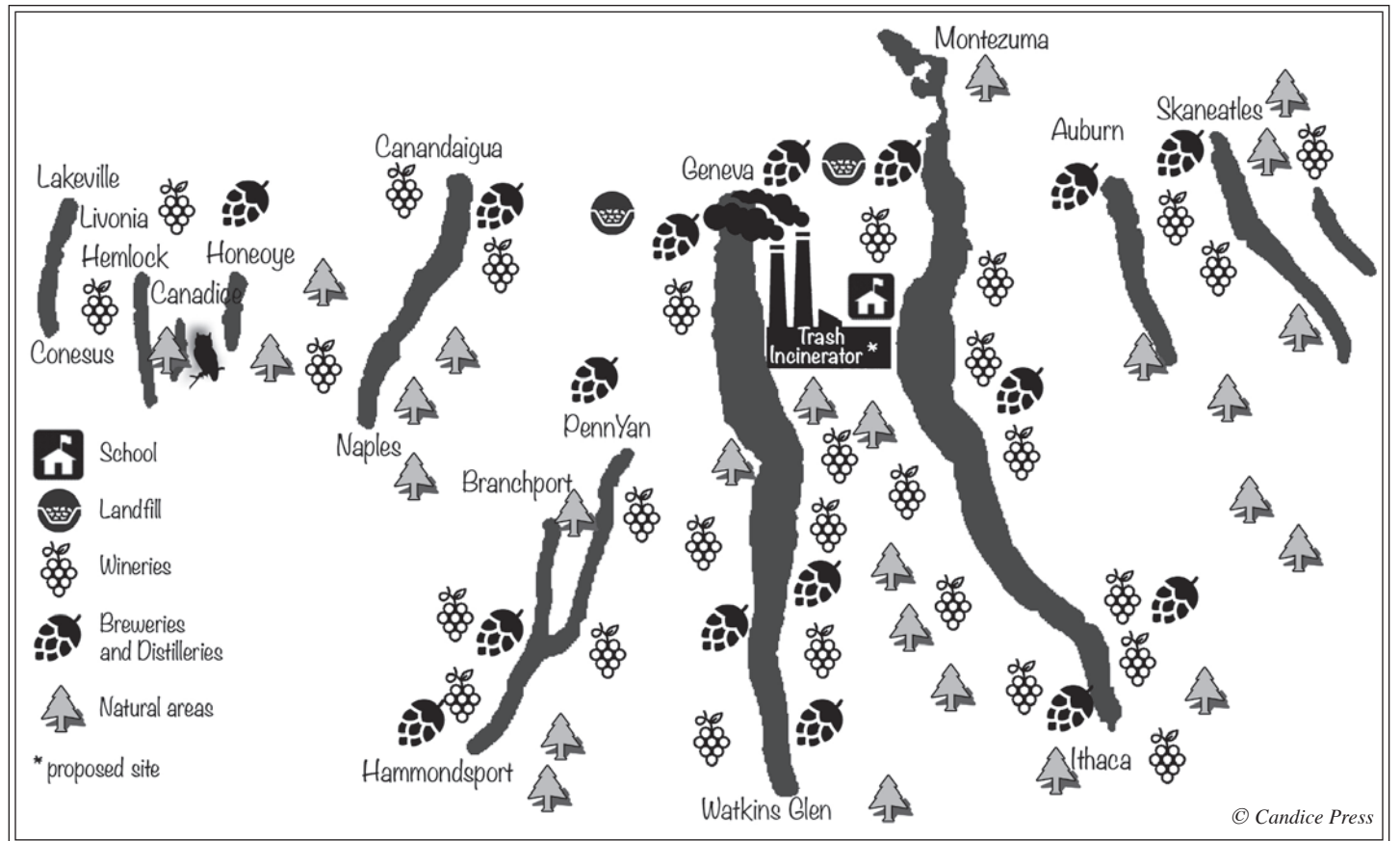
The lawyer for Circular enerG, Alan Knauf, has offered assurances that this trash incinerator is far-superior to garbage burners of the past but the people of the Finger Lakes aren't buying Mr. Knauf's characterizations.

After attempts to get approval from the Romulus Planning Board failed, Knauf withdrew the application from the local folks and is now attempting to get the State PSC to permit the project as a “renewable energy plant.”

Billed as a new-fangled “Waste-to-energy” plant, in point-of-fact this trash incineration project is just one more knife in the back of the growing Finger Lakes Agritourism Industry.

Already the Finger Lake Region suffers under the presence of two of the largest landfills in New York State. The proposed garbage burner would further advance the notion that the Finger Lakes Region is trash-central for everyone else's garbage.

The Finger Lakes Wine Business Coalition (FLXWBC), a member organization of vineyards, wineries, restaurants, B&B's, entrepreneurs and family businesses has opposed the project and is petitioning the PSC and Governor Cuomo to disallow its construction.



The primary objection of the FLXWBC is that a huge trash incinerator is the wrong kind of economic development for the Finger Lakes. It requires more energy than it produces and it profits Circular enerG and foreign investors at the expense of local people and the Finger Lakes Way of Life. Burning garbage is dirty business. Waste and wine don't mix.

No one should be allowed to build the Nation's biggest garbage-burner in the heart of Finger Lakes Wine Country. The project calls for a 260 foot smokestack, which will release pollution in all directions as the wind blows, and the Romulus K-12 school is a mere 3200 feet downwind from the smokestack. The trash-burning plant will be located between the two largest Finger Lakes, Seneca and Cayuga, and smokestack emissions and toxic ash will be the end product of burning hundreds of thousands of tons of garbage each year. Forever.

Fat-soluble toxins emitted from the smokestack can blow onto dairy fields, farms, vineyards and into the streams and lakes, accumulating in the fat cells of cows, fish, deer, goats and sheep.

The company will tell you that smokestack emissions will be well-below allowable Federal limits. Even if this were true, the cleaner the smokestack emissions the more toxic the ash produced. That ash will end up in Finger Lakes landfills, adding tons and tons of toxic ash with high levels of concentrated hazardous materials.

It is really a simple argument to follow: You cannot be the garbage dump and trash burning hub of New York State AND be the world's most exciting wine and agritourism destination. It is one OR the other, and the ‘other’ is already a proven economic engine for Upstate New York, attracting millions of tourists, producing billions of dollars of economic impact and tens of thousands of jobs that have stretched back 6 and 7 generations.

It has taken the Finger Lakes 50+ years to build a world-class reputation for fine wine, food, fishing and outdoor recreation. No one in their right mind would encourage or permit that reputation to be trashed with an unending parade of NYC garbage trucks and trains operating day in and day out, with emissions from a 260 foot smokestack landing on lakes, farms, vineyards and schools in every direction as the wind blows.

Millions are being invested in Upstate NY to make it a vibrant, self-sufficient prosperous region. Industrial Trash Incineration is not part of our regional vision. Our cry to Governor Cuomo and NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio must be: “Send us your tourists and stop trashing the Finger Lakes!”

Governor Cuomo's plan to power NYS with zero emissions renewable energy sources does not include burning garbage to make energy. ‘Waste-to-energy’ should be more accurately titled “Waste-of-energy.” It takes more energy to burn trash than

it produces. The more trash we burn the less we recycle, and the less we recycle the more we lose valuable materials that can be repurposed and reused in manufacturing - materials that took a lot of energy to manufacture the first time. Burning those materials to generate a small amount of electricity is a cover for what is otherwise a dirty business.

You may ask: “If this project is designed to burn NYC garbage, why not build it closer to the garbage source?”

The answer is: they cannot. NYC air quality is already compromised and precludes any further pollution from projects like burning garbage.

The solution, according to Circular enerG is to find a REALLY clean patch of air that can handle a little pollution and toxic emissions and they see the Finger Lakes to be that perfect place.

The Finger Lakes is NOT the perfect place to burn New York City's garbage.

Tourists. Not Trash. Simple, but apparently not easy as the fight to protect the Finger Lakes rages on.

For more information and to join the local campaign to protect the Finger Lakes, visit SenecaLakeGuardian.org and FLXWBC.com

*William Ouweleen is the Secretary of the Finger Lakes Wine Business Coalition and a Vintner at O-Neh-Da & Eagle Crest Vineyards in Conesus, NY.*

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# Introducing your child to the natural world

by Tawn Feeney



Children's worlds need to expand as they grow, and there are opportunities everywhere for family get aways to explore the natural world - such as this trip to the boulder field at Hickory Run State Park in Pennsylvania. Photo D.E.Bentley

Those of us who care about sustainability certainly don't want it to end with us. We want our children, and our children's children to carry it on. But first, what exactly is "sustainability"?

A quick definition: "Sustainability is the avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance." This is not a new practice. It has been an integral part of life for millennia with our ancestors, particularly with the peoples who are native to our continent.

If we are to have any hope of passing along this love and respect for the natural environment to the next generation, we must start with our children, and start with them when they are very young.

As a speech pathologist specializing in early child development for 50 years, as well as a parent who tried to instill these values in our children and grandchildren, I would like to offer some ideas.

When should you start to introduce your child to the natural world? My answer would be as soon as you can. I remember when my son was fussy during the first few months of life, I used to carry him around the house, showing him the houseplants. Sometimes he would smile seeing the sunshine through their leaves. I would place his hands on the soft fur of our kitties, all the while singing and talking softly to him. Later we would lie outside together on a blanket in the grass under a tree. He was only three months old when we took our first camping trip with him. This is not recommended for the faint of heart, however!

We found ways to be outside in all kinds of weather, even in winter, except on the worst days. As soon as he could sit up we pulled him through the snow on a cushioned sled. In the summer we would spend as much time as we could, just exploring our backyard. You don't need an expansive wilderness to introduce the natural world

to your child. To a young child a yard can be a universe. When I myself was a preschooler I thought that the small grove of trees in our backyard was a forest, and the empty lot next to our house a prairie. The walk down the street to see the koi pond was like a trip to the ocean.

