



## ABOUT THE TOWNS

### **Bloomfield**

Hospitality and history abound in Bloomfield, which is reminiscent of New England with beautiful old churches, monuments, century old shade trees, an inviting gazebo, and village green. Large homes that are Victorian in nature add to the beautiful scenery and rich architecture. To help guide you through the 32 buildings included in the district, a historical leaflet is available. Along the country roads are numerous roadside monuments and memorials marking the sites and noting the influences of the first explorers of the area, as well as General Sullivan's expeditions. But, there is more than meets the eye in Bloomfield.

Farmers markets, antique shops (together known as the Antique Country Mile), and a nearby golf course boost the appeal of this picturesque village. There are a variety of restaurants, New York State wine offerings, and superb hospitality. And in its tradition as a stagecoach town, visitors can enjoy a relaxing overnight stay. Although there are no hotels, two bed and breakfasts host guests year round.

The AWA Antique Wireless and Radio Museum is a treasure trove of early wireless communication devices – including one of the first Marconi radios. It is located across the village green in a restored 1830s brick schoolhouse which it shares with The Bloomfield Academy Museum, featuring an outstanding collection of early American and local historical items. The Vintage Tracks Museum features “Crawlers of Yesteryear” paying tribute to this area's fertile farm heritage.

### **Canadice**

Canadice is named for its tiny, pristine lake. Canadice, in fact, is the only town in the Finger Lakes that touches on three bodies of water: Canadice, Hemlock and Honeoye. Despite the Native American translation for Canadice as “long lake,” it is actually the smallest of the eleven Finger Lakes. Perhaps this moniker is more for the views than the length of the lake, which is only three miles long.

The lakeside hills are steep, affording tremendous views of the Rochester skyline to the north and sweeping valleys to the south. Harriet Hollister Spencer Park is a vantage point from which many scenic photos are taken. The state park is undeveloped, which is part of its appeal for picnicking and hiking. Snow shoeing, cross country skiing and dog sledding are common winter activities. Others, such as swimming and waterskiing, are restricted on Canadice and Hemlock Lakes as they are a major source of the Rochester/Monroe County water supply. Canoeing, biking and kayaking are encouraged! During the winter months, several snowmobile trails offer the snowmobile club and countless others a chance to explore the backwoods.

## Canandaigua

Resting on the northern shore of the third largest Finger Lake is the city of Canandaigua surrounded by a town of the same name. With Canandaigua Lake as a backdrop, the city and town are areas of extensive natural beauty, numerous recreational opportunities, great natural resources, and historical significance. Canandaigua provides its residents and guests with places for fishing, boating, hiking, skiing, hunting and swimming. There are great places to relax and enjoy the views, and its wide main street provides a premiere entryway – replete with Victorian architecture, flowered medians, and quaint shops.

Canandaigua means “the chosen spot” and was named by the Native American Indians. Today, it remains one of the Finger Lakes most chosen spots for recreation and quality of life with nearly 20,000 people calling it home. Medical services, tourism, and agriculture share the forefront of industry in Canandaigua, but it also is home to the Canandaigua Wine Company and Constellation Brands, the nation’s largest wine company. The town has considerable open space, farmland, and a lakeside offering summer homes, year-round homes, town homes, cottages, and condominiums. Canandaigua schools are also highly ranked in New York State, its high school offering diverse programs including the world recognized International Baccalaureate program. The area is also home to Finger Lakes Community College, where students enjoy the experience of higher education while learning lakeside.

The 16 mile-long lake is still a force in tourism and local heritage, and the city, schools and town are ever-expanding to accommodate public access. In 1993, the Town of Canandaigua added Onanda Park to its offerings with 73 acres of upland hiking. Accessibility to the water for fishing and swimming is available to people with all needs, as well as cabins for rent, and rustic meeting space. Canandaigua’s City Pier is a popular picture taking area, walking site and fishing spot. From it, you can see Squaw Island, one of New York State’s tiniest islands. Two tour boats offer the option to get out on the lakes, and the State Marine Boat Launch is there for those who come with their own boat. Canandaigua is also host to two public golf courses.

