Central New York Conservancy and the City of Utica jointly officiated at a brief ceremony to officially recognize the inclusion of Utica’s Parks System in both the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Utica Mayor David Roefaro and William F. Locke, president of the Conservancy, hosted the June 9 event, which was held in F.T. Proctor Park at the Picnic Pavilion.

The celebration was held almost to the day on the 100th anniversary of the Parks System, when the Proctor Family donated the land that ultimately became Utica’s most popular parks – F.T. Proctor, T.R. Proctor and Roscoe Conkling/Valley View — along with the Memorial Parkway.

More than 30 local arts and culture aficionados, including Conservancy friends and donors, as well as representatives from local garden clubs and historical societies, the Stanley Performing Arts Center, and the City of Utica Mayor’s Office attended the program.

Several state and local officials also participated in the designation celebration, including Travis Bowman, a representative from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Michael Bosak, president of The Landmarks Society of Greater Utica. The Landmarks Society and the Conservancy have been partners since the Conservancy’s inception.

Utica’s Parkway System received its historic designation and place in the New York State Register on July 3, 2008. Inclusion in the National Register occurred in October, 2008.

During his remarks, Mayor Roefaro read a proclamation prepared in honor of the Conservancy’s work to restore and maintain Utica’s Parks System. Mayor Roefaro publicly thanked the Conservancy for its preservation efforts.

“Utica’s parks system is many things to many people. It is the Conservancy’s mission to ensure that residents and visitors will continue to use and value our parks.”

Mayor Roefaro and Locke acknowledged the collaborative efforts of Utica’s Commissioner of Parks, Dave Short, and of the Conservancy’s Landscape Design Consultant, Katechen Cardamone.

Locke also noted the extraordinary work that went into preparing the historic designation application. “It took more than 2 years and a great deal of perseverance, enthusiasm and rigorous scholarship on the part of Conservancy friend and historic landscape designer Erica Max to research and write the application that was submitted on behalf of the City of Utica for State and National Register consideration,” said Locke.

Continued on page 7...
It’s monument-al!
Sponsor a Utica landmark and support the Conservancy

Have you ever dreamed of owning a piece of Utica history? Well, you can… and you don’t have to polish it, dust it or preserve it under glass!

The Central New York Conservancy offers individuals, businesses, groups and organizations the opportunity to sponsor the beautiful plantings that adorn and embellish the monuments along Utica’s elegant and stately Memorial Parkway.

If you’ve ever wondered exactly how many monuments there are along the Parkway, there are currently 14. They pay tribute to the armed forces, generals and admirals, unnamed heroes who have fallen in wars throughout history, explorers, Utica statesmen and philanthropists, and one very famous lady whose much taller “cousin” stands in New York Harbor near Ellis Island.

Each monument is surrounded during the spring and summer seasons with annual and perennial flowerbeds, as well as small trees and shrubs. These floral and arboleal settings complement the monuments and provide a splendid setting for these well-known statues and sculptures that all Uticans admire and love.

What does sponsorship of a monument mean? According to Central New York Conservancy President William F. Locke, those who become sponsors directly participate in preserving a cherished part of Utica’s landscape.

“Each monument costs between $500-$5,000 to initially plant, depending on the size of the beds, the number of bulbs, flowers, trees and shrubs that surround each statue or memorial, and the amount of mulch or other nutrients required to ensure sustained plant health and growth,” said Locke.

“Landscape Design Consultant Katechen Cardamone has inventoried what is currently planted at each memorial, what needs to be replaced or redesigned and what will grow best at each site,” noted Locke.

“We hope that as each monument is adopted, we will be able to do some new and exciting things on the Parkway, like coordinate annual and perennial displays thematically or in terms of color.

“Our purpose in asking people and organizations to step forward to help defray the cost of planting each monument is two-fold: to ensure that each monument’s floral design sets it off to greatest effect, and to guarantee that the funding is available to purchase the right kinds of plantings and plant nutrients to ensure that our monuments always look their best in every season,” Locke explained.

“Ideally, the Conservancy

The Parkway Monuments Sponsorship List:

Most sponsorships are given as an estimated range for the first year. Flower beds are scheduled for redesign as noted (redesign is an additional cost).