Try to resist the temptation to buy the latest cool toy or computer game, especially for children under 5. I can tell you that most children of that age would rather play in a tub full of water, or dig in the sandbox, if given the opportunity. All the best play for children is free!

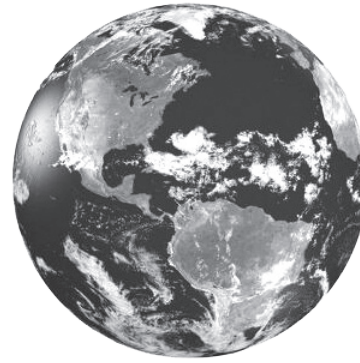
Of course a child's world needs to expand as they grow. Luckily we have literally hundreds of natural environments to share with our children within a hour's drive of our homes, most even closer than that. Get off your couch and go outside with your child. Go hiking. It's free and the best thing you can do for your health and your relationship with your child. Just don't make it into a lecture or an "educational experience." Just walk together and share in the glories about you. Point out things that you wonder about without necessarily having any answers. Honor your child's interests and questions by sharing the exploration with him or her, letting them lead the way. This is deceptively hard to do sometimes because as adults want to have all the answers, but it is important to let a child experience the moment and try to figure things out for themselves.

Share picture books about nature with your child. Check out websites about plant and bird identification, etc. Take pictures of the world about you and let him/her take over when they are ready.

Luckily for your child and the future of our world, you have a love of nature and a desire for it to flourish, so we are in good hands.

# Small steps can lead to a world of change

by Claire Ferro

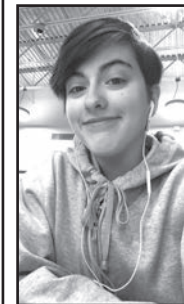


The first time a decree in regards to the Earth's health was published, the year was 1992, and it was signed by 1,700 scientists around the globe. Today, 25 years later, things are still not better. In fact, yet another warning has just been released, with 14,300 new signatures.

Although the world outside your door may seem to be quite pleasant, there are more hurricanes, floods, droughts, carbon dioxide related problems, increased global temperatures, and ocean dead zones created by pollution than ever before, and the amounts of these things continue to grow as society's ignorance regarding their lasting footprint continues to stand. We only have one Earth, one place to live, and that fact isn't going to change any time soon. Humans tend to have a rather indifferent opinion towards a topic unless it directly affects them, and, because currently, the Earth is expected to outlive us, we overlook the importance and severity of this situation because we don't see any impend-

ing danger towards us in the near future.

But, imagine if we didn't outlive Earth. Imagine if our planet was a sentient being; alive. I believe, based on other events that there would be marches, petitions, constant coverage on the media, widespread panic, and actual change. There will come a time when natural resources are almost gone causing wars, when the ozone layer is destroyed, when there are no more fish in the sea and floods have covered countries deep in water. Our great-grandchildren's grandchildren will have to live like this, surrounded by disaster. So please, I urge you to make even one small decision each day to benefit our planet, for yourself, your community, and the world.



Claire Ferro is a sophomore at WCCS. She has an interest in all forms of writing, both fiction and nonfiction, and this particular piece she wrote as an Accelerated English project relating to "Night" by Elie Wiesel, focusing on the deteriorating quality of the Earth as a result of the actions of humankind. She has also written poetry, and a number of fiction short stories / novels all with equally complicated plots; however this is (so far) the only public writing of hers.



Piper looks out at the world around her.

An Owl welcome to Piper Anne Carpenter!  
Piper is the daughter of Joel and Kim Carpenter and little sister of dotting big sister Zoey.  
Piper and Zoey's parents grew up in Trumansburg, NY, and much of their extended family lives in and around the Finger Lakes.  
Piper's and Zoey's Great Aunt is the editor of the Owl.



Zoey is totally in love with her baby sister.

Don't miss your next issue of Owl Light News, let the Owl come to you.

See page 3 for complete information.

Gift delivery also available.



*I do believe ...  
we can build a better world for all!*

# The Night Sky: Pleiades and Gemini~The Twins

by Dee Sharples

Spring is on the way. On Sunday, March 11 at 2:00 AM, clocks will be turned ahead one hour to begin Daylight Saving Time. There'll be less daylight in the early morning but more in the evening.

The vernal equinox, the official first day of spring, arrives at 12:15 PM on Tuesday, March 20. The number of daylight hours is gradually increasing and on the first day of spring, day and night will be almost equally divided with 12 hours and 9 minutes of daylight and 11 hours and 51 minutes of darkness.

There's still time to view the beautiful constellation Orion the Hunter before it sets in the western sky. During the last week in February and the first week in March, look for it high in the southwestern sky around 8:00 PM. Orion is easily recognized by the three bright stars spaced equal distance apart which comprise his belt. The red-giant star Betelgeuse is high above and to the left of the belt stars marking one of Orion's shoulders. Three bright white stars join Betelgeuse in forming a very large slightly skewed rectangle framing the belt stars and

forming the outline of his body.

Look above and to the right of Orion about 40 degrees (4 fist widths) for a beautiful open star cluster embedded in a hazy cloud of nebulosity. This is the Pleiades, also known as the Seven Sisters. There are 3,000 stars in this cluster but in Greek mythology the nine brightest stars represent the seven sisters (Maia, Electra, Alcyone, Taygete, Asterope, Celaeno and Merope) and their parents Atlas and Pleione. How many of the nine stars can you see with your naked eye?

For a breathtaking sight, view the Pleiades through binoculars which will show its distinct shape of a miniature dipper. The stars in this cluster are gravitationally bound together so they are moving as a group through space. The Pleiades cluster is one of the closest to Earth and lies about 444 light-years away. If it were possible to travel on a spaceship at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second), the journey would take 444 years.

Around 9:00 PM look almost straight up for the constellation Gemini the Twins. The two brightest stars represent twin brothers

Castor and Pollux. Fainter stars extending down and toward the west from the two brighter stars depict the legs of the brothers. Castor which looks like one star is actually six stars – three sets of double stars all revolving in a complicated path around a common point within the grouping.

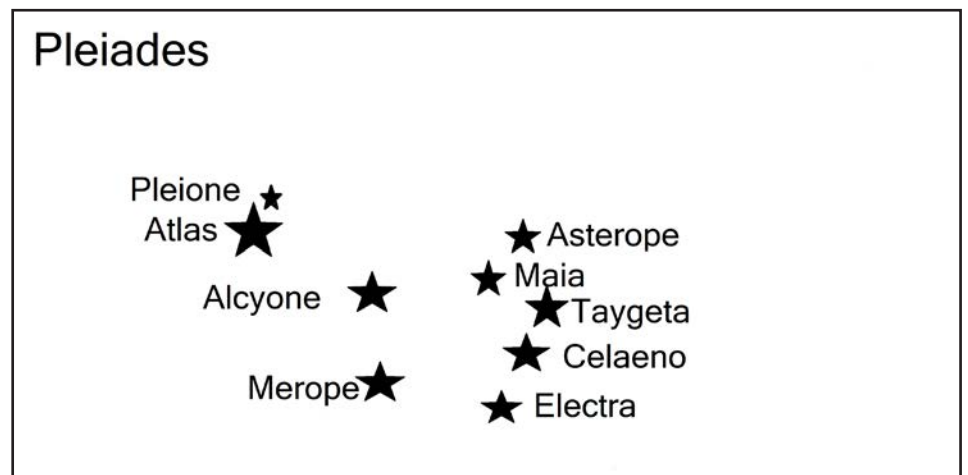
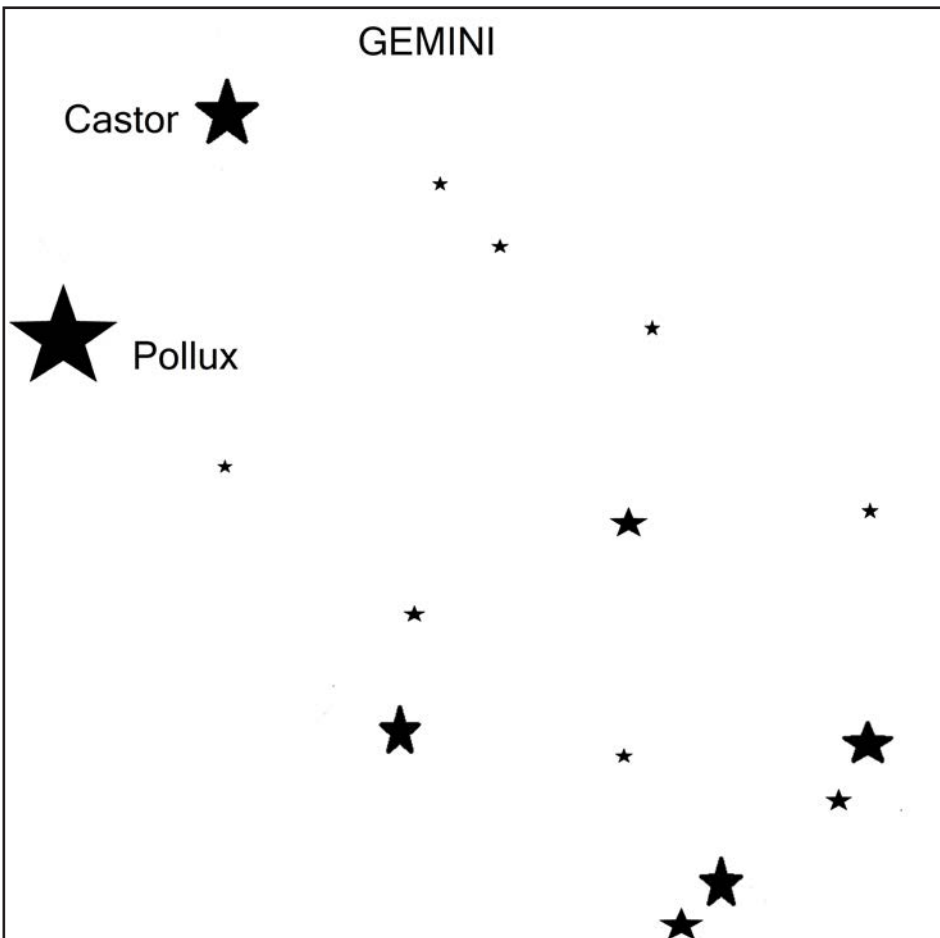
There's always something interesting to see in the night or early morning sky. Since we have no control over the weather, take advantage of the times when the sky is clear to look up. A great source on the internet that forecasts when the sky will be cloud-free within a 24-hour period is "Clear Sky Chart" which can be found at <http://www.clearskychart.com/c/WolkObs-NYkey.html>

This particular link will take you to the Wolk Observatory in Ionia, NY where the Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science has a dark sky observing

site. To search for an area closer to where you live, go to the green box in the upper right corner of the page - Other Charts. Next to Within 60 miles, click on List to see other reporting locations.



