

Dynamic Balance Changing Times

Challenges and Opportunities

In a rapidly changing world, Warren County residents face the challenge of preserving the richness and integrity of our communities. Shifting population patterns impact our schools, and our municipalities weigh the push toward consolidations against the desire to maintain unique community character. The need to replace aging infrastructure strains municipal budgets. Addressing both environmental protection and economic sustainability means finding a dynamic balance in legislating for the “common good.”

Warren County’s communities have experienced tremendous changes since they were first established. Changes and trends both nationally and globally affect our livelihoods and our social structure—the very fabric of our community life.



Lake George train station, circa 1898.



In 1961, Governor Nelson Rockefeller opens Northway Exit 19.



In 1944, Look magazine showcased life during World War II in Glens Falls, dubbing it “Hometown, USA.”

Economy

Some of our county’s early industries—from papermaking to tourism—remain important parts of our local economies. Others, like the apparel industry, have succumbed to international market pressure and cheaper off-shore production. Still others have taken a new form. Our long history of health care, dating back to early tuberculosis treatment, now manifests in a vibrant industry in the manufacturing of medical devices.

Transportation

Since Warren County’s first roadway was built in 1755, our means of transportation have evolved greatly. Railroads opened this region to visitors and settlers. From 1882 to 1957, the Delaware & Hudson line ran daily to Caldwell-Lake George. In 1957, work began on the Adirondack Northway—part of the interstate highway system approved by Congress after World War II. Completed in 1967, just in time for the World’s Fair in Montreal, the highway revolutionized travel to and from our county.

Communities

Across Warren County, downtown areas thrived as centers of shopping and work life. The 20th century automobile culture changed work, home life, and shopping patterns. By the late 1950s, suburban shopping malls shifted retail business away from downtowns. As sales fell, downtown shops closed in Glens Falls and other Warren County communities. In recent years, developers with an interest in historic preservation have helped revitalize these downtown centers.



Unintended Consequences

Built in 1965, a bypass on Route 28 to Gore Mountain Ski Center diverted traffic away from downtown North Creek – a severe blow to Main Street businesses. In much the same way, the Adirondack Northway diverted traffic from of communities along the northward corridor.

Help Us Envision Warren County’s Future
Though we can’t predict the future, we can envision the future we hope for, and we can work to manifest that vision. What future do you hope for and envision for Warren County?

You can help us chart our course by sharing your visions for the future of our county. Jot your thoughts on the dry-erase board on the wall to your right. We’ll include them in our historical records and share them with the Warren County Board of Supervisors to inform their leadership of our region.

Thank you for partnering with the Warren County Historical Society—your ideas really matter to us.