History and architecture are main stays of this community. Sonnenberg Mansion and Gardens is an area favorite, along with Granger Homestead and Carriage Museum. The Ontario County Historical Society is a good place to start any visit. It provides a background of the area’s history and has walking tours and an architectural guide for Canandaigua’s impressive Main Street.

The social aspect of Canandaigua has an appeal all its own. There are plenty of high quality restaurants, bed and breakfasts, and specialty shops. Canandaigua lays claim to one of only three lakeside hotels in the Finger Lakes Region, making this a popular spot for overnight visitors, as well as a great overnight location for skiers to nearby Bristol Mountain Resort. The Ontario County Fair (held annually in July) and the Canandaigua Speedway, which holds dirt track racing events almost every Saturday from June through August, are also located here.

## Clifton Springs

In Clifton Springs, it’s about water - Sulphur water, that is. Dr. Henry Foster came to Clifton Springs in 1850 and founded the Clifton Springs Water Treatment. Surrounding his water cure, he built a tremendous Victorian village. The architecture is among the prizes of visiting Clifton Springs. It has a covered downtown main street including the Foster Block, filled with little stores and service areas that delight both visitors and residents. The village of slightly more than 2,220 people won the *Uncommonly Good Award* for Common Good Planning in the Rochester area. The

● **Finger Lakes Visitors Connection** ● 25 Gorham Street ● Canandaigua, NY 14224 ●  
1-877-FUN-IN-NY ● [www.visitfingerlakes.com](http://www.visitfingerlakes.com)

community is still well-known for its hospital, which is opening the Springs at Clifton, reinvigorating the Dr. Foster's springs for use in complementary medicines. The new springs will include massage, herbal medicines, and expanded wellness initiatives.

Midlakes is the name of the school and is shared with the community of Phelps. Clifton Springs is also host to Warfield's Restaurant. Victorian in nature, the popular restaurant grows some of its own herbs and provides fresh baked goods. There are antique shops, gift shops, and delis on the main street. The village hosts the Sulphur Springs Festival each summer.

### **Farmington**

Farmington has one of the region's best park systems. Small businesses have discovered that due to Farmington's ideal location off the NYS Thruway, it is a great locale to set-up shop. Because of this you'll find facilities catering to visitors needs: especially restaurants from which you'll have lots of options to choose from.

Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack opened May 23, 1962 as a thoroughbred horse racing facility. Over the years, it has hosted some of the greatest thoroughbreds in the history of the sport. The facility underwent a major overhaul in February of 2004 when video lottery gaming machines were added. Horse farms and the amenities needed to support the race track have also spurred additional business. For visitors, Cooper Creek Farm teaches horseback riding through its wooded setting.

### **Flint/Hall/Stanley (Town of Seneca)**

Beautiful country roads, expansive and distinctive farms, and innovations in agriculture are the binding ties between these three communities in Ontario County. Historic Routes 5 and 20 traverse the land and provides views of cabbage fields, beets, corn experimental plots, pumpkins, strawberries, beans and more. This is truly the bread basket of Ontario County. Innovations include the first mechanical cabbage harvester and seeds. Hall is the home to Seedway and other support services for the farming community.

Flint lays claim to Amberg Wine Cellars and Abbey Historical Farms. Amberg makes wines in the German tradition and Abbey interprets farm life in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Ontario Pathways has connectors in this area to its ever-growing walking and biking paths. Antique shops and roadside farmers markets invite people to experience the history or taste the products of this fertile land. Agribusiness is king in this area of Ontario County.

### **Geneva**

The northern shores of Seneca Lake give way to one of the oldest and most renowned communities in Ontario County: Geneva. With its unique location (partially on a hillside) and sweeping views of the lake, the city is so reminiscent of its European counterpart that it is believed to be its namesake. Boasting three world-class wineries, the area is the starting point for many visitors experiencing the Seneca Lake Wine Trail.