Dee Sharples is an amateur astronomer who enjoys observing planets, star clusters and the Moon through her telescope. She is a member of ASRAS (Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science) and records "Dee's Sky This Month", describing what can be seen in the sky, on the ASRAS website at [rochesterastronomy.org](http://rochesterastronomy.org). Watch for her monthly Owl Light News feature to learn more about the night sky.



**Magnitude:** Measures the apparent brightness of a celestial object and is expressed by a decimal. The larger the number, the dimmer the object.

**Sun:** -26.7  
**Full Moon:** -12.6  
**Sirius, the Dog Star:** -1.46  
**Bright star:** 0.0  
**Dimmest star visible with the unaided eye:** 6.0

**How to measure degrees in the sky:** A simple "ruler" is to hold your arm straight out and make a fist. The area of the sky covered by your fist measures roughly 10 degrees. By moving your fist and counting how many "fist widths" it takes to reach an object in the sky, you'll have an approximation of degrees.

## Firestorm from front

Circular enerG will apply to the DPS for review and approval of its proposal, and when this happens, the decision will rest with the State Siting Board.

Article 10 of the Public Service Law gives the Siting Board authority over the placement of any electricity generating facility that produces 25 megawatts or more, and Circular enerG's proposal meets that condition. The company's project has two phases: in the first phase, scheduled for completion in December 2021, the trash incinerator will produce slightly under 25 megawatts of electricity; in the second phase, scheduled for completion in December 2023, it will produce up to 50 megawatts of electricity.

Does this mean that local officials, citizens, and groups potentially affected by a waste-to-energy incinerator in the heart of the Finger Lakes have no say or input in the permitting decision? Has local control been taken away (some would say "usurped" or "stolen") by the state? Absolutely not. A key provision of Article 10 requires an extensive environmental and public health impact analysis, considerations of environmental justice and

public safety, and critical attention given to local laws and ordinances, all of which will play a crucial role in the board's decision. Another provision of Article 10 provides for the appointment of two ad hoc public members to the seven-member Siting Board from the municipality (Town of Romulus) where the facility will be located. Both provisions allow for extensive local input, not just from local town and county officials but from private citizens and business and environmental groups.

The prospect of a trash-burning incinerator next to Seneca Lake has ignited a firestorm of opposition and protest across the Finger Lakes region. The Romulus Planning Board has made it clear that the project is not a producer of renewable energy and is in clear violation of the town's zoning laws. The Romulus Town Board has declared a six-month moratorium on all projects requiring approval by the town Zoning Board of Appeals and is considering a one-year moratorium on any waste-to-energy facilities or landfill operations within the town. Hundreds of citizens have turned out to voice their opposition at Planning Board and Town Board meetings and at a forum held at the Romulus Central School auditorium on January 7. The Ge-

neva City Council and the Ontario County Board of Supervisors have voted unanimously to support a resolution opposing the waste-to-energy project. Strong public opposition has been voiced by the Finger Lakes Wine Business Coalition, Romulus Residents Opposed to Trash Trains, Seneca Lake Guardian, Finger Lakes Zero Waste Coalition, Seneca Falls Environmental Action Committee, and the local and state chapters of the Sierra Club. The only group expressing support for the project has been the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

What are the reasons for this fierce opposition? For one thing, Romulus residents are deeply concerned that the proximity of the proposed incinerator to the Romulus Central School (3200 ft. or slightly more than 1/2 mile) will pose a serious health threat to children with upper respiratory problems like asthma. Moreover, many residents and groups fear that siting the largest trash incinerator in the state in the heart of the Finger Lakes will seriously damage the region's image and tourist industry, its agricultural, dairy, and wine industries, and property values in Seneca and Ontario County.

According to opponents of the project,

including Dr. Paul Connett, waste incineration poses a serious threat to animals and humans in the region through the possible release of dioxins and furans into the food chain where they are stored in the fat of farm animals such as cows, sheep, and chickens, wildlife such as deer, and marine life, and end up in humans through the consumption of meat, fish, and dairy products. Produced by industrial combustion, these toxic chemicals can cause developmental problems in children, reproductive and infertility problems in adults, and damage to the immune and hormone systems. In addition, dioxin exposure has been linked to a number of other diseases, including type 2 diabetes and ischemic heart disease. Opponents of the project also worry that waste incineration will release heavy metals like lead, mercury, and cadmium into the air, soil, and water in the form of fly ash. Lead and mercury are neurotoxins, attacking the brain and central nervous system, and mercury toxicity is one of the major threats to lakes and fish. Seneca Lake is especially at risk, opponents allege, not only from the threat of mercury poisoning, but also because the heated discharge of water into the lake could increase algae blooms and rob

continued on page 8

# REGIONAL Arts and Events



The Little Lakes Community Association (LLCA) in partnership with *Owl Light News* proudly announces **Earth Dance 2018**, an Earth Day focus on Celebrating Sustainable Community to take place **April 21, from 11:00 to 5:00 at the old Hemlock School** (Jack Evans Community Center) Rt. 15A, Main Street in the hamlet of Hemlock, NY.

From 11 am -5 pm there will be sustainable community presentations, artist exhibits, sustainable wares, food and story telling/performance art in the gymnasium, surrounding hallways and classrooms. Performance artists (spoken word, music, improv - all abilities and ages) are invited to join in. The day will end with an "open mic" acoustic Music Jam on the stage (from 4-6 PM).

We are currently accepting applications for additional vendors and presentors to share their vision of a sustainable community.\* Sustainable local businesses, artists and artisans, writers, food producers and providers, environmental groups and local organizations working for the betterment of our citizens, our animal companions, and the environment are welcomed & encouraged to join.

Go to <http://www.littlelakesny.org/> for more information about Earth Dance 2018, including vendor guidelines and application, or contact LLCA: [tawnfeeney@gmail.com](mailto:tawnfeeney@gmail.com), 585-738-7144.

Any proceeds from the event go toward the restoration and preservation of the Old Hemlock School.

\* ~ a community that seeks to minimize people's impact on the natural environment while supporting the well-being of all.



## Naples Central School Students return to the Cheshire Union

The Rusty Brundage Memorial Art Gallery will be hosting K-12 art and music students from the Naples Central School District. A mixed media art exhibit will open March 9 and continue until March 24. A reception to celebrate students will be held on Friday March 23 from 5-6:30 pm and will feature musicians and singers from the school. This event is free and open to the public. The gallery is located upstairs at the Cheshire Union Gift Shop and Antique Center, 4244 Rt. 21, Canandaigua. Winter hours for the gallery are Friday, Saturday and Monday, 10-5, Sunday 12-5. For more information call 585 394-5530. We look forward to seeing you.

## Letchworth Arts and Craft Show "Traverse" is the theme for 43rd year Call for Artists: Arts Council for Wyoming County's Letchworth Arts and Crafts Show and Sale is Accepting Exhibitor Applications

Planning is underway for the 43rd annual Letchworth Arts and Crafts Show and Sale presented by the Arts Council for Wyoming County. Sunshine Artists ranked the Letchworth Arts and Crafts show as the #26 Classic and Contemporary craft show in the nation (Sunshine Artists, 2017). Exhibitor applications are now being accepted for the show and are due on March 15, 2018.



**Categories that the show accepts include:**

- Decorative Painting
- Fiber Arts & Leather
- Glass
- Jewelry
- Metal
- Mixed Media
- Painting/Drawings/Graphic Art
- Photography
- Pottery/Ceramics
- Toys /Dolls
- Woodworking
- Culinary/Consumables
- Miscellaneous/Other

For more information or to download an application for the Letchworth Arts and Crafts Show and Sale, visit the Arts Council for Wyoming County's website: [www.artswyco.org/lacs](http://www.artswyco.org/lacs). For questions about the application, email [info@artswyco.org](mailto:info@artswyco.org) or call (585) 237-3517.

*Submitted by Pilar McKay*



The Letchworth Arts and Crafts Show and Sale started when a group of artists showed their work on a fence at Letchworth State Park in the 1970s. Since then, the Arts Council for Wyoming County has produced the show. The show has grown from seven artists to 330 in 2017. The show can attract upwards of 90,000 visitors during the three days of the show. This year, the show will be held on October 6, 7, and 8 at the Highbanks Recreation Area at Letchworth State Park.

Applications to the Letchworth Arts and Crafts Show and Sale are juried by a panel of artists and master craftspersons. The panel considers the quality of work, innovative use of media, and craftsmanship of the artists. "Each year, we strive to create the best experience for our artists at the Letchworth Arts and Crafts Show," said Sunny Simmons, Show Coordinator, "our show artists work hard to prepare and show, and we want to make sure we support them before, during and after the show."

## Spring Awakening, April 5-May 26 Call for Artists - Spring Awakening, April 5-May 26

2D and 3D artists, professional and amateur, are invited to submit for this exhibit. Pieces should reflect the following or similar themes and be family-friendly: renewal, rebirth, nature, agriculture, spring. Information and documentation will be available at Dansville ArtWorks, 153 Main Street, Dansville, [www.DansvilleArtWorks.com](http://www.DansvilleArtWorks.com) and on our facebook page by February 28.

Dansville Artworks juried Photography Exhibit runs through March 31.

