



A TIME OF RENEWAL

Kevin Maine | Program Specialist

Spring is a time of renewal. I am also experiencing a sense of renewal. My name is Kevin Maine, and I am very excited to join the New York Rural Water Association's team as the new Program Specialist. In my new role I will be providing Energy Efficiency Assessments, training, and onsite technical assistance. I believe that my educational and work experience have provided a foundation for this rewarding position.

I grew up in a small rural community in western New York. During high school, I earned my vocational degree in Electronics / Electro-mechanical Controls. After graduation, I was employed with the MK Company electrical division, rebuilding high speed rail cars. While working full time, I was working part time as a charter pilot / flight instructor, at the local airport, where I met my wife Kathy on a charter flight. We settled in Canisteo and begun building our new home.

I started in 1994 with the Village of Canisteo, as they began the process of rebuilding their wastewater plant, and developing a new production well, along with construction of a one-million gallon Natgun® storage tank. Working side by side with both engineering and construction crews was indeed a learning experience. During the chaos of construction, water training at Alfred State and wastewater training at Corning Community College had started, then shortly thereafter obtaining my grade C, D, IIB Water, and 2A Wastewater certifications. After certification, I started College at SUNY Empire at Alfred earning an A.S. Degree in Environmental Science / Municipal Management.

In 2004, the Village of Canaseraga built a collection system and waste treatment plant. The next two years were spent getting the system up and running and preparing the new operator for his certification test. During the same time, the local Health Department recruited me to operate a water system with UV disinfection for a small office complex until the owner was able to hire a certified operator. After five years, they hired a permanent certified operator. In addition to training operators and operating other plants, I was the Laboratory Director. Canisteo has one of the few remaining onsite ELAP-CERTIFIED labs. For the surrounding systems, our door was always open if they needed to borrow a microscope, wanted to know how to sample or where to send samples.

Since joining NYRWA, I have been able to assist several systems resolving chlorine issues, helping issue annual water quality reports and cross connection programs. In addition to the technical assistance, several energy assessments have been

completed, illustrating potential savings available. Remember, New York Rural Water's resources, circuit riders and program specialists are just a phone call or email away! 💧💧