

# A Main Street Stroll

by Lynne Belluscio

This is the third year that Le Roy has participated in the "Walk the Villages" Program which now includes several communities in Western New York. The program encourages folks to get out and walk – not only in their community but in Akron, Clarence, Williamsville, Tonawanda, Kenmore and Batavia.

The great thing about the program is that you qualify for prizes in each community and if you walk in all six towns you qualify for several grand prizes at the end of September. Each town has several different walks that you can choose from. In Le Roy there is the Architectural walk 1.6 miles; the Historical walk of 2 miles; the new 3 Bridges walk 1.5 miles and the new Main Street Stroll of 2.2 miles.

Along the way, you'll notice different stores with "Walk the Villages" posters and if you go inside, you can have your coupon stamped. Once stamped, the coupons can be deposited in five different locations: LeRoy Physical Therapy on West Ave., the Jell-O Gallery, Le Roy Dry Cleaners on Mill St. or the D & R Depot and the Hobby Horse on Main Street. It's easy and it's fun. Once a month prize winners are drawn and there are some great prizes. There's a lot of walkers in Le Roy and they should all try one of the designated walks. Booklets for the program can be picked up at the Le Roy Dry Cleaners, Jell-O Gallery or LeRoy Physical Therapy. The booklets include all the information from all the participating communities. Le Roy will kick off their program on Friday afternoon, May 30th at LeRoy Physical Therapy where you can register and pick up a booklet. If you take the Main Street Stroll that afternoon, you'll qualify for some special prizes that day.

The program is open to anyone. If you need more information you can call the Historical Society at 768-7433 or visit the Walk the Villages web site at [www.walkthevillages.com](http://www.walkthevillages.com). The Main Street Stroll begins at LeRoy Physical Therapy on West Avenue

and proceeds east along West Main Street to the "subway" railroad bridge built in 1935, then past the old Lent Tavern at 48 West Main. You can watch the progress of the demolition of the Northwest corner of Main and Lake as Walgreens demolishes the old Masonic Temple, the Welsh house and the Milliman block on the corner. Then cross Lake Street, past the Wiss, which is on the site of the old Globe and Eagle Tavern.

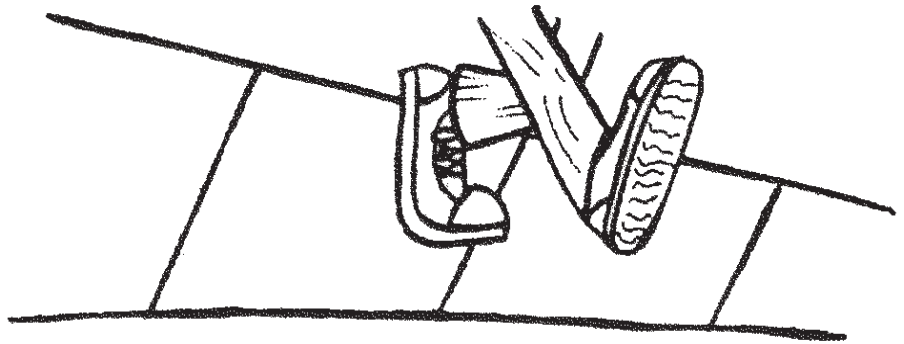
At 30 Main Street is the Church of the Living Waters, which at one time was the Le Roy Theater and before that, a bank. Everyone can look up and count the portraits of George Washington on the Washington Block before they reach the post office which is listed on the National Register. Notice the historic marker in front of the Post Office before you cross the bridge and head up to the Jell-O Gallery. Then cross East Main and head back up town on the South side of the street. Notice the "mill pond" and the dam and watch the restoration of the famous Creekside which at one time was a hat factory and later the home of Percy Hooker. Walk past the historic Eagle Hotel and read the brass marker on the wall that commemorates Le Roy's first village meeting.

Just past the Eagle is the former Odd Fellows Hall with the three intertwined loops near the top. Walking up to the Presbyterian Church on the corner, you'll pass

Pontillo's which is one of Le Roy's best examples of local limestone architecture. Look for the carved florets and the wonderful arches. The Presbyterian Church is the site of Abolition meetings as well as one of the nation's largest Anti-Masonic gatherings. The Municipal building on the next corner was designed by the famous Rochester architect, Claude Bragdon. Heading back on West Main Street you'll pass the historic 1812 House, now the home to Boylan & Boylan law office. Further west, just before the driveway to Royal

Apartments, the house with the iron W on the chimney, is one of the homes of the inventor of Jell-O Pearl Wait. Now walk under Le Roy's subway and before you cross the street back to your car, stop by and take a look at one of Le Roy's painted "cows".

Le Roy is a great community for walking so register for Walk the Villages and join us for the official kick off at LeRoy Physical Therapy. It's free and you have the opportunity to exercise, shop, learn and win prizes.



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