

President's Report to the Membership

Thank you for supporting the Genesee Valley Conservancy! You help accomplish the mission, which is "to protect the natural habitat, open spaces, and farmland of the Genesee Valley Region." The mission would fail without your support. Thank you!

I would like to thank Billy Lloyd for his leadership as immediate past president of the board. The organization is better off because of his leadership. I would also like to formally welcome Beth Anne Harris of Genesee and Ron Cicoria of Caledonia to the board. They have already helped energize our meetings and contributed to the overall strength of the organization.

The board and its various committees have been working to help Eric and Ben accomplish the mission. To this end we have begun to discuss long range planning and we have begun to develop a "strategic plan."

Before you get bored with the topic of "strategic planning," take a moment to think about what this means. It is our chance to name the most important things we want to accomplish for the next 5 to 10 years.

Some members who love canoeing, kayaking, and birdwatching have said we should "clean up the Genesee!" After all, our organization protects about 12 miles of the river frontage. It is not a coincidence that a Bald Eagle was recently seen on a river bank protected by GVC. If an important part of our mission is "protect and preserve natural habitat," shouldn't we attempt to improve the water quality in the river? How can we do this?

Other people have told us to "save more farmland." By any measure, GVC has succeeded at this, and continues to do so. But every day we see more farmland taken out of food production and developed. Should this concern us? How do we address the issue? How do we communicate our message that there are alternatives to development?

There is also a movement to put together a network of public pathways to link Genesee with the Greenway and other trails. This requires some collaboration with a number of villages, towns, and agencies. This goal seems difficult to make happen, but it would advance our mission. How do we tackle this one?

This is the complicated work of "strategic planning" and the discussions have begun at the board level. What do you want us to work on?

You can help with this by completing the enclosed survey (also available on line at www.geneseevalleyconservancy.org). Every member's opinion is important. Your responses will guide the "strategic planning process" and will help your board set the future course of GVC.

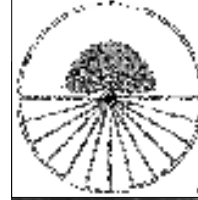
In addition to helping guide GVC, you can help by acting as an ambassador of GVC; help to increase membership and ask someone you know to join. You can also help by increasing your membership level. The mission will succeed if properly funded.

In my next report I will discuss the process of Accreditation - we are getting ready to ask Eric and Ben to submit to a voluntary inspection and review of all aspects of the work they do, from record keeping, to monitoring the land under protection. There are now standards and best practices that have been developed at a national level. GVC will be a stronger organization once we pass the test.

John M. Lockhart, III, President, Board of Directors

2006 GVC Profit & Loss

Income	
Contributions	79,728
Dividends	12,787
Fundraising	8,980
Grant Income	7,935
Interest	5,656
Merchandise Sales	255
Operating Income	\$115,341
Expense	
Advertising	75
Bank Charges	195
Depreciation	1,489
Dues & Subscriptions	2,511
Fundraising Expense	1,703
Insurance Expense	2,510
Office Supplies	1,281
Payroll	43,104
Postage & Delivery	1,489
Printing	628
Professional Development	560
Professional Fees	5,800
Program Service Expense	6,275
Real Estate Taxes	205
Rent	8,438
Repairs	218
Travel, Entertainment & Picnic	4,709
Utilities	3,616
Operating Expense	84,805
Net Operating Income	\$30,535



Genesee Valley Conservancy

Annual Report 2007

"To protect the habitat, open space & farmland of the Genesee Valley Region"



-Wheeler Gully, Protected 2002

It has been an exciting year at the Conservancy. This summer we hired our second, full-time staff member; we expanded the very popular Livingston County farmland protection initiative as well as worked with a handful of other interested landowners to protect their lands. Additionally, there have been some important organizational developments and for the first time we are seeking your input on a strategic plan we are completing (see letter from Board President, John Lockhart and survey enclosed).

The Conservancy took another major step by hiring a Director of stewardship. Ben Gajewski, a SUNY Genesee student who is currently finishing school while working at GVC has accepted the position. The position is responsible for managing all the land protected by the Conservancy, which includes monitoring over 53 different properties and overseeing landowner relationships. Ben also actively manages the land owned by GVC. He interned with GVC last semester and he brings practical land conservation experience to the job. I welcome Ben to his role and am very appreciative of the work he has accomplished so far.

Ben's position is made possible through generous individual donations, a grant from the Elaine P. and Richard U. Wilson Foundation and funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, a partnership between the State of New York and the Land Trust Alliance.

As for new conservation initiatives, this summer GVC worked with Livingston County and three farms facilitating applications to the NYS Purchase of Development Rights Program. If all are accepted, this will protect approximately 4,000 acres of prime farmland by this already popular program. (Currently, Coyne Farms, Chase Farm and Mulligan Farms have been accepted.) We hope to hear back from the state by the end of the year.

A conservation easement in Dalton was also acquired this year. The 40-acre property is owned by Tom Witt. This is the first conservation easement in Nunda/Dalton. It is a beautiful, wooded property overlooking Nunda, from which you can see up the Genesee River Valley all the way to Rochester.

There are several other conservation projects underway that we hope to complete by the end of the year.

It is a great time to be involved in land conservation. In a climate of political divisiveness, it is good to know there remains one issue that almost everyone agrees upon: community character depends on protecting the important natural areas that help define its history and culture. For this I am thankful, as it provides GVC the strong base of support that is necessary for continuing our conservation programs. Speaking on behalf of the GVC Board of Directors, I extend a heartfelt thank you to all GVC's donors and volunteers. Without you, none of our successes could be possible.

Eric Grace, Executive Director

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www.geneseevalleyconservancy.org

Email: info@geneseevalleyconservancy.org

The Genesee Valley Conservancy thanks all of our generous 2007 supporters. Our membership year runs from fall to late summer. For 2007, this includes gifts & pledges made November 2006 through September 2007.

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We apologize for any errors. For corrections, please contact Eric Grace at the GVC office.