



# SAYING GOODBYE TO AN OLD FRIEND

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I often do a Facebook post that I call, In My Travels. Anything to do with history catches my eye. I am sure we all have had a time when traveling that a certain thing lets us know that home is just around the corner. When I was a wee lad growing up along the shores of Lake Keuka, for me it was either the old Grange Hall or my Dad's 1889 brick hardware store. Many years later when work brought me to Webster, NY, it was the two water towers. The oldest one, a .5 mg riveted steel "Witches Hat", a tank that was erected in the mid 1930's when Webster had a source change from spring fed to a deep aquifer source. The other, when Webster had another growth spurt, a 1 mg welded steel tank, which was erected in the 60's. These tanks have said Welcome Home to many a traveler.



**Photo 1**

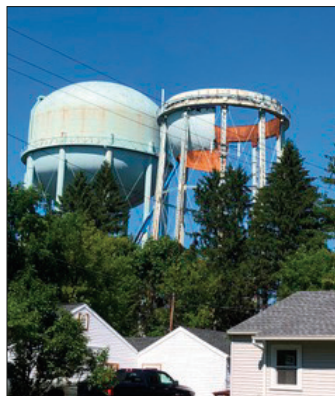
then re-assembled it. Fact or fiction I can't say for sure but I sure do want to believe it. (Photo 2)



**Photo 2**

The old riveted tank was showing its age, and was only used during peak usage. In the winter, due to ice buildup, it was drained. When the ice dropped, residents in the immediate area would experience roily water. Every spring the old steel needed more and more patching to stop the leaks. A few years back, local politicians ended the village water system and handed everything over to the local water authority who chose to leave the tank empty. The village was using the towers as an income source from the local cellular providers and was given a deadline for removal, or transferring the income to the water authority. A cell tower was erected on an adjacent piece of property. This being completed, the old tank was slated for demolition. For the last couple of weeks, the sound of cutting torches and pieces

of steel crashing to the ground have been heard. (Photo 3). The site was too small and too close to houses to bring in a crane. Slowly but surely the Villages identity is being changed. (Photo 4)



**Photo 4**



**Photo 5**

patching them because of the cost to replace them. The tank is a critical part of the infrastructure. A large portion of the visits I make are for leaks, many on water mains that were installed in the early 1900's. Just because it is buried and you cannot see it, doesn't mean that it is in good condition. I am working with a system currently that has a 72% water loss. So far the leaks have been on old galvanized services. These services are connected to 4 and 6 inch unlined water mains, so the 4 inch is probably 2 inch and the 6 inch is probably 4 inch.

Our infrastructure is hurting. Just what is the answer? Time and money, lots of money. It is scary to see the condition of some of our water systems. I hope to see you in my travels. 💧💧



**Photo 3**

We will no longer be able to say, "Look for the two water towers and you will know you are here". We have been using the tanks for a Welcome Home for close to 40 years, many people much longer. (Photo 5) It is sad to see it go, but providing safe reasonably priced water to the public is very important.

Just how many systems out there have old steel tanks such as this one? I see them every day. Systems just keep