Important Information for Guests

Welcome to Silverlaken!

Digital version of the Estate Manual is found at www.silverlaken.com/housemanual

Rev 4.20.2026

Dear Guest,

You may see members of our staff and family around Silverlaken as we are often onsite doing yardwork, hanging out on the waterfront or enjoying the boats.

We don't hover or disturb our guests, but we'd love to meet you and say hello whenever it's convenient for you!

If for any reason you experience any issue during your stay, no matter how large or small, please contact us right away. As a small, family-owned business, we greatly appreciate a chance to resolve the issue on the spot, to your full satisfaction, rather than risk a negative review at checkout.

We truly appreciate that you choose to vacation at Silverlaken and hope this manual will help you make the most of your stay with us.

We warmly welcome any suggestions you may have!

Warmest Regards,
The Bellamy Family

Wyoming County
Tourism Attraction of the Year
Award Winners

Ting – Estate Manager
Astrid – Smore's Tester/Chipmunk Chaser
Mike & Anita – Property Developers

Complementary Infrastructure

Sauna
Kayaks
Stand Up Paddleboards
Yoga/Meditation Platform
Campfire Pits *(firewood available)*
Charcoal BBQ Grills *(charcoal available)*
Propane BBQ Grills *(propane provided)*
“Cowboy Campfire Grills”
Smoker *(charcoal)*
Indoor & Outdoor Picnic Tables
Horseshoe Pits
Hammocks
Lakeside Adirondack Chairs
Docks & Fishing Pier

Common Area Kitchens offer: Microwave, Fridge, Coffee Pot, Stove Top, Toaster, Basic Cookware, Silverware & Charging Stations.

Table of Contents

Contacting the Host
Estate Map
History of the Estate
Silver Lake Sea Serpent
Self-Check-in Procedure
Dark Sky Commitment
Parking & Indemnification
EV Charging
Quiet Hours
Medical & Severe Weather
The "No's" To Know
Solar Power
Wi-Fi, Cell Phone Coverage & (*intentional lack of*) TV's
Bedding, Housekeeping & Welcome Kit
Drinking Water
Check-out Details
Trash & Recycling
Firewood & Firepits
Swimming
Complementary Watercraft
Boat Rentals
PWC/Jet Skis
Dockage/ Launch Ramp
Lake Water Quality
Fishing
Farmland & Manure
Insects & Poison Ivy
Wild Animals
Things to Eat, See & Do

Appendix
- ✓ **Silverlaken Sauna Hours, Booking & Experience**
- ✓ Mike's interview on local history, culture, tourism & economic trends

