

## Community & Cultural Resources

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

#### *Recreational Facilities*



*Band Stand at the Village Memorial Park*



*Granville Central School Athletic Fields*

Currently the Village of Granville has a limited number of recreational facilities. The existing public recreational facilities consist of a large Little League park for boys and girls and the Village Park on Quaker Street (Granville Veteran's Memorial Park) that is primarily used for summer activities such as concerts and other community activities. In addition there is a small triangular memorial park referred to as North Street Park that is located at the corner of North Street and Pine Street. The Granville Elementary School and the Granville Junior-Senior High School, located within the Village provide additional recreational facilities, such as playgrounds and gaming fields for Village residents.

The largest recreational facility in the Village is the Little League complex off of Prospect Street (Charlie Richards Memorial Fields). The Little League maintains the complex with nine fields, fishing access to the Mettawee River, tennis courts, and a basketball court.

The Little League has been locally supported and encouraged for fifty years, dating back to its beginnings in 1952. Today there are eight major-league and eight minor league baseball teams. In 1976, Granville started a girl's softball league. Today there are six major-league and six minor-league girls softball teams. This year, for the first time Little League is starting a T-Ball League for children ages 6 and 7. There are twelve teams starting play this summer.

Future plans for the further development of the Granville Little League Complex include the development of a new skateboard/in-line skating park. The Village has reached an agreement with the Town of Granville fund the construction of the skateboard/in-line skating park, which will include an area for an outdoor ice skating rink. The Town has offered to match the Village's \$25,000. In addition, the

Village raised private donations of over \$45,000 for construction and annual maintenance. The plan proposed to destroy the existing run-down tennis courts and renovate the existing basketball courts. The Village also plans to construct new handy-capped accessible restroom facility and a warming station.

The Village of Granville coordinates a summer swimming lesson program through the Washington County Youth Bureau. The \$4,000 program is matched by \$2,000 from the Village. The lessons are given at nearby Lake Saint Catherine, Vermont.

### *Senior Citizens Center*

The Mettowee Valley Senior Citizens Center, located on Morrison Avenue in the Village of Granville has been in existence for over 30 years. The Center offers a variety of services and activities to individuals of 55 years of age and older. The services and activities offered by the facility are partially funded by the Village of Granville government. Additional funds for building maintenance and programming come from the sale of a cookbook created by the members and the sale of 50/50 raffle tickets. Currently the Center has over 80 members. The facility offers meeting space, a kitchen, and a TV/VCR. The Center organizes day and weekend bus trips to places like Cape Cod, Atlantic City and Maine. In addition, the Center offers important educational seminars to members regarding estate planning, understanding insurance policies, and various craft courses including pottery and quilt making.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Cultural resources in the Village of Granville are defined as institutions and organizations that contribute to the quality of village life. A variety of resources ranging from museums to religious institutions can be found in the Village.



*Granville Methodist Church*

### ***Pember Library and Museum of Natural History***

The Village of Granville, the Granville Area Chamber of Commerce and other social or fraternal organizations sponsor several Village events and social gatherings throughout the year. Some of these important community events include, the *Fireman's Carnival* and parade, *Granville Days*, and the *Annual Autumn Leaves Car Show*. *Granville Days* is an annual event held on a Saturday that includes concerts in the park, dancing, sidewalk sales, barbeques, and fireworks.

The *Got It in Granville Committee* was established to develop and implement a strategic plan that would take advantage of the community's natural assets and local tourist destinations to encourage recreation, cultural tourism and economic development. The committee is also responsible for promoting public awareness of community cultural assets and activities through local media, community organizations and nearby tourist venues.

Several churches of different denominations currently serve the Village of Granville, including but not limited to: Roman Catholic, Byzantine Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, and Jehovah's Witness. Many of the existing churches have been established in the Village since the late seventeenth Century. The churches play a very significant role in community life by providing a variety of services and community church activities. Some of the churches also provide the important service of maintaining historic burial grounds.

The Pember Library and Museum of Natural History houses a rare collection of mounted birds and mammals, shells, rocks, minerals and insects including specimens of wildlife that no longer exist in the wild. Franklin Tanner and Ellen Wood Pember established the Museum in 1909 in the original two story marble



*Pember Library & Museum of Natural History*

structure. Franklin and Ellen Pember collected most of the museum items themselves throughout their lives and travels around the world, about a third of which is still in storage because of lack of exhibit space. The museum and library get between 16,000 and 18,000 visitors each year, including modern scientists and researchers who are interested in the collection and the study of natural life specimens.

In 1979, the Museum acquired 125 acres of land south of Granville in Hebron, which became the Pember Nature Preserve. The Preserve has over two miles of nature trails and elevated walkways through forested marshes, and fields on both sides of Black Creek, a tributary of the Battenkill. A nature education center was established in a restored old one-room schoolhouse on the property which has been used as a classroom for large numbers of school children from New York and Vermont since 1990. The Museum and Preserve offer guided tours, lectures, field trips, environmental studies, hikes, day camps, outreach and many other special programs.

Recently, the Pember Museum started a campaign to raise \$2-million to construct a new wing for the museum and library. In addition, the money raised will be earmarked for structural renovations and an endowment fund. The new wing will provide space for visiting exhibits, and for the rest of the Pember Collection that is currently in storage.

### *Slate Valley Museum*

The Slate Valley Museum opened in 1995, and celebrates the history of quarrying since 1839 and the ethnic history connected to the industry. The museum, housed in a reconstructed 19<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch barn on the shore of the Mettawee River has become a leading center for the research and interpretation of the geology of slate. Exhibits interpret the history of slate quarrying along the



*Slate Museum*



*Photo courtesy of [www.slatevalleymuseum.org](http://www.slatevalleymuseum.org)*



*New pedestrian bridge over the Mettawee River*

Vermont/New York border from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century to the present.

Recently, the Slate Valley Museum started the construction of a new 1,000 square-foot wing for the educational programs, special events, gallery talks and a greater variety of exhibits. The Museum received State and private grant funding of over \$18,000 for the construction of the new wing, and the development of educational programs.

The Museum has three different educational programs. One program offers students of Granville Elementary School the chance to come to the Museum for studies and writing projects. Student's work will be published on the Museum's web site. A second program focuses on the local geology and how slate is formed, and offers students tours of working quarries. The third program tells the history of the Welsh, Irish, Eastern European, and Italian people who came to Granville to work in the quarries.

In May 2000, a new 120 foot long slate covered footbridge was constructed over the Mettawee River. The footbridge now connects the Pember Library and Museum of Natural History and the Slate Valley Museum. Not only does the new bridge offer a pedestrian connection between the two cultural entities, but it also offers a unique view of the Mettawee River, and is becoming a new symbol of identity for the Village. The bridge design, although only 6 feet wide, looks like a historic wooden covered bridge built in the vernacular of the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century.