

‘The Village of Hammondsport’



by Dan Tousley,
Circuit Rider III

It is always a pleasure when in the course of our travels we encounter a water system who (they ARE people!) really have their program together and everything is under control and functioning smoothly. I personally would like to take credit for this because after all it is what we are pursuing each day, but in this case, sadly, I cannot claim the credit.

On the southern shore of Keuka Lake is nestled the quaint, quiet Village of Hammondsport, New York. You would indeed enjoy a leisurely stroll around their public square surrounded with interesting shops and businesses with people bustling about or enjoying a park bench for awhile.

As you proceed along on your stroll you may just develop a thirst for a drink of Keuka Lake water. Well, feel free and do not fret for the water you will drink is pure and safe, thanks to the constant and conscientious effort of Mr. Randy Hoad.

Randy is the Superintendent of Public Works for the Village and is also the certified chief operator of the Village water system. These are responsibilities he does not take lightly. Newborns, to the very elderly, drink the water he treats every day and Randy intends to assure its safety and dependability.

I personally can vouch that Randy treats the water system as if it were his own. He is closely tuned in to the quantities pumped each day and can tell in a heartbeat if there is a leak developing. His unaccounted for water percentages are almost always in the low single digits. Why, you'd think HE was paying for the water!

The public works and the water system perform like a well oiled machine. Most all of the streets have been reconstructed including curbing and new sidewalks. Get this: gate valve boxes and such are actually adjusted to grade! Holy cow!! The drainage works and signs are readable with very few bullet holes in them! Leaves and brush are promptly removed from the streets as well as snow and ice.

Randy has a hydrant flushing program and a valve exercising program that is performed every year at least once. Each and every valve can be exercised in less than two days because of their maintenance program.

Lets see, hmmm, he's a Harley rider, married to Kim (not necessarily in that order), father to two, papa

to one, President of The Southern Tier Water Works Operators Conference for 10+ years. Whew!

A while back, I wrote about a system that cut 'W's in their sidewalks to mark water box locations. It didn't take Randy long to bring my attention to the fact that he had been doing that for years, I stood corrected.

Assisting Randy is Chris McConnell and Raymond Hawley. In the beautiful new Village Office you will find the pleasant Lela Martuscello busy with official Village business.

Well, kudos to Randy, Lela, Chris and Ray. Great job folks. A tip of the New York Rural Water Association hat to you all.

I'm proud to have Randy as a personal friend but even more so, I'm proud of the job he is doing for the Village of Hammondsport and their water customers. He is truly dedicated. Keep up the great work Sir. We salute you. 💧