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A Lakewood Lens

Signs Point To A Great Summer For Local Businesses

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You know it's a good summer for local businesses when you pack a lunch to bring with you when you're going to make a left hand turn onto Fairmount Avenue.

Anecdotally, business owners say they've had a great season, especially once the "monsoon season" in early summer lifted.

Julie Holland, owner of Irwin Bay Cottages, said her nine cottages and two guest houses were at full capacity this summer right up until Aug. 22.

"We had a very strong summer," Irwin said, "and lots of happy guests. I think it was generally busier all over."

At Smith Boys Marina in Lakewood, office manager April Johnson said the marina has also had a particularly good season, even though the weather put a damper on early summer sales and rentals.

"Once the weather cooperated, we did very well. It's been just as good as last year, even though we got off to a slow start."

Last year, you might remember, became the summer that all future summers will be judged by — at least since 2008.

But summer 2014 might have a bit of competition.

There are some indicators, according to Andrew Nixon, executive director of the Chautauqua County Visitor's Bureau, that tourism has been up slightly from last year, "and last year" he noted, "was a really good year."

"July and August have been tremendous," he said, adding that pent-up demand was created in June due to the rainy weather.

It certainly puts into motion the idea that less weather-dependent activities and venues — like the creation of the National Comedy Center — might help the area to overcome periods of inclement weather that put a damper on traditional tourist activities.

Despite the rough start, revenue went up 1.5 percent, according to Nixon, and for the 12 month period, up 6 percent.

"We're at a high point," Nixon said, "but we haven't blown last year out of the water."

In a Buffalo Business First article written in May about Chautauqua County, Michelle Turner, vice president of marketing for the county's Industrial Development Agency, said the agency was beginning to put more of an emphasis on tourism, although its role has traditionally been geared toward manufacturing.

That's a trend that can be seen all over the world, as post-industrial cities and towns eye sustainable tourism as a way to kick start their economy and reinvent themselves.

The building of Canalside along the Buffalo waterfront has proven to be a wildly successful endeavor that has revitalized a largely abandoned and blighted area of Buffalo. The new venue hosts hundreds of yearly events and activities, including pirate cruises, kayak rentals, bike paths for cyclists, outdoor yoga lessons, concerts, paddle boats and even winter activities like ice skating and ice cycling. They're said to boast the state's largest outdoor ice skating rink.

And while cities like New York or London get the biggest slice of the pie in the tourism industry, there's never been a better time to be a rural community, according to the Center for Rural Affairs.

"Large numbers of travelers have lost interest in cookie-cutter restaurants, lodging and attractions," the center stated in a recent newsletter. "They want local food, local attractions and connection to the lifestyles of local people."

Chautauqua County lends itself so well to the types of authentic experiences tourists are looking for because people want to see things as they actually are: barns, local crafts, authentic, non-chain restaurants, country roads, hiking trails and local produce.

And while big-ticket items like the comedy center are integral to attracting tourists, it also presents the rest of the region with a huge opportunity to showcase the rest of the county's gems.

On Prince Edward Island in the Canadian Maritimes — a place I travel frequently for work — I've always admired one gentleman who moved to the area from Scotland and bought an old farm that he painted a golden yellow.

That's where he started a jam-making operation that is famous for throwing a bit of alcohol into every batch — like champagne — which perhaps ensured its success.

What I like about his business is how well it lends itself to the character and culture of Prince Edward Island.

It would be great to see more of our residents becoming stakeholders in this upsurge of tourism, creating products or offering services that blend in well with our unique character.

And our local villages must develop new strategies for bringing in new businesses and making it much easier to open up shop.

So, while everyone should give themselves a round of applause for a successful summer, we still have to roll up our sleeves and get back at it again.



MARGOT RUSSELL

Falconer Library Retires Card Catalog Collection

By MALLORY DIEFENBACH
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FALCONER — With the movement of Falconer Public Library's wooden library card catalog to the lobby of the Falconer Community Building on Aug. 17, an entire era of library history ended.

"The card catalog was the heartbeat of the collection. It was where anybody, once they learned how to read, could really see what we had for the library collection," said Sue Seamans, library director. "I like to use 'heartbeat' because if you didn't have a card catalog, no matter what staff you had, you would never really know what you had on your shelf."