Like many locations in the Finger Lakes, Geneva can trace its origins back to the Seneca Indian Nation. It once served as a principal settlement named "Kanadesaga," which was later entirely destroyed by General John Sullivan in his famed expedition of 1779. Some of the very soldiers charged with annihilating the Indian village returned years later to construct a town of their very own.

Before long, Geneva had the distinction of being the first Western New York community to have an official post office, dedicated church, glass factory, YMCA, and free public library.

Architecture played a significant role in shaping Geneva's history. It was a symbol of the city's pioneering attitude and bestowed a benchmark for measuring its future economic prosperity.

Some of the more prominent landmarks still on display include the Smith Opera House, an 1894 Richardsonian-designed theater built by philanthropist William Smith; Belhurst, a three-story "home" built in 1889 for Carrie Harron Collins, a descendant of presidential candidate Henry Clay, which is now a resort offering lodging and meeting facilities; the South Main Street district boasting Pulteney Park (site of the original town square); Federal-style South Main Street Rowhouses (built between 1825 and 1850); and the Hobart and William Smith Colleges campuses. Previously known as Geneva College, this is where Elizabeth Blackwell received her medical degree becoming the first woman in the United States to be qualified as a physician.

Geneva is still moving successfully forward. Prentice Hall recently named the city as one of the *100 Best Small Towns in America*. It is just one of two communities in New York State to be listed in *The Nationwide Guide to the Best in Small Town Living*. This is due in part to Cornell's famed Agricultural Experiment Station and Ag Tech Park. Both are reflective of Geneva's rich history as New York's fruit basket with fruit orchards draped along the rolling lakeside slopes. Fresh produce from local family run stands dot the byways today.

Among its largest employers are Guardian Industries (flat glass manufacturer), Seneca Foods (processors of vegetables and sauerkraut), Zotos International, Inc. (manufacturer of hair care products for professional beauty salons), and Finger Lakes Regional Health System.

## **Gorham/Rushville**

This small Ontario County town is named for Nathaniel Gorham of the Phelps and Gorham purchase. Flint Creek, on which the village sits, afforded the Town of Gorham several manufacturing facilities. Today, however, Gorham is known as the Bandstand of the Finger Lakes, earning this name as the site of the Annual Pageant of Bands. Gorham is also home to an antique shop and a Bed and Breakfast. It shares its high school, Marcus Whitman, with the nearby village of Rushville.

Gorham's roads are great for biking and the lands are fertile for farming, and the area is home to a good deal of lake property at the south end of Canandaigua Lake, including the Thendara Inn and its popular Boathouse Restaurant. Specialty architecture and cobblestones dot the streets, and the town recently renovated a building that used to be the post office, making it a new historical museum.

Rushville is located within two counties of New York: Yates and Ontario. Rushville's history is marked with its famous son, Marcus Whitman, whose statue is in the Hall of Leaders in the U.S. Capitol building. Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa Prentice, were pioneer missionaries who helped blaze the trail to the Oregon territories, eventually losing their lives in their mission. Its small town charm and simple life is reflected in the occasional horse and buggy you see going through this town, which is a popular settling area for the Mennonites.

## Honeoye

The town of Richmond contains Honeoye and the beautiful Honeoye Lake. With a depth of only 30 feet, Honeoye Lake is the shallowest of the Finger Lakes. This creates an advantage for Honeoye as it becomes a year round recreational base. Its entire five miles has been known to freeze, making ice fishing and ice boating very popular seasonal activities.

Honeoye means “lying finger” in the Native American language. A modern adaptation of lying finger may refer to the numerous lakeside homes and cottages which lie alongside its shores; with more and more being converted into year-round housing. There are two public spots on Honeoye Lake. One is Sandy Bottom Park, a 50-acre park at the north end of the lake, which offers swimming, picnicking, and a nature trail. A primitive boat launch and undeveloped hiking trails are also available at the Honeoye Lake State Marine Town Park.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust is active in this area, helping to preserve the great offerings that nature has blessed us with, including the Wesley Hill Preserve, one of the area’s favorite walking and hiking destinations. An extensive amount of land in Richmond is being developed into snowmobile trails, hiking trails, and natural conservation areas. The northern part of Richmond is rich in agriculture, and is a popular area for country road driving to view fall foliage.