Contacting Your Host: A Note from Ting Bellamy

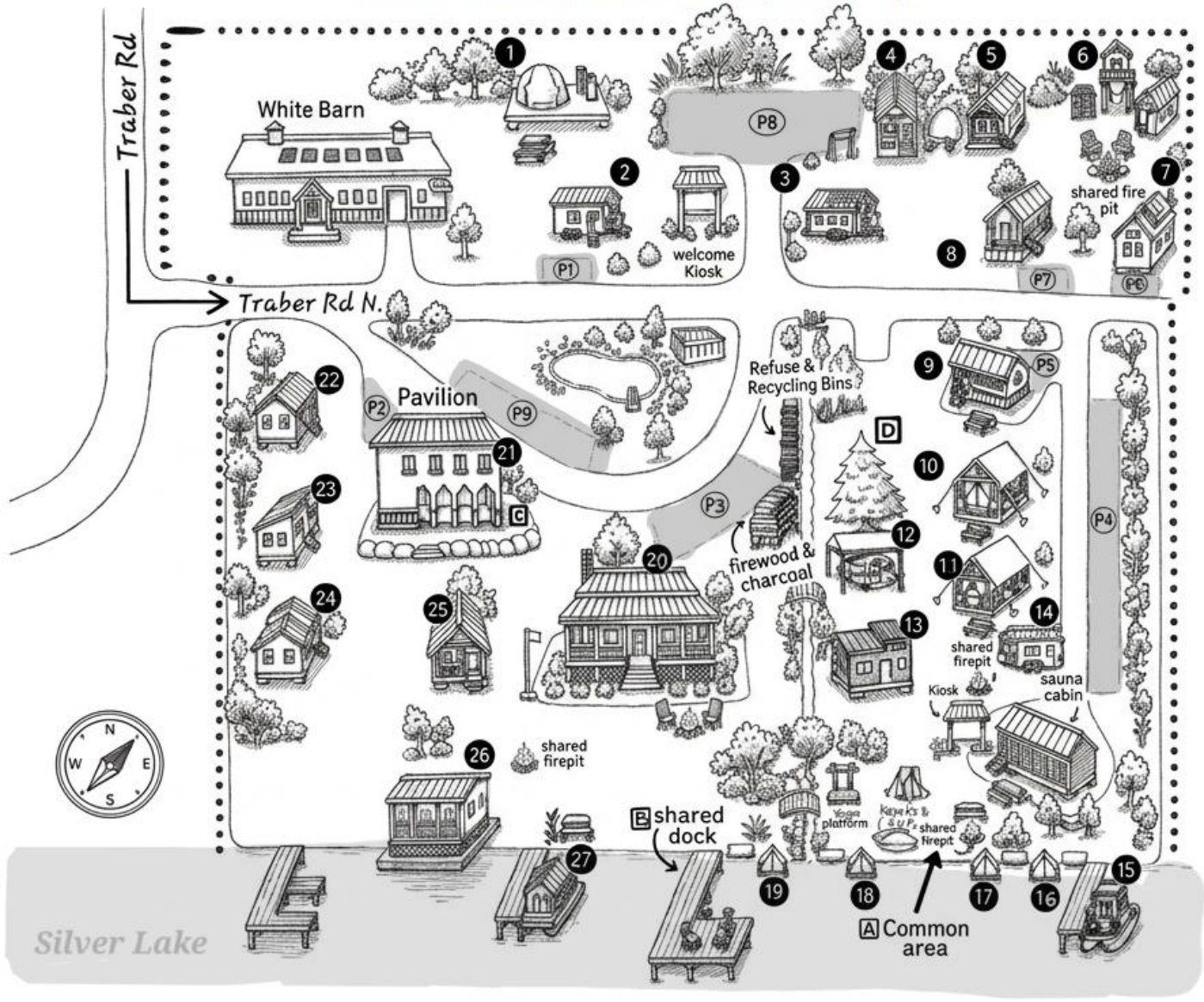
Silverlaken does not have a central office, but I am never far from the Estate and always happy to help you.

- ✓ **In the interest of time, kindly reference this Estate Manual, special notes posted in your rental unit or the FAQ page** (at www.Silverlaken.com) in hopes of finding the information you need.

- ✓ To ensure a timely response, **please use the booking platform to contact me.** Most of the time a response can be delivered within 60 minutes during normal business hours.

- ✓ For **urgent/ critical items,** I may be reached by cell or text at **585-969-0040**. I keep an eye out for text messages during the day and evening, but **after midnight, please call rather than text.**

Welcome to Silverlaken: Property Map



Unit Locations

1. Bubble Dome
2. Cape Cod Tiny House
3. New England Farm House
4. Chester's Wooden Cabin
5. Rustic Woodchuck Cabin
6. Quirky Appalachian & Treehouse
7. Tiny Timber Frame Cabin
8. Log Cabin #2
9. Log Cabin #1
10. Luxury Canvas Cabin #1
11. Luxury Canvas Cabin #2
12. Retro Camper
13. Country Mike's Lakeside Cabin
14. Genesee Tiny house
15. Houseboat #2
16. Lake tent #1
17. Lake tent #2
18. Lake tent #3
19. Lake tent #4
20. Lakehouse
21. Laäkenview Suite
22. Mary Jemison Lakeside Cottage
23. Letchworth Lakeside Cottage
24. Arch Merrill Lakeside Cabin
25. Commodore's Quarters Cottage
26. Lakefront cottage
27. Houseboat #1

Shared Spaces

A Common Area: Sauna. Kitchenette, Yoga Platform, Hammocks Complimentary Kayaks & SUPs

B Shared Dock: Dockside Seating

C Pavilion (Ground Floor) Kitchen coming soon

D Play Area: Horseshoes & Slide

Visit **www.silverlaken.com** to learn more

History of the Silverlaken Estate

In the 1800's, Perry was a thriving mill town and Silver Lake was a popular tourist destination for church retreats and private camps. The water flowing down the outlet of Silver Lake provided the hydropower for a dozen textile mills.