The card catalog used the Dewey Decimal System, which was first formulated by American librarian Melvil Dewey in 1873 for application in the Amherst College Library and first published in 1876. The system organized the contents of the library based on the division of all knowledge into 10 groups, with each group assigned 100 numbers. The 10 main groups are: 000-099, general works; 100-199, philosophy and psychology; 200-299, religion; 300-399, social sciences; 400-499, language; 500-599, natural sciences and mathematics; 600-699, technology; 700-799, the arts; 800-899, literature and rhetoric; and 900-999, history, biography and geography. These 10 main groups were in turn subdivided again and again to provide more specific subject groups. Within each main group, the principal subseries are divided by 10. For example, the history of Europe being placed in the 940s. Further subdivisions eventually extend into decimal numbers such as the history of England is placed under 942, the history of the Stuart period at 942.06 and the history of the English commonwealth at 942.063.

The Falconer Library used a dictionary catalog based on a Dewey Decimal System, following an author, subject and title filing. It allowed a person to find a book anywhere in the library as long as they knew either the author, subject or title of the work they were looking for. The catalog, which housed 20,000 materials in the Falconer Public Library system, was updated once a year during the summer and took three months for the library staff to carefully go through to see what was in the card catalog versus what was on the shelves.

"For years, that was the main way that any library used as part of their inventory for their collection and also for information for patrons that came in

and located a book," Seamans said.

A card catalog has been part of the library since 1921 when the library was housed in the Falconer Community Building. All the times, Falconer Central School donated a metal card catalog along with a couple wooden tables. Two wooden card catalogs followed the metal one, the last one being supplied by the Randolph Central School Library.

"We purchased (the last card catalog) through memorial monies from a lady named Jan Bloomquist, and we used that to purchase (the catalog)," Seamans said. "We have a little plaque on the side of it that said it was purchased in memory of Jan."

The library's catalog remained in use up until last year when Falconer transferred over to SIRSI, an automated card catalog system which allows library patrons to access materials not just in the Falconer Public Library, but to see what is available across the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System.

"Automation changed a lot of things," Seamans said. "It's so much easier to go in the computer and type in the name of an author or a title or the subject and see what's available at any of the libraries in the library system. You can place holds, so you can put in your PIN number and your library card and have things delivered here. You couldn't do that before with just a card catalog."



The Falconer Public Library card catalog sits in its new home in the Falconer Community Building.

Photo by Tim Becker

Today, only five libraries out of 36 member libraries in the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System aren't part of SIRSI: Cattaraugus, Portville, Salamanca, Stockton and Sherman.

Initially, the Falconer Public Library toyed with the idea of selling the card catalog, but decided to keep it to preserve library history.

"It was used a lot. Our specific card catalog was used for many reasons, especially during World War II," Seamans said. "(The public) used our library as a place for civil defense meetings, and they would use the card catalog to look up certain items that were within the library and in the historian's room."

The Falconer Library decided to move the card catalog to the front lobby due to space constraint.

"We are redoing our children's area, and that card catalog had to be moved for that. We need more shelving," Seamans said. "We were going to put it in the historian's room, which is upstairs, but right here on the main floor, so many more people will see it. We have a little article about it there, so people can know a little bit about the history."

The Falconer Public Library is located at 101 W. Main St. in Falconer. Library hours are Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Quaint Rite: Harvesting Broadcast's Fall Crop Of New Shows

NEW YORK (AP) — It's an exciting new fall season ahead on broadcast TV. We await the charming rom-com "Manhattan Love Story" ... the heart-tugging youth drama, "Red Band Society" ... and don't forget "Mulaney," an autobiographical sitcom about a promising young standup.

Hold on! All that was *last* fall. Those now-forgotten flare-outs (along with other quick flops like "A to Z" and "Selfie") are long dead and buried.

Now it's time to welcome the latest round to the five major broadcast networks. And if 60 years of TV history is any hint, it will again repeat itself with a fair number of these two dozen rookies gone by Christmas and many more canceled by Memorial Day.

But what's different — very different — in the current TV universe: Broadcast TV's fall crop is only a portion of the seamless 12-month harvest of programming that vies for the viewer's attention and approval. Once upon a time, the fall season was a cage match between just three content providers — ABC, CBS and NBC. Today, those legacy networks not only do battle with Fox and CW, but



In this image released by NBC, Sullivan Stapleton, left, and Jaimie Alexander appear in a scene from "Blindspot," premiering Sept. 21 on NBC.

AP photo

also with scores of cable and streaming outlets. And they do it year-round.

If there's an overriding trend in TV today, it's this: There's simply too much TV, even too much good TV, for any viewer to take stock of, much

less support. That's quite a change from the lament by an FCC boss a half-century ago that TV is "a vast wasteland." Today, only the "vast" part holds true.

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