

Part 1 of the Results of the 2013 Town of Clarence Survey: What do you love?

In February of this year we offered all residents of the Town of Clarence a chance to answer three questions:

1. What do you LOVE about the Town of Clarence?
2. What do you dislike about the Town of Clarence?
3. What would you change about the Town of Clarence?

We distributed a slinger in the Bee at a total cost of \$176.00(vs. \$12,500 for the survey in 2009) and the response was overwhelming. Not only did you answer the three questions that we posed (above) but you wrote hundreds of pages of suggestions on how we could improve our town. We will use **all** of the information that you sent, and the *specific* suggestions will be sent directly to the department heads that you have referenced. Because of the sheer volume of data that we gathered, I simply could not cover ALL of the information in 400 words, which is the average length of my Bee column. So, I have decided to write my next three columns so that they parallel the three questions I asked.

What do you love about the Town of Clarence? Far and away, the majority of the respondents who answered the survey love the quaintness and the small town, rural feel of this amazing place called Clarence, NY as well as the friendliness of the people who live here. Comments like ***“I have lived in the Town of Clarence for fifteen years and can’t think of another town I would want to live in”, “I have lived here for fifty+ years, and it was a great place to raise a family. Now, it is a safe and friendly place to retire”*** and ***“Clarence is still special. Let’s make sure that it stays this way”*** were common replies to my first question. When residents of Clarence were asked a similar question in surveys conducted back in 2009 and 1990, the answer was the same. Close behind the quality of life issues that our residents felt so strongly about was the reasonable **town** tax rate that was all enjoy. Next, in order, came The Parks, Schools and The Highway Department as well as the Library, Senior Center and Town Pool. All were mentioned by our residents that enjoy using the facilities and they glowed when describing their particular favorites.

While there is a LOT to love about our town, residents also told us what they didn’t like about Clarence, and that will be the subject of my May column.

Should you have any comments, please feel free to call, email dhartzell@clarence.ny.us or stop by my office at Town Hall. My door is always open!