In town, small businesses line the streets. There are several restaurants, an antique shop, and craft store. Playgrounds near the school are inviting to the younger set. For visitors to the area, there are several nearby attractions, including Cumming Nature Center, Bristol Mountain Winter Resort, and the Wizard of Clay Pottery. The Greenwoods Bed and Breakfast provides a wonderful small meeting space and relaxing accommodations.

## Hopewell

From its variety of large-scale commercial offerings to local cooperatives to its rolling farmland, Hopewell is a study in contrasts. Hopewell is in the geographical center of Ontario County and is the location of many county service buildings. The Ontario County Records and Archives Center is a hubbub of activity for those searching their ancestry records, deeds, or other legal information dating to the founding of Ontario County in 1789.

Hopewell is home to the Finger Lakes Performing Arts Center located on the campus of the Finger Lakes Community College. The Center is an outdoor amphitheater, and acts as the summer home to the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as hosting many special performances and festivals. Within walking distance is The Finger Lakes Inn with 140 guest rooms, and the Lincoln Hill Inn, a 1800s farmhouse that has been converted into a popular restaurant.

Routes 5 and 20 bisect the town, creating a popular roadway lined by productive farmland. Roadside stands feature beans, cabbage, pumpkins, corn, and more. Experimental varieties of corn and beets are grown along this route with crop identification aided by an occasional technical sign explaining the process, making the route intriguing and educational to drive. An annual Pageant of Steam is held each year showing off an impressive display of antique, steam-driven farm machinery.

Innovations for the new millennium can be found at Willow Pond Aqua Farms, an entrepreneurial venture in aqua-cultural farming. Many varieties of fish and aqua-based plant life are propagated here. Special educational programs are offered on topics ranging from fishing to gardening, making this is a popular spot for local gardening clubs and enthusiasts. Whether you want big stores or small roadside stands, Hopewell is the place to go.

## Naples

Naples is located approximately four miles south of Canandaigua Lake. Although it is among the smallest communities in the state, this area, known as grape country, is one of the most treasured destinations in the Finger Lakes Region. Blessed with a unique geographic location and fertile land, the Naples area is an ideal spot to grow grapes - a tradition that was started in the 1840s by a single land owner who planted 150 grape vines on a nearby hillside. Much of Naples esteemed past can be traced back to that historic event, as it was the beginning of a big industry.

During its early years, however, the Naples Valley was thought to be anything but a prosperous area. Once the site of an ancient Seneca Indian Nation named "Nundawao," Naples was considered among the least desirable territories for sale due to its barren and mountainous territory. The first settlers purchased the land for a mere 12 cents per acre.

By the late 1820s, Naples had developed into a thriving community with churches, grist mills, saw mills, tanneries, hotels, and other businesses. By 1860, the Naples Academy was built, and in 1872 the Naples Memorial Town Hall was erected to honor the more than 200 local men who had served in the Civil War.

In addition to these buildings, several other landmarks are on display throughout the Naples area, including the Morgan Hook and Ladder Company, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and Grimes Glen, site of a celebrated archeological find. Local attractions include the Bristol Valley Theater and the Hi Tor Wildlife Management Area. Small businesses are the lifeblood of Naples. It has become known as an artist haven. Corporate business includes Widmer's Wine Cellars and Lake Country Woodworkers.

## Phelps

Phelps is an attractive village on Rt. 96, and is the locale of The Country Lawyer, a famous book by E. Bellamy Partridge. Phelps has a variety of businesses ranging from its own home-based telephone company, Ontario Telephone, to small gift shops and a cement manufacturer. Its quaint Main Street is a great strolling place where one can grab an ice cream cone – if you can select from the 65 varieties that are available at the Old Mill – pick up a piece of Phelps Pottery, or step back and take a more leisurely pace.