## After Hours at Antique Wireless Museum A new and exciting series of presentations at the Museum

AFTER HOURS AT THE MUSEUM is a series of exciting, entertaining and informative bimonthly presentations at the Antique Wireless Museum in Bloomfield, New York. Led by experts from the Museum, academia, and industries throughout the region, the series will cover a broad spectrum of experiences and topics from an old time live radio show to the latest developments in communications, and from the likes of Irish music to the Finger Lakes wine industry.

The schedule of presentations for 2018 begins on March 7, 2018 with Live Old Time Radio Show and Music

by the West Bloomfield Congregational Church

~ Bloomfield Home Companion Players

For more information:

<http://www.antiquewireless.org/after-hours-at-the-museum>.

## Ash "Leopold Benches" for sale: bench sales benefit student emergency fund at FLCC

Work study students in the environmental conservation and horticulture department at Finger Lakes Community College have created several wooden benches that are now up for sale as a fundraiser. The benches are \$75 each and benefit a student emergency fund. They are called "Leopold benches" because they are modeled after a simple design by Aldo Leopold who is considered by many as the "father of wildlife management," said Ryan Staychock '96, instructional specialist and head coach of the logging sports team. Members of the logging sports team assisted the work study students in the project. Ryan said it gave them valuable experience working with the College's recently acquired portable sawmill and also made use of lumber from ash trees that have been removed from the main campus to manage the spread of the invasive emerald ash borer.



Student Logan Dague helps show off one of the fundraising benches. Photo provided

Interested in buying a bench? Contact Ryan at (585) 785-1574.

## Give a shout out for your school's awesome students and educators!

Send school-related articles and news to: [editor@CanadicePress.com](mailto:editor@CanadicePress.com).

# REGIONAL Arts and Events



**Sunday March 4th, 6 PM at HUCC 8758 Main St, Honeoye**  
**Celtic Journey: "Mysteries of the Celtic Cross"** ~ the Wheel Cross is an often-seen and beloved icon: but what does it represent? What are its origins? The answers may surprise you! There will be a contemplative service, slide talk and discussion, with time for food and socializing afterward.

**Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. Monday, March 5, 2018**  
 Honeoye American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1278, 4931 Co. Rd. 36, Honeoye.  
 \$6. 4pm till gone. Community Welcome. Benefits our local Vets.

**Honeoye Library Trustee meeting**  
 March 14, 2018, 7:00 pm at the library, 8708 Main Street, Honeoye.  
 See page 8 for a complete listing of Honeoye Public Library events.

**Springwater Food Pantry**  
 Open Tuesdays and Saturdays 9-11 AM.  
 South Main Street, Springwater - next to Sammy's Restaurant.  
 \*Serves Springwater Canadice & Webster's Crossing area.  
 \*No one in need will be turned away!

## Bristol Hills Historical Societies

**March 10 - Happy 180th Birthday So. Bristol**  
**Cake & Coffee at the Town Hall 10am -Noon**

Two local Historical Societies are becoming one. The Bristol Historical Society and the South Bristol Historical Society are combining to become the Bristol Hills Historical Societies, to the mutual benefit of the organizations and the communities in which they serve. Members of the board of the Bristol Historical Society have been added to the board of the South Bristol group and together they have planned an extensive line up of informative programs and social activities for their members and the public for 2018. Beth Thomas who is the Town Historian for both communities is also on the board of directors for the new organization. She will lend her expertise in the research of the rich history of the region of the Bristol Hills and it's former residents. Jim Bachmann is serving as President, Ann Jacobs is Vice Pres. of the combined group, Rod Teminello is Treasurer and Carol Zanghi is the Secretary.

The first event of the season will be a membership sign up event at the South Bristol Town Hall on Gannett Hill Road, to celebrate the 180th birthday of South Bristol. Birthday cake and coffee will be served from 10 a.m. until noon and members of the new Bristol Hills Historical Societies will be on hand to talk about the new organization and provide membership forms.

The combined group will continue with the upkeep and restoration of the ME Church Building in Bristol, and the Grange Hall in South Bristol, with most events being held in the Grange Hall located on Route 64 in the Bristol Springs area of South Bristol.



The combined group will continue with the upkeep and restoration of the ME Church Building in Bristol (top), and the Grange Hall in South Bristol (above). Photos provided.

A website has been launched for the historical organization - [www.bristolhillshistsoc.org](http://www.bristolhillshistsoc.org). Program and event details for 2018 will continue to be updated on the website and announced on Facebook @ Bristol Hills Historical Societies as plans are finalized.

## FLCC Spring Faculty Recital

~Thursday, March 15~

Save the date: The FLCC Spring Faculty Recital will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 15 in the main campus auditorium, 3325 Marvin Sands Drive, Canandaigua. The event is free and open to the public. Come early to check out a new gallery exhibit featuring the works of artist Len Brondum, a Canandaigua resident known for her vibrant silk canvases. The exhibit features a free, public reception from 4 to 6:30 p.m. The gallery is located on the first floor.



**Warsaw's Write Connection**  
 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:45 PM - Warsaw Public Library  
 (no meetings June, July or August)  
 Now in its seventh year; new members always welcome!

**Lakeville, NY**  
**Poets' & Writers' Group**  
 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30- noon,  
 Chip Holt Ctr., Vitale Park, Lakeville.  
 New members always welcome!!!

**Canadice Lake Writers' Group**  
 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm.  
 at Honeoye Public Library, Honeoye.  
 New members always welcome!!!  
 Info. Darlene at 585-313-7590

**Open Write & Idea Studio at Dansville ArtWorks**  
 Twice monthly on Saturday morning from 10-11 am.  
 All open sessions are FREE; donations are greatly appreciated.  
 Call Dansville ArtWorks, 585-335-4746 for more information

## GVCA 3rd annual New Deal Writers Competition!

Submission deadline is April 2, 2018

The New Deal Writing Competition is a short story competition where the writer is asked to use a painting chosen by the staff of GVCA as inspiration for their short story. This year's painting is "Old North Church" by Thomas Cole. Please go to <http://gvartsouncil.org/new-deal-writing-competition/> to see the painting and read all of the guidelines. It only costs \$5 to enter and you could win cash and publication!

All money raised will go to the Paula Henry Restoration Fund to restore the New Deal Collection of 1930s Federal Art Project in GVCA's permanent collection.

Allens Hill Free Library is actively seeking new board members and library volunteers. See the *back page* for a complete listing of upcoming events at Allens Hill Free Library.

## March is...Music In Our Schools Month!!!

The Honeoye Central School Department of Music is proud to feature our student musicians in a number of fantastic concerts. All evening performances begin at 7 pm in the school auditorium. Thank you for supporting music in our schools!

- Saturday, March 3 - Senior High Choir Sheets and Sweets Concert (admission to benefit scholarship fund); refreshments
- Thursday, March 8 - Elementary Band & Choir Concert
- Friday, March 9 - Senior High Jazz Ensemble and Alumni Jazz Ensemble Concert at Jack Evans Community Center aka Old Hemlock School 7:30pm, refreshments
- Thursday, March 15 - Middle School Bands Concert
- Thursday, March 22 - Middle School Choirs Concert
- Monday, March 26 - 38th Annual Senior High Bands Concert (admission to benefit scholarship fund); refreshments at intermission



Please clip and save!



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the lake of oxygen necessary for aquatic life. Already under severe pressure from agricultural runoff and other pollutants that cause nutrient buildup and deprive the lake of oxygen, the last thing Seneca Lake needs is a massive daily discharge of heated water from a trash-burning facility.

One of the arguments in favor of waste-to-energy (WTE) technology is that it provides a far cleaner and more efficient waste disposal system than landfills. While WTE technology does reduce the waste stream to landfills in a significant way, it also depends on landfills for the disposal of its ash. In a typical WTE facility, for every four tons of burned material, there is one ton of ash that requires disposal in a landfill, and this raises serious questions about the toxicity of the ash when it is leached from the landfill into the environment. Of the total amount of ash that is produced at a typical WTE facility, 85-90% is bottom ash, and 10-15% is fly ash. Bottom ash includes ash that has fallen through the furnace grates and ash that is discharged into the bottom ash stream from the heat recovery system. Fly ash refers to residues that have collected in the air pollution control equipment, and consists of small particulates produced by the chemical decomposition of burned materials. Of the two, fly ash is far more toxic and dangerous than bottom ash, consisting of heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, and mercury; however, the EPA leachate test for the toxicity of WTE ash is done only on the mixture of bottom ash and fly ash and not on each separately. Since the ash being tested consists largely of low-toxicity bottom ash, the overall toxicity of this mixture is understandably

low and will usually pass EPA standards. But the test has a serious if not fatal flaw. In focusing on the whole to the exclusion of the parts, it fails to detect any particular component of the mixture that is highly toxic and can leach into the environment.

Defending the proposed incinerator before the Romulus Planning Board, Alan Knauf argued that improvements in WTE technology over the last two decades have made it perfectly safe for citizens and the environment, but at the January 7 forum Paul Connett disputed this, arguing that dioxins and furans are also released as nanoparticles so small (less than one micron in diameter) that they avoid regulation standards and cannot be captured by any current pollution control device. According to Connett, these nanoparticles can travel great distances and remain suspended for long periods of time. When inhaled, they can penetrate deep in the lungs, enter the bloodstream, and penetrate the tissues of the body, including the brain.

In addition, there are serious quality of life concerns among many residents from Geneva to Romulus who will see a huge increase in truck and train traffic, leading to greater traffic congestion and air and noise pollution. Moreover, residents worry that once a huge waste-burning facility like this is in place, other related industries may join it, transforming a small rural hamlet into a noxious industrial zone. There is also palpable anger and outrage among many Finger Lakes residents over the injustice of using Romulus or any town in the Finger Lakes as a dumping ground for waste generated in other areas of the state and especially downstate. Does the creation of a few extra jobs and some tax relief compensate for the likely harm that will be done to



Len Geller poses a question to speakers at a January 7, 2018 Incinerator Forum held at Romulus Central School. Photo D.E. Bentley

our industries, environment, and residents? Knauf has characterized such opposition as parochial and myopic, as nothing more than NIMBY self-interest, but opponents allege that he fails to see that most of this resistance is rooted in a strong desire to protect the town of Romulus, Seneca Lake, and the rest of the Finger Lakes from harm and a further desire not to be a depository for the rest of New York state's garbage. These are primarily moral concerns, they claim, one based on self-defense, the other on fairness, which is a far cry from motivation based on crass self-interest, such as the desire to maximize profit at the expense of an entire region.