The property now known as the Silverlaken Estate was the summer retreat of the Traber family, who ran a large knitting mill. The Traber family placed a decorative mill stone on the front lawn over a hundred years ago. It's still there in the same place! The massive evergreens trees were planted back in that era and are still standing proud almost 150 years later.

By the time of the First World War, hydropower was replaced by the internal combustion engine and the knitting mills eventually closed. The Traber estate changed hands a few times and was left vacant in a sad state of disrepair.

In 2016, Mike retired from his high-stress consulting job and after 20 years in Asia, returned to Silver Lake with his family. They purchased the Traber estate and renamed it "Silverlaken." Three years were spent arranging permits, removing invasive species, planting native trees, landscaping, restoring the main buildings, adding solar panels, installing rental units and upgrading infrastructure.

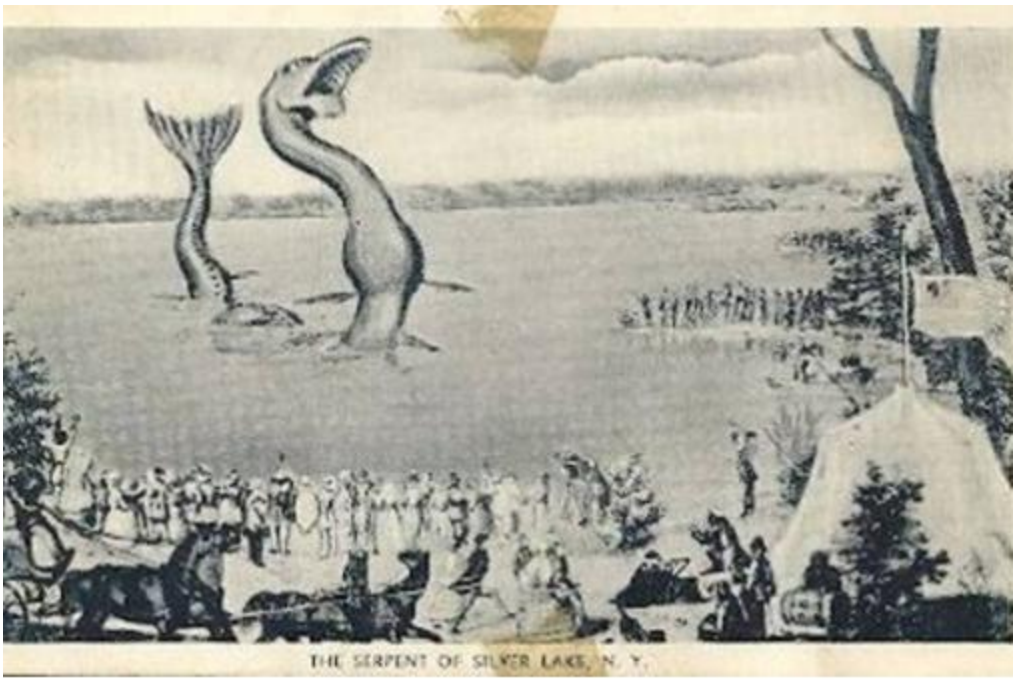
The **Spring 2020** grand opening was cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic but the inaugural summer season turned out well as travel restrictions were eventually loosened. Tourists from the metropolitan areas came to rural Upstate NY in search of elbow room and fresh area after enduring a long winter stuck inside.

Eldest daughter Ting Bellamy was raised in Asia but came to the US for boarding school. After graduating with degrees in Business and Art from Houghton College, **in 2021**, Ting joined the family business with a focus on customer service, quality control & interior decoration. She is the manager of the Estate and customers' primary point of contact.

Story of the Silver Lake Sea Serpent

When you visit Silver Lake and Perry you may notice a lot of Sea Serpent imagery. Here is the backstory.

A group of men were fishing from a boat in the summer of 1855 and swore they saw a sea monster the size of a dinosaur appear on the surface of Silver Lake at dusk.



News spread and train loads of people arrived daily in hopes of catching a glimpse of the monster. Harpoon boats were launched. Armed men patrolled the lake.

No trace of the monster was found… until a fire broke out at the Walker hotel. A serpent like wire frame and some green mesh was found in the rubble. Mr. Walker confessed he had created the monster to attract tourists to the town and his hotel. To this day, the locals of Silver Lake and Perry celebrate the story and retain the monster as a mascot.