Vice President Sherman (west side of Genesee St.):
$1,600 - $1,900

Gen. Frederick William Baron von Steuben (east side of Genesee St.):
$4,600 - $5,600

Vietnam War Memorial (west side of Holland Ave.):
$1,200 - $1,500

Dunham Bust (east side of Holland Ave.):
$900 - $1,200; bed will be redesigned

General Pulaski (west side of Oneida St.):
$900 - $1,000

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POW/MIA (east side of Oneida St.): $500; beds will be redesigned

Spanish-American Wars (west side of Oneida St.): $2,900 - $3,400

World War II/Korean Conflict (grass median between Memorial Parkway & Pleasant St.): $500; beds will be redesigned

Police & Fire Memorial (grass median between Memorial Parkway & Pleasant St.): $1,000 - $1,300

Statue of Liberty (west side of Elm St.): $3,100

T.R. Proctor Memorial (south side of Memorial Parkway, near overflow parking area of Parkway Recreation Center): $2,500 - $3,000

Swan Fountain (east side of Elm St.): $1,600 - $2,100; bed will be redesigned

Christopher Columbus (west side of Mohawk St.): $800

9/11 Memorial (south side of Memorial entrance): $1,900

would like to obtain sponsors for a minimum 3-year commitment,” said Locke, “but we are open to discussing other possibilities, too.” Locke also noted that there is an opportunity for “sweat equity” for sponsors who like to garden and don’t mind getting down and dirty to help keep their monuments looking great spring through fall.

Each monument pictured is available for sponsorship. Sponsorship costs are expressed as a range for first-year planting and include the purchase of bulbs, flowers, shrubs, trees, mulch and weekly watering, as well as general labor performed by the Conservancy as well as the Utica Parks Department to weed, groom and prune. Estimates for ensuing years are anticipated to be less.

Individuals, groups and organizations that wish to sponsor a monument may select from the list below and contact Gordon Hayes, CNYC treasurer at 315-853-6101 to express interest and to learn more about sponsorship recognition.
Stop by F.T. Proctor Park and the Memorial Parkway any day of the week in June through mid-August and you’ll witness a hive of activity.

No matter what the task – from moving heavy rocks and boulders to cleaning the Lily Pond fountain to removing brush and invasive plant growth to pulling weeds in the flower beds that surround stately monuments – chances are, the task master is one of the Central New York Conservancy’s interns.

This summer, there are two interns working with the Conservancy’s Landscape Design Consultant, Katechen Cardamone.

“We’re delighted to have Christopher Salatino and Kyle Tolman on board this season,” said Cardamone.

Christopher Salatino is a Utica native and a 2009 graduate of Thomas R. Proctor High School. “Chris is putting his experience that he gained last year working with a landscaping crew to good use with the Conservancy,” said Cardamone.

No stranger to volunteering, Salatino has served the Utica community previously with Utica City School District elementary schools. Among Salatino’s other interests are football and lacrosse (he earned varsity letters in both sports at Proctor) and playing the saxophone.

Kyle Tolman is also a Utica native and an alumnus of T.R. Proctor High School. Currently a senior at SUNY-Albany, Tolman is majoring in Public Health Administration. His previous landscaping experience was acquired during summer breaks at Sadaquada Golf Club, as a member of various “Green Team” efforts in the community, and at the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Tolman’s enjoyment of the outdoors and nature extends to his hobbies and past-times, where fishing on the West Canada Creek rates high on his list of leisure activities.

“The Conservancy has always been fortunate to attract high-caliber and highly motivated summer interns who enjoy the outdoors and handle the hard work extremely well,” Cardamone said.

“I don’t know what we’d do without our summer interns. They help me – and the City of Utica Parks Department – keep our Parks System in beautiful shape.”

Would you or someone you know like to be considered as a Conservancy for the 2010 season? Contact us at centralnyconservancy@gmail.com to let us know. Please include a current phone number and/or email so we may contact you.

100 years old and still beautiful!

It’s time to celebrate 100 years of Utica Memorial Parkway history.

The year was 1909 and the Utica Parks Commission began construction of what is perhaps Utica’s most famous and surely most elegant street.

The Memorial Parkway was built parallel to Pleasant Street and as a byway that would connect Roscoe Conkling and T.R. Proctor Parks at Culver Avenue and Welsh Bush Road. The first section of the Parkway was built between Genesee and Elm Streets.
Family Tree: Katechen Cardamone (behind table) explains how Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., selected the trees and shrubs planted in F.T. Proctor Park, which ones still exist and which are descendents of the originals. She also described how the Utica Parks Dept. and CNY Conservancy work encourage and preserve historic plant communities, while eliminating the encroachment of exotic invasive species. In attendance at the lecture were CNYC Board members Gordon Hayes, Jr. (foreground) and Virginia Kelly (center, rear).