What, then, are the prospects for the Romulus trash incinerator proposal under Article 10? Of course, the bad news for opponents is that the decision is not exclusively a local one but rests largely in the hands of state bureaucrats who have no stake in the outcome. But the good news is

that the process of gaining approval under Article 10 is very cumbersome, time-consuming and costly, requiring many hours of labor from many different parties and agencies. Knauf himself has said that such a process would likely take at least two years. Another glimmer of hope for the opposition is that no applicant has been able to complete this daunting process since Article 10's inception in 2011.

As we enter this next stage, local citizen, business, and government input will be crucial in determining the siting decision. For those coalitions and groups opposed to the Romulus incinerator, the most important thing they can do is provide this input to the DPS and Siting Board as soon as possible. Complacency and procrastination are not an option.

Len Geller is a free-lance writer who has a keen interest in New York politics. He lives in Seneca County.

## Honeoye Public Library

"We're Books and More!"

### AAA Defensive Driving

Sat., April 21 from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm.

Space is limited so stop in, pay your \$28.00 & reserve a spot.

### Join Us!!

Monday, March 12, 10:00 am – Noon

Join us on the second Monday of the month and get inspired! Another opportunity for Artists and Crafters at the Canadice Town Hall on the 4th Thursday – March 22 – 10am until noon.

### Book Talk Group

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

In her book, Winter People, Jennifer McMahon has penned a gripping and moving thriller set in a small Vermont town filled with ghostly secrets. Refreshments and conversation at 5:30 with book discussion at 6:00 pm.

### Canadice Lake Writers' Group

Tuesday, March 13 & 27 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

New members are always welcome!!!

**Play Spaces** – Come and "check out" our games! Learn to play chess, Large checker game, Hopscotch, Snap Circuits, Play-Doh, Magformers & Trivia Pursuit to name a few.

**Cubelets** – Cubelets are magnetic blocks that snap together to make an endless variety of robots. Kits will be available February 1st for you to take home and enjoy.

### Second Saturday Movie Madness

Saturday, March 10 at 11:30 a.m. Call for details.

### 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Any child birth to 5 years can take on this challenge!

Stop in for the information.

Hours - Monday- 2pm – 8pm Tuesday – 10am – 8pm  
Thursday- 2 pm – 8pm Saturday – 9am – 1pm

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Saturday-Sunday 8am-2pm.



# The Light Lens by T. Touris

The combination of my cheapness and my wife's admirable habit of composting and careful recycling allows us to avoid paying for weekly trash pickup. As such I have discovered the simple pleasure of making a trip to the Town of Richmond recycling and trash drop-off.

Once we're sick of looking at the pile of bottles, cans and paper we've accumulated, on a Saturday morning we load up the bins and bags of carefully separated refuse into the truck, and take a leisurely and scenic drive to the drop-off location at the back of the Richmond town hall.

The crash of the plastics and glass being dumped is a satisfying way to start the day, but the typical bill of less than five bucks for a month's worth of garbage really gets my tightwad endorphins flowing. Sometimes we'll celebrate our planet-saving frugality and smugly reward ourselves with breakfast at a local diner.

Alas, the drop-offs do not always consist of recyclable peach cans and cream cartons. Anxiety was running high one day when I pulled in with a light wallet and heavy bags of wet, moldy drywall from a flooded basement. Though the coronary I almost experienced hauling twenty-some bags of the stuff up a flight of stairs didn't do me in, I feared hearing the cost for the disposal and the humiliation of being short on cash would. As the final, nasty bag was put on the scale, my fear was transformed to euphoria as I was informed I would be charged the discounted bulk rate. Pulling out of the lot, I was flying high and on the way to a steak and egg breakfast.

## Recycler's High



## Nominations sought for 20th Annual Earth Day Award Livingston County

*EMC accepting nominations until March 7th*

This year marks the 48th Anniversary of Earth Day. The Livingston County Environmental Management Council (EMC) is seeking nominations for its 20th Annual Earth Day Award. The award will recognize individuals, businesses, agencies, or organizations for outstanding achievements in preserving or improving the Livingston County environment or educating others about Livingston County's

environment. The achievements may have occurred during the previous year or may involve on-going efforts spanning a number of years. Nominees are not required to reside in Livingston County, but the actions and achievements on which the nomination is based must have occurred partially or wholly in Livingston County. Both the public and private sector may submit nominations.

Anyone wishing to submit a nomination should contact the Livingston County Planning Department at (585) 243-7550 or (585) 335-1734 to obtain a nomination form. Written requests for nomination forms can be directed to the Livingston County Planning Department, 6 Court Street - Room 305, Geneseo, NY 14454. Nomination forms will be available at local town and village offices, or on the Planning

Department website at: [www.livingston-county.us/emc](http://www.livingston-county.us/emc). Fax (585-243-7566) and email submissions ([munderhill@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:munderhill@co.livingston.ny.us)) will also be accepted.

While Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd, nominations must be received by the Planning Department by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

*Submitted by Angela Ellis, Planning Dept.*

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# Business Student of the Month at Honeoye Central School



Jacob Jarosinski January Business Student of the Month at HCS.

Photo Provided

The Business Student of the Month at Honeoye Central School has been announced for January. Freshman Jacob Jarosinski was a student in Mrs. Campbell's Computer Applications class last semester. Jake really pushed himself to improve his keyboarding speed and efficiency since the start of the school year. He also pays close attention to detail and strives to do excellent work. All of these are traits that employers are looking for.

Jake is the son of Kim and Ken Jarosinski of Bristol, NY. Playing soccer, base-

ball, and basketball for the school teams takes up a lot of his time, but he is also a member of the Math Team and enjoys fishing. While graduation seems a long way off, Jake is currently thinking he might like to pursue a career in business or math, possibly becoming an accountant or financial advisor.

*This school year the Business Student of the Month program is sponsored by: Chrisman Insurance, Scotty G's Pizzeria, West's Shurfine, and Rite Aid.*

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# Richmond History

## Hah-nyah-yah: “Where the Finger Lies”

by Joy Lewis

### Early Years in Richmond: Native Dwellers meet Newcomers

According to legend, the lake called “Honeoye” was given its name as the result of a snakebite. Orsamus H. Marshall (1813-1884), an early settler of Buffalo, wrote extensively in the nineteenth century about the Seneca of western New York collecting indigenous speech and folktales. As he tells it, a native hunter, while out picking wild strawberries at the foot of the lake, was bitten on the finger by a rattlesnake. In a quick reaction he chopped off his finger and left it there on the lakeshore. The spot was henceforth commemorated by him and his comrades as “Hah-nyah-yah,” which Marshall interpreted as meaning “where the finger lies.”

This incident occurred perhaps at about the mid-point of the eighteenth century, for it was around that time that a village at the north end of the lake was established by a small band of Seneca. And so, it was not only the lake, but the natives’ lakeside village as well that was called Hah-nyah-yah. For three or four decades the Indians occupied the site, until the arrival of the Continental soldiers.

During the summer of 1779 General John Sullivan and his American Army marched across the plains and hills of western New York despoiling native territory. From a score of Seneca villages they chased off the inhabitants, laid waste their homes, and destroyed crops and stores. On September 11 the soldiers arrived at the foot of Honeoye Lake where they discovered a deserted Seneca village. The community, home to fewer than a hundred people, consisted of eleven log houses and several acres of corn fields.

“An old Squaw [later reported] that the approach of Sullivan’s army was not discovered by them until [the soldiers] were seen coming over the hill...They were quietly braiding their corn, and boiling their succotash. She said there was a sudden desertion of their village; all took flight and left the invaders an uncontested field... never look[ing] back until [they] reached Buffalo Creek.”

Sullivan’s men set about methodically to annihilate the homes and fields; they put up a rudimentary fortification they dubbed “Fort Cummings.” The next day they marched westward, reaching the head of Conesus Lake by nightfall. From there a scouting party, under the command of Lieutenant Thomas Boyd, set out.

“The little band winded their way through the dense forest by the Indian trail, until they reached the little village of Canaseraga, [present-day Mount Morris],

which they found deserted, although the fires were still alive in their huts.” Later they came upon two Indians and one was killed. Fearing for their lives, the scouting party prepared to retrace their steps back to the safety of camp. “Five weary miles had they [traveled] when they were suddenly surrounded by five hundred Indians”

Although Lt. Boyd and his men fought bravely, they were soon overcome. Most of them were killed; one or two managed to escape. But Lt. Boyd and Sgt. Michael Parker were captured. They were taken by the enemy to the vicinity of Beardstown (Cuylerville) where they were handed over to Little Beard and his warriors. Stripped, Lt. Boyd and Sgt. Parker were tied to a tree and systematically tortured to death. Just at evening, as the main body of the Army passed by that way, the mutilated bodies of the two unfortunate men were discovered. “The remains...were buried with military honors, under a wild plum tree, which grew near the junction of two streams.”

Ten years after Sullivan’s foray along Honeoye Lake the township of Richmond (then called Pittstown) was formed. In its first two decades the town was sparsely populated. One of those early incomers was William Boyd (1755-1811), cousin to the unfortunate Lieutenant. William settled in the vicinity of Allen’s Hill, overlooking the lake. He was forty-four years old in 1799, married and the father of six children ranging in age from four to twenty-five. His two eldest children, Sewell and Sarah (Mrs. Lovett Church) were married and both had properties near their parents’ farm.