Self-Check-In Procedure

- ✓ As stated at booking, to ensure housekeeping has time to prepare the rental units, guests should arrive **no earlier than 4 PM unless agreed otherwise**.

- ✓ In the day(s) before the scheduled arrival, your host at Silverlaken will reach out to provide a welcome packet, confirm the details of the reservation, and assign a parking spot. Kindly check your email and text for more details.

- ✓ Silverlaken does not have a central office or full-time staff, as such, **guests are welcome to go directly to their rental unit** per the above-mentioned welcome packet.

Dark Sky Commitment

Please know we intentionally limit lighting between the buildings. The **dark-sky movement** is a campaign to reduce light pollution and enjoy the night sky. Advantages include an increased number of stars visible at night, reducing the effects of electric lighting on the environment, improving the well-being, health and safety of both people and wildlife, and cutting down on energy usage.

> *We hope you may agree that any potential challenge getting around camp in the dark is more than offset by a chance to see the Milky Way, major constellations and even a shooting star.*

Most guests find the check in instructions sufficient, but if you are having trouble finding your way, please know the exact location of every rental unit at Silverlaken can be found on google maps if you search for it by name.

Parking & **Indemnification**

After unloading your vehicle, **kindly park at the assigned parking space** or in the **main parking area.** Please respect our neighbors by:

- ✓ **Driving slowly** when arriving/exiting the estate.
- ✓ **Avoid kicking up dust** on the gravel roads at the estate.
- ✓ The property lines of the Silverlaken Estate are well marked. **Please don't enter a neighbor's property or park in their driveway.**

Indemnification

We have not experienced any theft or accidents on-site, but the lawyers and insurance agents tell us we need to state the following:

- ✓ *All vehicles (including cars, boats, motorcycles, bikes and other powered and non-powered vehicles) parked at Silverlaken are parked at vehicle owner's risk.*
- ✓ *No liability accepted for loss or damage to vehicles or personal property.*
- ✓ *If you are concerned about* ***tree sap, falling apples or walnuts, please do not park under those trees.***
- ✓ *Guests are responsible for securing their bikes, boats, possessions, and personal effects at the Estate and inside their rental units.*

EV Charging

EV's are warmly welcome.

- ✓ Contact your host in advance for an outlet with sufficient amperage.
- ✓ We use the honor system for EV charging - simply leave what you feel is a reasonable amount in the honor box (at firewood pile) for charging your particular vehicle.
- ✓ Standard outlets are available at the camp. We hope to have a level 2 charging station installed in near future. Downtown Perry has fast charging stations.

Quiet Hours

As stressed when the booking was made, for the comfort of our guests, we are serious about tranquility. **Quiet hours are in effect from 9 P.M. to 9 A.M.**

- ✓ As a courtesy to sleeping guests, **campfires should be extinguished by midnight**, outdoor conversations wrapped up or moved inside.

- ✓ No loud music, raised voices or screaming kids at any hour. Bluetooth speakers and similar devices are not to be used inside or outside during quiet hours.

Please do not hesitate to **call** (rather than text) **your host at any hour of night,** if you experience **any noise issues** during your stay.

Humble Requests

Please **DON'T REMOVE BLANKETS FROM YOUR RENTAL UNIT**, especially when enjoying the campfires.

Blankets with smoke smell, grass stains and burn holes will need to be replaced at renter's expense.

Please **DON'T THROW ROCKS INTO THE LAKE**. *Truckloads of field stones were placed by hand along the shore to prevent erosion and create a natural look that benefits the fish and animals.*

It was a lot of work and it breaks our heart to see the rocks tossed into deep water. Be gentle.

Medical

A medical kit with basic supplies can be found in the sauna cabin.

- **In an emergency dial 911.** Let them know you are at the Silverlaken Campground at 4101 Traber Road in Castile NY.

- **Nearest hospital** is *Wyoming County Community Health System* approximately 10 minutes away; 400 North Main Street, Warsaw NY 14569; Phone # is 585-786-2233.

Severe Weather (High Winds, Hail & Lightening)

Guests are encouraged to monitor weather reports and be prepared to leave the area on short notice if necessary.