The Grand Tour: Utica Monday Nite began its 2009 season on June 1 and the Central NY Conservancy and the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica were front and center. The tour and lecture by Katechen Cardamone (center), the CNYC’s landscape design consultant was Finding Historic Trees: A Walk and Talk in F.T. Proctor Park. On July 20, the Landmarks Society and CNYC will team up once again during Utica Monday Nite to offer Sustaining a Butterfly Habitat in F.T. Proctor Park beginning at 6 p.m. at the Picnic Pavilion near Rutger Street in the Park.
Way to grow!

The Central New York Conservancy continues its efforts to restore repair and conserve Utica’s beautiful Olmsted-designed parks thanks to all of the many individuals, businesses, foundations, groups and organizations in our community.

From January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, you – our very generous and enthusiastic supporters – have contributed $36,115 in support of the Conservancy’s efforts to maintain and sustain Utica’s Parks System.

We thank the following individuals, groups, companies and foundations who have made the Conservancy a giving priority in 2008 and 2009.


PARKS PROTECTOR ($1,000 & above)
John Dahlin & Alice Root
Drs. Frank Dubec & Marybeth McCall
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kelly
Mr. William E. Locke
Mr. James J. Wurz, Bonide, Inc.

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Bank of Utica Foundation, Inc.
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Ms. Deborah Greer-Gassner

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Mr. Gordon M. Hayes, Jr.

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Mr. & Mrs. Gordon M. Hayes

IN HONOR OF Dr. Fred Joyce
Pleasant Hills Garden Club

IN HONOR OF William E. Locke
Darby O’Brien & Kevin Marken

IN HONOR OF the State & National Registers of Historic Places
IN HONOR OF “My childhood on the old monkey bars in Proctor Park”
Ms. Angela Givonetti

IN MEMORY OF Rose Marie Bottini
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bottini

IN MEMORY OF Catherine M. Calogero
Miss Margaret A. Buckle

IN MEMORY OF Nicholas J. Calogero, Sr.
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2009 Gifts and Grants (January 1 – June 30, 2009)

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Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Holohan

IN MEMORY OF John Puleo
Mr. Francesco Rodio

IN MEMORY OF Sheila R. Sullivan
Mrs. James E. Spellman

CNY Conservancy President Bill Locke.

“IT has been the dream of the Conservancy since its inception to obtain this designation from NY State and the National Registers for Utica’s Olmsted-designed Parks and Parkway,” Locke explained.

“We are thrilled to celebrate and share recognition with The City of Utica.

“Being named to the Registers of Historic Places is a demanding process,” noted Locke. “Listing in the State and National Registers recognizes the importance of the Utica Parkway System to the history of our country and provides it with a measure of protection. It ensures that our Parks and Parkway will remain Utica treasures for posterity.”
You can preserve and protect Utica’s beautiful parks

Ensure that T.R. Proctor’s legacy of beautiful parkland within the City of Utica is preserved for future generations…

Would you like to help the Central New York Conservancy build its permanent capacity to preserve, restore, and beautify Utica’s Parks System? Even though financial uncertainty, a weak economy, stock market declines and low interest rates may make you feel “pinched”, there are gift planning techniques that make it possible for you to support the Central New York Conservancy without hurting your financial security.

One way – and still the most popular deferred gift ever – is to include the Central New York Conservancy in your will.

Why a bequest?

Bequests have been the key to building the Conservancy’s existing endowment. They will most likely continue to be the single best way to increase the Conservancy’s ability to do more to preserve, protect, and beautify Utica’s Parks System.

A bequest intention allows you to retain ownership and control of your assets and income until neither you nor your spouse needs them. In addition, bequest intentions are revocable, thereby providing you and your spouse with the flexibility to change your estate plans in the event of a medical emergency or other major unexpected expense.

If you would like to fund your bequest with an asset that offers significant tax advantages, consider an IRA. That’s because an IRA is subject to income tax and estate tax, (depending on the size of the latter). The combined total of income and estate taxes on IRAs can exceed 75%. However, both of these taxes may be avoided if you make a gift of an IRA to charity at death.

For more information about making a bequest or other type of planned gift to the Central New York Conservancy, please contact either William Locke, President, at 724-4186 or Gordon M. Hayes, Jr., Treasurer, at 853-6101.