In the summer of 1802 “a little daughter of...Sewell Boyd, three years old, was lost in the woods. A lively sympathy was created in the neighborhood, the woods were scoured, the outlet waded, and the flood wood removed; on the third day she was found in the woods alive, having some berries in her hand...The musketoes had preyed upon her until they had caused running sores upon her face and arms, and the little wanderer had passed through a terrific thunderstorm.”

A few years before the Boyds’ arrival in Richmond, had come Jacob Flanders (1756-1841) with his wife and four children. Born in New Hampshire,

he served in the Continental Army during the Revolution, a soldier under Sullivan’s command. He staked claim to a property at the head of Honeoye Lake where he built a hewn log house. His neighbors well knew that Jacob “saw the interest attached to anything relative to Sullivan’s expedition and delighted to tell the old settlers

of incidents of his own observation. He spoke of the warning cannon shot which struck consternation to the Indians, who scattered in every direction,” on the run from the approaching soldiers.

When twenty-two-year-old William Warner (1772-1850) and his brother Asahel came to West Richmond at about the same time as the Flanders family, they observed that, “Indians were numerous and to a certain extent troublesome.” A few early tales of Indian trouble survive.

One such incident was related by Hiram Pitts (1802-1901) in a letter commemorating Richmond’s Centennial: “[We once had a problem with an Indian] that was caused by rum. In my father’s absence one day, an Indian called at the house and wanted some liquor. My grandfather [Peter Pitts, Richmond’s earliest settler]...told him he could not let him have any, which made him angry, and he drew his knife and attacked him. A sled for hauling wood was at the door, and [Grandfather], although rheumatic, made a hasty retreat around the sled; but being closely pursued, pulled out one of the stakes and with a blow laid [the Indian] senseless on the ground. His squaw then took up the matter and trouble was feared, but fortunately Horatio Jones, the Interpreter for the tribe, arrived and soon settled the difficulty – the Indian soon came to and the squaw was pacified.”

Another incident occurred in a settlement just west of Richmond. James Henderson (1762-1824) settled at the head of Conesus Lake in 1793. A dozen years later he and his wife Jane and their nine children came to Richmond and built a home in Allen’s Hill. While still living in Conesus James was attacked one day by an irate Indian. When he would not give the Indian the liquor he wanted, the Indian threw his tomahawk at James; it grazed the side of his head and embedded itself in the log wall of his home beside the open front door.

Encounters between homestead-

ers and the Seneca who lived in the area were a common occurrence during the first two decades of settlement. In spite of a few troubling incidents, for the most part these interactions were cordial.

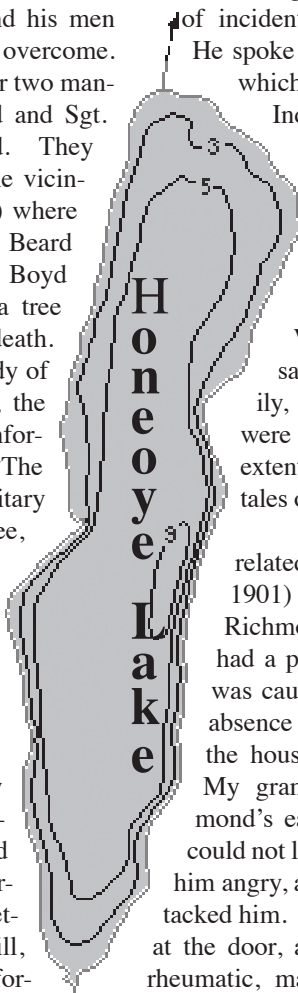
In her old age Hannah Pitts Blackmer (1777-1862) recalled that “the first few years after our family came in, there were many Indians passing our house daily, and hunting parties were encamped nearly all the time in the neighborhood [of the Honeoye Flats]. Mrs. Jemison [the White Woman of the Genesee] used to be at our house frequently, on her journeys from Gardeau to Canandaigua and back.” Hannah’s mother Abigail (wife of Peter Pitts) handed out loaves of bread to her Seneca neighbors on a regular basis.

Hannah’s brother William (1767-1815) married Hannah Taft in Richmond in 1795. In January 1802 William and Hannah’s fourth son was born, and in August Hannah died. Her death was recalled by a friend: “The Indians, if they were guilty of occasional outrage, had some of the finest impulses of the human heart. [Hannah Pitts] who had always been kind to them, was on her death bed; hearing of it, the Squaws came and wailed around the house, with all the intense grief they exhibit when mourning the death of kindred.”

Hugh Hamilton (1770-1851) came to Richmond early in the nineteenth century. About 1810 he became half-owner of the Crooks grist mill. In a family memoir Hugh’s son wrote of those early days: “While father ran the old mill on the creek, all the south and east part of Richmond and West Bristol depended upon it for their grinding.” Whenever there was grain to be ground, at the end of the day the sweepings were given to the Indians living nearby for their porridge.

The years passed and the older generation of Seneca was no more. The younger people gradually migrated away from Richmond, making their home at the Gardeau Flats (in present day Letchworth State Park) and later at the Seneca Reservations of Cattaraugus and Allegany.

*(Quotations used in this piece may be found in the following sources: Pioneer History of the Holland Purchase; History of Ontario County, NY, 1788-1876; Letter written by Hiram Pitts, October 4, 1888; Biographical Sketches of Leading Citizens of Livingston and Wyoming Counties, New York; The First Settlers of Conesus, Livingston County, New York: “History of the Town of Conesus.”)*



## In Memoriam

### Notices & Tributes

Obituaries and other memoriam notices and tributes are \$25 - with an image.  
E-mail editor@canadicepress.com or call 585-358-1065  
Please let us know if we can be of assistance in wording your memoriam.

### Town of Richmond: Historian’s Programs – 2018

All Town of Richmond Historian’s Programs are held at the Honeoye-Richmond Historical Society Museum in the Richmond Town Hall, and will be an “Open House” format (unless otherwise noted.)



**Irish Heritage Day**  
March 24, 9-11:30 a.m.



Do you have Irish roots? Ten-percent of Americans do. Learn about Ireland, Irish customs, and the many contributions made to our town by the folks from Ireland who settled here. Names of Richmond’s Irish families include: Duffy, Farrell, Foye, Kelly, Kennedy, Lynch, McGowan, McGreevey, Meehan, Menihan, O’Hanlon, O’Neill, Quick, Sullivan, and Ward. Bring YOUR Irish story to share. You need not have Irish roots in Richmond to enjoy the day.

...And just for fun – Wear Green!

## Loon Lake

by Linda Meva

The perfect reflection  
A shimmering sunset,  
Behind the ridge

Silent ripples  
Each carrying  
Their own  
Color of sun

The clouds  
Gently parting  
To a force  
Of light

Earth, water, and sun  
Reunited daily

Calming the soul  
Water laps  
At the shores edges  
Sails crisscrossing  
The body  
Of water

Tacking so carefully  
Prettily dot  
The lake

However small  
Still brings  
Untold joy  
To the inhabitants

A teacher  
Unmatched  
In knowledge  
Waiting to unfold  
If we only listen

Give me,  
The fog  
Rolling off the water  
The moonlight rides

Reflections of time  
Morning walks  
Fresh smelling air

Sometimes glass like  
Other times a fury

Mother ducks  
So proud  
At the helm

Or, in winter  
To explore  
Opposite shores  
On foot or skates

Give me  
Loon Lake!

## Looking Through the Looking Glass



by Judith M. Allen

Looking through the looking glass,  
I see a child of three,  
All chubby cheeks and sparkling eyes,  
who wants to be with me.

And in a flash a boy of seven,  
Appears before my eyes,  
No chubby cheeks but crooked grin,  
On grandma still relies.

And now before me standing,  
my grandson twelve to be,  
With friends and fun abounding,  
And little time for me.

At first it pained me greatly,  
to see this change appear,  
No longer waiting anxiously,  
For nana to be near.

But I was not so different,  
Life changes as we age,  
A new connection now I seek,  
A lasting kind of stage.

So grandson let me tell you,  
Know I am always here,  
To listen with an open mind,  
To hear your every fear.

Remember this forever,  
My love will always be,  
For my perfect grandson,  
A timeless gift from me.

## Some Good Questions *by Mary Drake*

Can you keep on using those plastic bags when they never go away?

They will still be there when your great grandchildren dig their garden.

Why do you throw out all those cans and boxes and plastic packaging,

When so much can be put to other uses, can be recycled?

Why don't you sit down and write that senator or representative,

Encouraging our country to invest in hydroelectric, wind, or solar energy?

Can't give up your car because you have places to go?

Drive a smaller car, drive less.

But in your tiny back garden,

Gather your leaves and sticks and vegetable clippings,

And contribute to the planet,

Create you own black earth, just from composting.

It can be as simple as turning out a light,

To save electricity.

It can be as much work as marching on Earth Day,

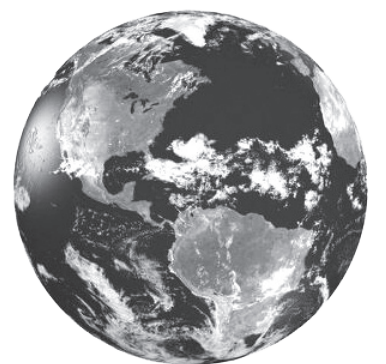
To become an environmentalist.

It's about the future,

It's about our legacy,

And it's up to each of us.

To do a part.



# The Village Gardener ~ Composting

by Georgeanne Vyverberg

Anyone who has been reading this column knows I am passionate about compost. It is for me the only way to make garden soil become the nutrient rich living matter that grows healthy plants. When you have good healthy soil then you will have vegetables and flowers looking their best, and able to fight off disease and pests.

Food scraps make up nearly a quarter of landfills so by composting yard and kitchen wastes we can help put nutrients back in to the earth from which they came instead. It can be as simple and inexpensive as the method I prefer which is called piling, or bins and tumblers or even vermiculture, which uses worms to break scraps into compost. Whatever method you choose will reward you with a healthy addition to your garden.