In the event you are unable to leave the area when the emergency networks advise you to seek cover, **know that the Sauna Cabin is the heaviest building on-site and is always unlocked.**

Tent guests may consider riding out lightening and hail storms in their car or the Sauna Cabin.

Remember:

- ✓ Most lightning storms and microbursts pass over fairly quickly.
- ✓ Most storms blow out of the west in this part of NY.
- ✓ If the time between when you see the lightening and when you hear it is getting longer with each thunder, then the storm is moving away from you.

Obviously, check the weather report and **take a very good look at the sky <u>before</u> taking watercraft out on the lake**.

The "No's" To Know

NO PETS. *Unfortunately, the insurance company does not share our love of pets.*

NO SWIMMING. *For safety reasons, we do not offer a swimming area at Silverlaken, but guests are welcome to paddle out and cool off via the complementary kayaks and paddleboards.*

NO UNREGISTERED GUESTS – day or night, unless agreed otherwise in advance. *This allows us to maintain a safe and quiet environment, ensure sufficient access to infrastructure for paying guests and remain compliant with zoning laws & insurance obligations.*

NO BARE FEET (on land & water). *Sharp rocks, shells & even leaches (eww gross) are occasional found in freshwater lakes of Western NY.*

NO UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN.

Please **DON'T ENTER OTHER RENTAL UNITS.**

NO ILLEGAL DRUGS of any kind. Enjoy alcohol responsibly, absolutely **NO INEBRIATION**.

Absolutely **NO SMOKING INDOORS**. *Guests are welcome to smoke outdoors assuming there are no non-smoking guests in the vicinity.*

Please **DON'T BRING TENTS, POP-UP PAVILIONS** or **BBQ GRILLS** unless agreed otherwise. *We have a pavilion + dedicated picnic areas with grills for your convenience.*

Thanks for your understanding.

Solar Power/ Electric

The Silverlaken estate is partially **powered by solar panels** located on top of the barn.

- ✓ Consider an environmentally friendly approach and **use the fans rather than AC when possible** and **turn off lights/electronics** when not in use.

- ✓ For maximum comfort and energy efficiency, please remember to close windows and doors when using AC or Heat.

Cell Phone Coverage

Perry, Silver Lake and Letchworth State Park have 4G and occasionally 5G coverage, depending on location of the towers and topography. Some phone carriers can take up to 15 minutes to reset each time the 4G/5G border is crossed.

> **Solution:** Go to "mobile networks" on your phone settings. Select "LTE/CDMA" (which is another name for "4G") then switch back to "Global" (5G) when you leave the area.

Wi-Fi Password & (intentional lack of) TV's

As mentioned at booking, to provide an experience focused on outdoor activities and help guests "get unplugged," we have intentionally not hooked up Cable/ Netflix/ Satellite TV.

> You won't find TV sets or even clocks in most rooms.
>
> The **free** (but not always fast) Wi-Fi networks and passwords will be shared before arrival.

Bedding, Housekeeping & Welcome Kit

Bedding (sheets, blankets, pillow cases) and a starter set of **towels, toilet paper, soap and shampoo** is provided.

The majority of guest prefer soft pillows and we have outfitted our units accordingly. If you prefer a harder pillow, it may be best to bring that with you from home or contact your host in advance.

Complementary smore's (chocolate, graham crackers, marshmallows) await you.

- ✓ As we do not have full time staff, we are unfortunately unable to provide refills of the above items during your stay, but know that additional toiletries and snacks can be purchased locally 24-7 at Crosby's Convenience Store.

- ✓ For long-term guests, please give advance notice if you wish to have housekeeping services and/or a change of linens mid-stay. We will make every effort to accommodate, but please note that standard housekeeping rates would apply.

Each room also receives a pack of **gift certificate** from local businesses, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Farm Stands & Gift Shops
- ✓ Museums & Art Galleries
- ✓ Food & Beverage
- ✓ Book Store
- ✓ Various Outdoor Activities

Drinking Water

The estate is serviced by a deep well which feeds a water filtration, softening & storage system. The water is safe to drink.

Check-out Details

As mentioned at booking, the **10am check-out** allows our housekeeping team sufficient time to prepare the rooms for the next round of guests.

Thank you for your cooperation!

