

Brighton-Pittsford Post – “From the Supervisor” column – December 10, 2015 issue
Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith

Awards for Pittsford’s Trails well deserved

Pittsford is home to a fine system of trails. On entering the Supervisor’s office two years ago, I was concerned that too few people knew about our trails. A public amenity as splendid as this deserved up-to-date maps that are easily accessible. It deserved as well wider public awareness of what our network of trails has to offer.

Earlier this year, you may recall, the Town released its set of updated maps for our trail system. We had been working for a year to come up with a quality product. Easy to read, accessible online and printable, replete with information about both topography and history of each route, our new maps do justice to the recreational resource they depict. The Town’s recreation staff and I were delighted with the outcome.

We weren’t the only ones. Reaction to our trail maps by Town residents has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. I’m pleased to report to you that, a few weeks ago, the Genesee Valley Recreation and Parks Society recognized Pittsford with an award for our new Trail Maps.

With mapmaking in hand, we turned our attention to increasing public awareness. Recreation Director Jessie Hollenbeck came up with one of those ideas so good I was embarrassed I hadn’t thought of it myself. His inspiration was to offer guided hikes of our trails as one of the programs offered by our Rec Department.

Recreation Supervisor Alix Davidson and Recreation Assistant Megan Patridge researched, planned, organized and led the hikes. They began in September. So far we’ve offered guided hikes along the loop formed by the Auburn and Erie Canal Trails, along the Irondequoit Creek Trail and along the trail running through the Isaac Gordon Nature Park. Public participation and response has been terrific. Moreover, like our new trail maps, this program attracted attention from the Genesee Valley Recreation and Parks Society. In November it honored Pittsford’s program of guided trail hikes with its award for Exceptional Programs.

We’ll carry on with three more guided hikes this winter: the Wynd’s Woods Trails on January 30; the loop formed by the Cartersville and Simon Stone’s Mill Trails on February 20 and the Mitchell Trail on March 12. All are on Saturday mornings. One or more may give you a chance to try a snowshoe hike.

For my part, since I last wrote in this column about trails, I’ve been making good on my plan to hike all of Pittsford’s major trails by next summer. I’ve done the Auburn, Erie Canal and Irondequoit Creek trails with our Rec Department hikes and the trail through Isaac Gordon Nature Park on my own. Part of the fun is experiencing our trails through the changes in season. I look forward to the little adventures of wintertime hikes.

I encourage you to enjoy our trails, too. If, along the way, you pass a somewhat desperate-looking figure struggling with snowshoes, I hope you’ll say hello, and point me in the right direction.

As always, you may contact me at bsmith@townofpittsford.org or phone me at 248-6220.