It's really pretty simple and maybe the winter is not the perfect time to start, but it is the perfect time to think and plan for it. Even if you have a small yard most likely you will be able to find space for a bin or even better one of those tumblers. I have a friend who lives in an apartment complex, where she has a very small patio and she uses a tumbler. She harvests about a large wheel barrow per year for her tiny patio garden. Some people might worry that there would be an odor, but there is not since she turns it often as the compost materials work toward compost. Other methods include building a bin using old lumber, pallets or even posts with wire. Bins should have lots of open spaces to allow the materials aeration, an important component. The size of the bin should be about three by three feet. Any bigger will make it difficult to turn the compost. I have a large yard and a good shady place out of view, where I can use the pile method. It's just that...a pile. I start with a few small brushy branches on the ground just to allow some air circulation. Then I lay a thick layer of "brown" materials like leaves, sawdust, straw, shredded paper, and coffee filters. On top of this I place about a third as much of "green" materials like lawn clippings, garden cuttings [chopped small] and kitchen scraps. Use anything except onions and garlic, which discourage microbial action, and never meat or oily things like a dressed salad. These may draw the local racoon or fox or other critters. Also, the temperature of a pile or bin isn't consistent enough to completely digest those materials. Last year I had a group of crows tearing up my compost pile until I dug a hole in the center of the pile and buried things a good foot deep. This turned out to be a good thing because scraps were being buried where most of the decomposition was happening.



Top: Composting need not be complicated and you can continue to add kitchen food scraps to the pile during the winter months.

Above: Vermiculture composting fits in small inside spaces and can produce quality worm castings even during cold months using newspaper (a great way to recycle read Owls) and food scraps.

I like to put a shovel or two of garden soil on top of every few layers. This brings in those wonderful microbes that will work the magic of making compost. You can buy compost starter, but good garden soil works as well. Anyhow, continue on in that manner with brown followed by green materials. If you want to know if your compost is working you could buy a thermometer. It will register 150-160 degrees when things are working. But you can easily feel the heat with your hand. Now it's vitally important to turn that pile every week or so to keep it working. Also, it may need watering, particularly a new pile. An active pile will take anywhere from 1-4 months to finish depending on how often it is turned.

Vermiculture is the process where worms turn scraps, lawn and garden waste into compost using worms. This may not be for everyone since it takes more monitoring. Also, it may not be your cup of tea if you are squeamish about worms. The worms, which need to be a variety of red wigglers, live in bins with a bedding of newspapers or wood mulch. Food scraps are put on top or underneath the bedding. Care is needed to not put too much or too little food. I myself have never done it, but I have friends who swear by the ease and results. The best thing is that the worm bins can take up really small places like in the basement or under a counter in the kitchen so you can be generating compost in the middle of the winter. They can't easily survive in the winter outside and unprotected. Allen's Hill Library has a worm bin bed in the library, and I am sure the director, Emily Peccora, will be happy to show it to you and answer questions. Patrons can bring food scraps and eventually get some compost in return. This summer I plan on starting one and will keep you updated on more details on how it works for me. Would love to hear from readers if they have a worm bin farm.

Okay, so you don't think composting at home is something you want to do. Maybe you live in an apartment. If you still would like to keep your food scraps from filling a landfill there are other options. Several composting companies have formed to do it for you.

Several years ago, Al Zappatella and his partner Celeste Arlie decided to try to get the local communities of Prattsburgh and Naples, NY on board with Community wide compost making. They had been doing vermiculture for several years, and many of their friends were adding their kitchen scraps as well, when they began a free pick up weekly from households as well as small restaurants and grocery stores in both towns of Prattsburgh and Naples. It

has since included pickup at the schools of both towns. Al has his reasons for starting this endeavor. "In an effort to make the world a little greener..." he says and who can argue with that!

Community Composting in Rochester, NY [communitycomposting.org] started in 2013 by Brent Arnold and Steven Kraft with collection from local businesses, but since have expanded to urban pickups. You receive a fresh bucket weekly to refill. After a year you receive back either compost, a plant or you can donate your share to a community project or garden. The organization donates compost to community gardens and other projects. Costs are affordable and people can pair up to reduce them further. The scraps are transported to Vermigreen, owned by Ryan Heberle, in Palmyra, NY for composting. Ryan's family has been involved in vermiculture since 1989. They have a great website, which has very detailed and informative information on making your own worm bin.

The idea of community composting is happening all over the country. It's inspiring to see people, mostly young people, so passionate about a process that can only bring health back to our overworked and depleted soils. There are communities picking up garbage using bicycles and horse and wagon as well as the more conventional methods. Research has shown that using compost has enriched soils, and in the process produces healthier plants that can fight off diseases and pests. It's such a simple process really, anyone can do it and its free. It was first stated by Henry IV of France that every peasant in his realm would have the means to provide a "chicken in every pot" and then also Herbert Hoover in his bid for the presidency. But me, I'd like to see a compost pile and a garden in every yard along with a flock of hens. But that's just me.

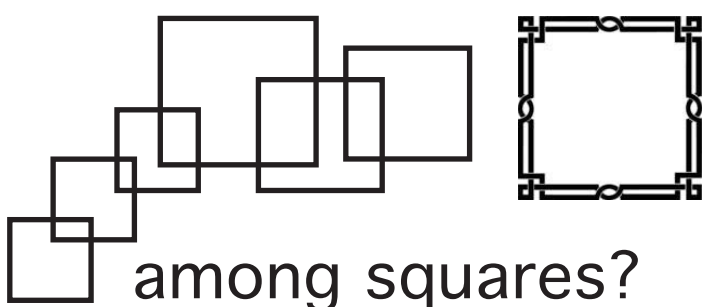


Georgeanne has been fascinated by plants ever since a neighbor gave her some flower seeds when she was very young. The

magic of watching them sprout into beautiful flowers has become a lifetime of wonderment. She lives in Honeoye Falls with her canine and feline friends, small flock of chickens and more recently a rabbit, or two.

Garden-related comments, questions and garden topics can be e-mailed to editor@canadicepress.com with Village Gardener on the subject line.

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# Real news Real people ...and wasted billions

**R**eal news, real people - some doing more with less. This space features a news story that is strange enough to be fiction, but reported often enough to be undeniably true. If you have heard something that others may have missed, send it along.

It is often said that it is not economic wealth that impacts quality of living as much as the disparities that exist between rich and poor. This gap continues to widen, but there are also glimmers of hope through the fog of excess that threatens our world. There are two stories that caught my eye that touch on very different innovative approaches to management and use of our precious resources.

One story originates in Monaco, a country less than a square mile in size where one in three residents are millionaires – the highest number of millionaires per capita. That this area is (was?) an oasis is certainly part of the draw, but it is also a tax haven, with no income tax and no corporate taxes for businesses, it is a great place for the rich to get richer. Well, it seems that it is so popular that they are running out of room for the construction of new luxury homes. This, then, is innovation number one: what’s a country of wealth to do when there is no more room? Build artificial peninsulas, of course – now why didn’t I think of that.

Prince Albert II, reigning monarch of Monaco, is overseeing this ambitious project that is being funded by private financiers. Billed as a means of expanding land area by fifteen acres while minimizing environmental impact, the project, Portier Cove, is projected to cost 2.1 billion with an expected completion date of 2026. Scratching my head wondering if making more space for luxury homes is the best use of our precious resources, I got some minimal reassurance - builders are being held to strict international sustainable urban development certifications, after all.

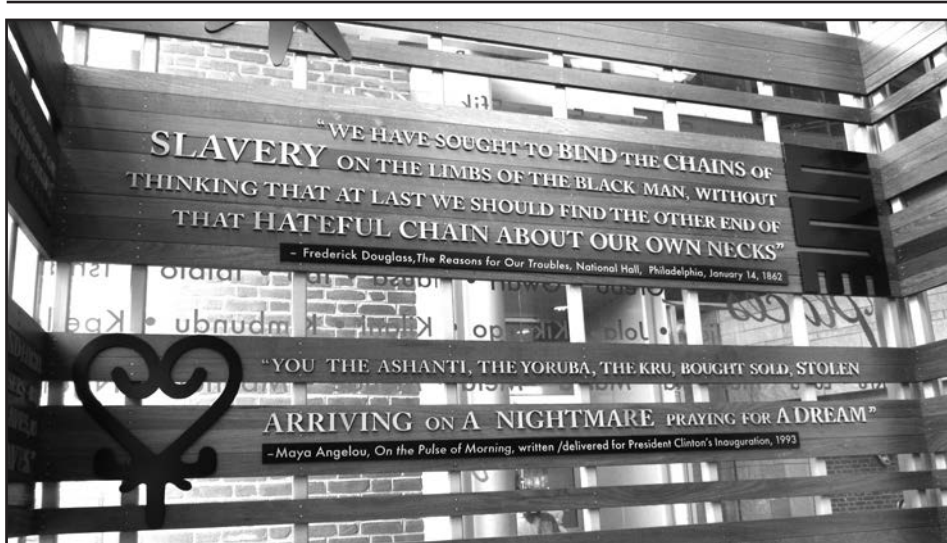
On to Nigeria, for a look at another sustainability innovation – one that might get

my millions, if I had a million to invest, that is. My idea of living high means quiet walks or a paddle at the lake, simple meals at home and relaxing by a wood fire.

Another BBC story – BBC is my daily go-to news source – features a young farmer, Angel Andelaja. In the Nigerian city of Abuja, Andelaja and her employees – mostly young woman – grow leafy greens and gourmet salads hydroponically in recycled shipping containers. The “container growing” allows them to use the containers that are often found discarded along the road. Although the greens are priced as luxury foods, they are still available for less than greens shipped in from outside sources.

Speaking of African countries and planting, there is also a project in the works that seeks to plant 11 million trees spanning 11 countries, across the Sahara desert. The Great Green Wall will stretch east to west across the continent to bring humidity and life back to arid regions. The building of the wall brings jobs to 200 women and it also provides shaded areas for sustainably gardening. Expected to cost 8 billion total, there is already evidence that this wall of life is working to reverse desertification. Attendance at local schools has also increased. Began in 2007, the wall will cost 8 billion: The World Bank, African Union, UK Botanical Garden and the UN are all contributing.