- ✓ Please **wash cups, dishes**, **cookware & smores skewers.**
- ✓ **Empty refrigerator/cabinets** of all your items.
- ✓ Kindly take your **trash/recycling to the designated bins** (see map).
- ✓ Please **turn off lights/ AC/ heat/ fans** + **close the windows & doors**.
- ✓ **Place used towels in a pile**, but **don't set the pile on the beds** to help us keep the mattresses dry.
- ✓ **Leave bedding on the beds** so housekeeping team can easily keep track of which linens came off which bed in which unit.
- ✓ Please **return firewood satchels, hammocks, indoor/outdoor furniture** to original locations.
- ✓ Leave the **door unlocked** with keys inside.

If for any reason you experienced any issue during your stay - no matter how large or small - please contact us before you check out. As a small, family-owned business, we greatly appreciate a chance to resolve the issue on the spot, to your full satisfaction, rather than risk a negative review later.

We truly appreciate that you choose to vacation at Silverlaken and we warmly welcome any suggestions you may have!

Warmest Regards,
The Bellamy Family

Trash & Recycling

Refuse and Recycling Bins are located next to the firewood wagon in the center of the Estate (see map).

Feel free to **repurpose paper and cardboard** from the **Green Recycling Container** to use as **campfire starting material**.

Donate your New York State **redeemable cans and bottles** to benefit the **Perry Center Church.**

- ✓ Items can't be crushed, cut, missing labels or contain liquids.
- ✓ Please separate cans/bottles from bags and boxes.

Eligible for redemption of 5¢ Deposit:

Not Eligible for 5 cent redemption:

Milk jugs, wine bottles, tin cans and other non-redeemable metal/glass/plastic go into the **General Refuse** Bins to be sorted at the Refuse Center.

Silverlaken Sauna

See the appendix to learn how to book the sauna and take your Silverlaken experience to the next level!

"Sauna is a place to cleanse body and soul. The solitude and serenity of a lakeside sauna promote introspection and relaxation."

Hammocks

You will find blue buckets marked "hammock inside" at strategic locations around camp.

- ✓ Simply clip the hammock into the pre-hung connection points on trees.
- ✓ Kindly return to the blue bucket after use or in the event of rain/wind.

Sorry, No Swimming

Due to safety concerns, insurance restrictions and lack of lifeguards, we are unable to offer a swimming area at Silverlaken. But guests often paddle out into the lake on the complementary stand-up paddleboards or kayaks to cool off in the water.

The Perry Public Beach is just a few miles away at the north east end of the lake as well. An Olympic-sized swimming pool can be found in Letchworth State Park. Google "Perry Public Beach Silver Lake" and "Harvey Swimming Pool Letchworth" for latest information.

Campfire Wood

	In hopes of slowing the spread of invasive species (like the Emerald Ash Beetle) it is against NY State law to transport firewood across county lines. Don't worry, local firewood is readily available at the Estate or nearby farm stands.

$5 Firewood Bundles

1/2 the price of store-bought firewood

Proceeds donated to the Perry Center Church and Rotary Club

Firewood bundles are conveniently stacked in the center of the Silverlaken Estate, right behind the Lakehouse.

- ✓ Satchels are provided to help carry the firewood bundles.
- ✓ Complementary Kindling Chopper & Cardboard (from the recycle bin) can help get the fire going.
- ✓ A fire-starter kit with instructions is found at each campfire pit.

What makes our Firewood environmentally friendly?

- ✓ Sustainably processed, on the Jenkins homestead, by hand, just a few miles from Silverlaken.
- ✓ Seasoned slowly outdoors, with no-carbon footprint, never kiln dried!
- ✓ Hand wrapped in eco-friendly, corn-based, burnable cellophane.

Firepits & Tips

Kindling Chopper	Avoid placing the logs too tight. Fire needs good airflow. Use kindling and paper (from the recycle bin) to get the fire started. The kindling chopper helps break the firewood into smaller pieces. Wood that is wet on outside may be dry in inside. Fan the flames with the lid from the pail or a piece of cardboard. **Do not leave a fire unattended.** **Fill the pail with water** from the lake or ponds to **put out the fire.** Kindly **return folding chairs** to your rental unit.

At each firepit you will find a **bucket with a fire starter kit** and lighter inside. In each cabin you will find **folding chairs to place near your campfire**.