Phelps is renowned for its history of sauerkraut production. In fact, the annual Sauerkraut Festival is held in August to commemorate this heritage. Heritage of this community is also celebrated at the Phelps Historical Society Museum. This features changing exhibits on the community and the area. One slightly intriguing feature of this museum is its two-story brick outhouse!

The landscape of Phelps is quaint and welcoming. As you visit this area, take note of the cobblestone architecture, made possible as a result of the construction of the Erie Canal. One of the highlights is the Town Hall currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, built in 1849 in the center of the community with stones from the area. The Phelps Hotel, currently operating as a restaurant, is a distinctive cornerstone of the community, which stretches along Route 96 to the Geneva thruway exit. At the northernmost corner you can find Cheerful Valley Campground, located on the Canandaigua Outlet; a great place to enjoy the rural characteristics of this town.

## **Shortsville/Manchester**

Manchester and Shortsville are twin communities in the Finger Lakes. They are gateway communities off the New York State Thruway. The Lehigh Valley Railroad played an important part in their early growth and today passionate community members hope to revitalize this heritage with the opening of a museum. Manchester is the home of the famed Hill Cumorah Pageant and Visitor's Center. It was in the town that Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints founded the religion.

Shortsville was named after one of the village's first pioneers, Theophilus Short. A flour mill was the first industry, established on the banks of the Canandaigua Outlet. Other milling efforts also took place, capitalizing on the water that runs through it. These communities share Red Jacket Central Schools, named in honor of the great Indian orator.

## **South Bristol**

If world-class golf at a Robert Trent Jones designed course, or 1,200-foot drop ski runs, or waterskiing, sailing, or tasting wines tickle your leisure time fancy, then the town of South Bristol is for you. This area was once called the Lake Tahoe of the east for its four-season activity base and higher-end real estate values.

In addition to Bristol Harbour Golf Course and Bristol Mountain Winter Resort, the town of South Bristol is home to Ontario County's highest point – The Ontario County Park at Gannett Hill. Here lies the “jump-off” overlook, with views toward Canandaigua Lake to the east. Mees Observatory is located nearby for stargazing. South Bristol is also home to several outdoor recreation and nature areas. Cumming Nature Center is a spring favorite, as they annually host the Maple Sugaring Festival. It is also popular for walking amongst “the tall pines” or taking an oxen drawn ride. With the right snowfall, cross-country skiing is also available here.

Hi Tor Wildlife Management and Stid Hill Recreation are state-owned and managed wildlife preserves. Canoeing through the reeds, walking the glens, or fishing in nearby Naples Creek for rainbow trout are popular activities. In the winter go cross country skiing and in the spring the bikers hit the roads for some great views and tremendous exercise.

And the views – oh boy are there views in South Bristol. County Road 12, known by the locals as “the high road to Naples,” offers sweeping views of Canandaigua Lake. The Town of South Bristol County Road 12 Overlook offers an ideal location to enjoy the scenic vistas, especially for visitors who flock to Naples – particularly during the annual grape harvest and to visit the small farm winery. Arbor Hill Grapery is award winning, with their retail outlet offering a taste of not only wine, but jellies, sauces, and other specialty grape products. And, while you're in the neighborhood, don't forget the famous grape pie. Roadside stands feature this unique treat.

If you prefer to feast on art you can do that too. The South Bristol Cultural Center features performing art, functional handmade pieces, gardening art, and musical performances in its varied repertoire. Classes are offered year round, so everyone can try their hand with their talents.

Ironically, with all this activity, the population of South Bristol is the smallest in Ontario County – except when you add the seasonal visitors who make their vacation complete by selecting camping at the County Park, town homes at the base of Bristol Mountain, lakeside condominiums at Bristol Harbour, a hillside bed and breakfast, or golfing at a first-class golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones.