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20180206-the-country-running-out-of-space-for-its-millionaires>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-43004630>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/magazine-41391844/why-is-africa-building-a-great-green-wall>



## “Memorial to Enslaved People of African Descent in the United States of America”

I visited the historical site represented in the photo above in 2012 and recall standing there for a very, very long time, absorbing the words incrementally. The Memorial includes quotes from Maya Angelou, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, Frances Ellen Watkin Harper and Barack Obama, among others.

There is an extensive amount of text, including African sayings, symbols, and a list of African countries. Political, social, and economic inequality has continued long after the legal end of slavery. The historical echoes of slavery also continue to challenge our notion of and ability to set aside race and see all people as one peoples ~ in the US and around the world. The symbolism and words on the walls of this memorial reach out to us with a spirit of hope that our world will become a world for all, and that in setting aside differences we can all build a future for our children and our children’s children that is free of hatred.

City of Philadelphia | National Park Service ~ Southeast corner, 6th and Market.  
 Go visit or go to [http://www.philart.net/art/Memorial\\_to\\_Enslaved\\_People\\_of\\_African\\_Descent\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_of\\_America/729.html](http://www.philart.net/art/Memorial_to_Enslaved_People_of_African_Descent_in_the_United_States_of_America/729.html) for complete text.

# Where do you go to recycle? It’s not as easy as you may think.

by D.E. Bentley

**L**ike any modern – minded human, my first instinct was to look online. I tried a few different searches including “Recycling in New York State” and “New York State recycling facilities by county.” What I was hoping to find was a simple, printable chart that showed counties alphabetically so I could just go to a county and find their recycling locations and guidelines.

No such luck.

I did find an interactive map<sup>1</sup> based on “Recyclables Handling & Recovery Facilities (RHRF) - Solid Waste Management Facilities Map.” Once I was able to zero in on a location, I clicked on a dot and got the name, location and other tidbits on the selection. There was some information lacking for some of the dots I clicked, including waste types – which seems like essential information for a consumer. When I clicked “View details for this row,” below the box, it showed map coordinates. In addition, some sites that I *knew* existed did not have a dot. It was a bit hard to use and really not very useful to residents looking to recycle rather than throw away.

The above referenced map originated from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which does have an abundance of useful information, including some trash statistics – For instance, “New York has approximately 30 landfills accepting approximately 6 million tons per year waste from across the entire state. We also send 2.5 million tons to Waste-To-Energy (WTE) facilities and export 6.1 million tons to neighboring states, in 2008.” Note the date – I am sure much has changed since then.

Nonetheless, there is information there and they DO encourage us all to...

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle *and* Compost! As much as possible.

Besides, they add, it is the law!!!!!!

The Solid Waste Management Act of 1988 that is. You can check out the site and get additional information on solid waste policy.<sup>2</sup>

Still, this wasn’t quite what I was looking for.

Checking out individual counties proved a bit more useful of a way to search online. I tried a number of different county’s sites. Some counties have easy to find direct links to local information for recycling -minded folks.

Two regional examples are: Ontario County: [www.ontariocountyrecycles.org/](http://www.ontariocountyrecycles.org/) - which was launched at the start of 2018, and Seneca County: [www.co.seneca.ny.us/departments/public-works/recycling/](http://www.co.seneca.ny.us/departments/public-works/recycling/).

The Wayne County site gave me the Wayne County NYS Recycling Mandate per NYS legal requirements. There were a couple links: One was NYSDEC, the other was Earth911 – cool name, but like DEC, this gives general recycling information but not much local information about *where* to go with your recyclables. “The Community Resource Guide” also popped up in the Wayne County Search and their recycling information offered some area options for recycling, and includes some information in Spanish as well as English.<sup>3</sup> With Livingston County, NY I had no success linking into a county-sponsored recycling site despite a few different searches. That was when I ran across GLOW.<sup>4</sup> The GLOW Region Solid Waste Management Committee that is, a collaborative project formed in 1987 that seeks “to develop strategies for the management of solid waste in the region.” The site allows residents from the participating counties (Genesee, Livingston and Wyoming counties have renewed their commitments to participate and fund the Committee through December 31, 2019). The site has an abundance of information about the committee and some access to pamphlets, but resident information on where to take your recyclable materials for easy disposal was not readily available.

Overall, I found finding information on how to prepare materials for recycling much easier to locate than finding information on *where* to recycle - with the exception of the counties that have dedicated recycling sites. Calling or visiting the local township where you live is likely the best bet, especially if you are new to the area.

What is really needed is an update in the law that mandates free curbside pick up for ALL New York State residents with funding allocated for that purpose (next budget round maybe). Really, it should not only be NY State, but every state. Until there is a commitment both nationally and internationally to make Zero Waste a priority, change will be slow. Meanwhile, it is up to each of us to take a close look at what we buy, what we trash and what small steps each of us can take to make that happen.

- 1) <https://data.ny.gov/Energy-Environment/Recyclables-Handling-Recovery-Facilities-RHRF-Soli/v9cx-y7xx>
- 2) <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/294.html>
- 3) <http://www.wayneresourceguide.org/>
- 4) <http://www.glowsolidwaste.org/index.html>

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## 5 Rs to Zero Waste

**Y**ou've probably heard of the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. While the chasing arrow symbol is meant to underscore the equality between these, recycling is the process that everyone seems to remember. Here, we'll explore why recycling should be pushed down a few pegs if we want to be more environmentally responsible with our waste.

Béa Johnson, author of the Zero Waste Home, and one of the major thinkers behind the Zero Waste movement, places recycling near the bottom of her waste stream hierarchy. Throwing less away in landfills isn't about recycling more, but about employing a better articulated method of "pre-cycling", which she expresses in her 5 Rs.

### What is "Precycling"?

Well, remember those "reduce" and "reuse" methods that are often ignored? They return here. Precycling is about bringing home products only after considering what their (and their packaging) end life will be like.

- Consider whether an item will go to ...
- Recycling center? How many times?
  - Landfill?
  - Litter?
  - Compost?
  - Polluting our environment?
  - Poisoning other countries?

And also:

- How long will it last? Is it single-use? Will it be used a month from now?

Precycling means thinking about the ultimate destination and making the best choice available to us.

For example, you may be aware that plastic is toxic to produce and very hard to recycle. So if you're at the grocery store and are buying pasta sauce, a good precycling choice would be to buy the glass container with the metal lid instead of the pasta sauce in plastic.

The concept of "precycling" may seem daunting, but the 5Rs provide a systematic approach to make considerations easier.

### Bea's 5 Rs

- Her list goes something like this:
1. Refuse what you do not need.
  2. Reduce what you do need.
  3. Reuse what you have (and buy used).
  4. Recycle what you can.
  5. Rot the rest.

If you make your decisions in this order, you'll have very little left to find a good resting place for.

But what do these statements mean?



"Refusal success" is more likely with some advance planning. A "refusal kit" helps. Having things like tote bags for groceries and take out and on the go utensils and containers means that you can refuse throw-away products and avoid waste. Photo provided

Refusing what you do not need could mean anything from asking for no straw at a restaurant to deciding that the community pool is a better option than maintaining your own. It is considering what actually brings value to your life and what is the unnecessary surplus that will likely just lead to trash.

What is necessary for you will be different from my necessities so there is no hard list to follow. It is more about checking in with yourself to separate the necessary from the superfluous.

There are a few things that you can do to set yourself up for refusal success. For example, if you bring a canvas tote from home, you can refuse the plastic bag at check out.

Reducing what you do need means stretching what you have so that you're not buying so frequently. It might mean using less shampoo or developing a capsule wardrobe or using scrap paper when a new sheet isn't important. Here to, the mindset is what is important. There is no magic list for everything you can reduce.

Reuse what you have (also buy used) probably doesn't need much explaining. If something you already own can fill a purpose, try that first. The last glass from a set your kids have broken can make a great toothbrush holder. My husband uses my hair dryer way more often than I do – and not for his hair!

We buy as much as we can second-hand and are happy to accept hand-me-downs. It is amazing the kind of money you can

save here.

Recycle what you can also doesn't need much elaboration. However, I will say that what you can recycle will vary from community to community. It is important to know what is actually getting sent to recycling facilities and what is being tossed. Outside of curbside recycling, there are other options. Many grocery stores accept plastic grocery sacks, for example.

Also, as I mentioned above, some materials recycle better than others so choose glass and metal over plastic as much as you can.

Rot the rest refers to composting. It's easier than you might think and you can compost more than table scraps. I compost our hair and fingernails (from the bathroom) and the contents of the vacuum cleaner's canister too.

### My Take on The 5 Rs

I am in love with this hierarchy of decision making and have little to add. However, I have 2 Rs that are appropriate for my circumstances.

The first is: "Repair what you can", which just means repairing what your ability and resources will allow. I re sew buttons, for example, but I no longer spend the time patching toddler pants. It just isn't worth it for me. I would place Repair after Reuse on Béa's list.


The second is: "Roast" which just means "burn what is appropriate". We

rarely have a burn ban in our moist climate. While there are people who irresponsibly burn toxic garbage, I am talking about things like paper, untreated lumber, broken wooden kitchen spoons and bamboo toothbrushes. The sort of thing that is compostable but may take a long time to break down in a home composting system.

I would place this R before Rot, though I'm likely to take paper out of the recycling bin to get our fire pit going.

### Your Thoughts

How about you? Have you heard of precycling before? Does the strategy of the 5 Rs seem to be effective against creating waste? What do you think of my additions?



*Sky has been something of a sustainability nerd for most of her life. Her goal is to empower herself and others to live in a way that is congruent with personal values - and intimately linked to the Earth. You can join her in her wanderings through the quagmire of sustainable living in every issue of Owl Light News, and on her blog - talkwalking.org*

*Sustainability - related comments, topics and questions can be e-mailed to editor@canadicepress.com with Simple Sustainability in the subject line.*



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