● **Finger Lakes Visitors Connection** ● 25 Gorham Street ● Canandaigua, NY 14224 ●  
1-877-FUN-IN-NY ● [www.visitfingerlakes.com](http://www.visitfingerlakes.com)

## **The Bristol Hills**

The rolling hillsides between Honeoye and Canandaigua Lake create a cocoon of sorts; a hideaway for those who make their home in Bristol. The community is close-knit and proud of its rural setting, with most of the population centered on the northern part of the town in the hamlet of Bristol Center. Others use the natural setting of the Bristol Hills as the forum for their creative work.

The Wizard of Clay attracts both national and international visitors. Retired art teacher Jim Kozlowski works with his son, Jamie, to create thousands of pieces of pottery each year, with many receiving design inspiration from the indigenous foliage. The Bristol Hills are also home to artists, glassblowers, woodworkers, and even organ builders. The town is spotted with shops and restaurants in which to relax and catch-up with old friends, but certainly one of the busiest places is Bristol Center.

Here is the Bristol Hills Country Store, locally known as one of the places to gossip, grab a quick bite to eat, and warm up next to a nice wood stove. The store doubles as an ice cream parlor, video store, and convenience store. Across the street, the 1795 Acorn Inn Bed and Breakfast is meticulously decorated with antiques, and the proprietors are attentive to details and service excellence, earning them a perennial four diamond AAA award. Bristol Mountain Winter Resort also is a treasure like no other.

Although the community may be spread out, it is still close in nature. Residents are involved in their community and are very active in the fire service, library society, and local town politics. Bristol is a throwback to simpler times, offering a quiet country life in a beautiful outdoor setting. Those who wish to experience the country life will certainly enjoy Levi Cursor Park, a centerpiece of rural bounty.

## **Victor**

Victor was originally purchased by Enos Boughton as part of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase in 1788, at a cost of 20 cents per acre. In 1790, members of the Boughton family, along with other settlers from New England, began to inhabit the land named Boughtontown. By 1812, the town was officially established through an act of the state legislature and named in honor of Claudius Victor Boughton, who had distinguished himself in the War of 1812.

With the establishment of the Auburn and Rochester Railroad in 1840, Victor grew quickly in the years following the Civil War. In 1910, it had a population of around 2,500 people and had schools, four churches, a municipal water supply system, electric street lighting, a newspaper, and a bank. Today, Victor is one of the fastest growing communities in Ontario County.

The village continues its revitalization of the downtown business area, while still preserving the small town charm that has attracted many residents. Victor is home to many specialty shops and attractions, including Ganondagan State Historic Site, The Victor Apple Farm, the Christmas Tree Farm and Valentown Museum. Ganondagan is New York State's only historic site dedicated to Native American history.

Year round events, walking trails, and interpretive exhibits, including a life size long house, provide information on the history of this Seneca Indian village. Corporate business includes AVANT! (computer software manufacturers), and Horizon Aerospace (manufacturers of aerospace

- **Finger Lakes Visitors Connection ● 25 Gorham Street ● Canandaigua, NY 14224 ●**
- **1-877-FUN-IN-NY ● [www.visitfingerlakes.com](http://www.visitfingerlakes.com)**

flight equipment). Victor is the retail center of Ontario County as it plays host to the largest shopping center in Ontario County, EASTVIEW Mall. You can also relax in Victor with a trip to Ontario County's newest golf course, Ravenwood.

### **West Bloomfield**

West Bloomfield may be one of Ontario County's smallest towns; however, it is one of the richest in terms of agricultural productivity. Its soil has always lent itself to farming and agriculture, even when the Seneca villages occupied the land. For a small town, West Bloomfield is also rich in architecture. It has a cobblestone home, converted to house a wonderful antique shop, the Cobblestone, and a striking congregational church on Routes 5 and 20. Alpacas are among the newest "hits" in West Bloomfield. Lazy Acre Alpaca Farms invites people in for special events and for sales of the products created from these good-natured woolbearing animals. West Bloomfield is the western gateway to Ontario County, connecting the area to the Rochester regional markets.

###