Be aware that voices travel beyond the campfire pits:

- ✓ Quiet hours are in effect from 9 P.M. to 9 A.M.
- ✓ As a courtesy to sleeping guests, campfires should be extinguished by midnight, outdoor conversations wrapped up or moved inside.

The firepits are positioned with the prevailing wind in mind but **select a different firepit if smoke is blowing directly towards guest accommodations**.

To avoid embers landing on the rental units, tents and boats; **please use only the designated campfire pits.**

	"Heated" Debate Log Cabin vs Teepee Which method will you use for your campfire?	

Complementary Watercraft

(Located in front of Sauna Cabin)

What to See When Out on the Lake

The entire south end of the lake is a protected wetland- home to turtles, beavers & bald eagles. You will find a public restroom near the launch ramp/dock at the Silver Lake State Park, just south of the Marina.

Silverlaken & NY State Regulations

- ✓ **First come-first serve.** There is no formal reservation system.
- ✓ **Watercraft are used at your own risk.**
- ✓ **Life jackets + safety whistle** (both provided) are required.
- ✓ Paddlecraft are **not allowed on the lake after sunset**. Boats can't see you!
- ✓ Don't go out on water **if you don't know how to swim.**
- ✓ It's **normal to get wet**. Dress accordingly and consider electronics.
- ✓ **Check the weather**. Wind can easily push you far away. Please **stay close to shore** when paddling. Consider to **paddle into the wind**, then ride the breeze back to camp.
- ✓ Rocks and shellfish can be sharp. **Wear some type of footwear.**
- ✓ **Do not trespass on private docks and neighbors' property.**
- ✓ Guests are responsible for lost or damaged equipment.
- ✓ Watercraft are not to be taken off the Estate & Silver Lake.

After the Paddle

- ✓ Place the kayak into the rack. Please **don't attempt to tie it to a dock or leave them along the shoreline**.
- ✓ **Attach paddleboards** to the upper shelf of the rack **with the clip** provided to **prevent them from blowing away**.
- ✓ Kindly return paddles and lifejackets to the designated racks.

Important Notes for Kayaks

The “sit-on-top” style kayaks were selected for their stability and ease of use. These are single-person, recreational kayaks with minimal back support. They are self-bailing and won’t sink, even if capsized.

Ideal for the typical hour-long paddle around the south end of the lake, but not designed to go far or fast. *Please visit www.PaddleSailSmile.com if you prefer to rent a sit-in kayak, 2-person kayak or need a craft for a longer voyage.*

- ✓ Water’s edge can be slippery. Please use the railing to stabilize yourself as you pull the kayak in and out of the water.
- ✓ Each kayak has 1 drain plug and a bunch of scupper holes which are open tubes in sit-on-top kayaks that allow water to exit the deck, keeping the kayak buoyant and light.
- ✓ Make sure the **drain plug** is inserted and no water inside in the hull.

Getting In/Out of the Kayak

Let the kayak float in shallow water.

Stand next to it with your feet in water.

As shown in picture, use one hand to stabilize the kayak, other hand holds the paddle for stability.

Simply sit down into the kayak seat.

Pivot into forward position.

Repeat in reverse to get off kayak.

Important Notes for Stand-Up Paddleboards

The inflatable, recreation-style SUPs were selected for their (relative!) stability and ease of use. Perfect for floating around the lakefront but not designed to go far or fast.

The free SUP's are lightweight and have no fins/ minimal fins. *Please visit www.PaddleSailSmile.com if you prefer to SUP with fins or need a craft for a longer voyage.*

Feel free to fish from the kayaks, but please **don't fish from the inflatable SUP's** as they are **easily punctured by fishing tackle.**

Getting On/Off

Place the SUP in the shallow water along the dock.

Stand in the water.

IMPORTANT: **Get onboard in a kneeling position. Do not stand up until you are in open water,** away from any docks or other watercraft that could hurt you if you fell down.

Dismount in kneeling position. Do not attempt to step from a standing position directly onto land or a dock.

Boat Rentals

- ✓ **Pontoon Boats** can be rented from Silver Lake Marine. Contact the marina well in advance of your trip to make a reservation.
- ✓ **Paddleboats & Fishing Kayaks** can be booked at www.PaddleSailSmile.com which is co-located within Silverlaken.

PWC/Jet Ski

Unfortunately, there are no PWC rental agencies on Silver Lake at this time.

While PWC are allowed on Silver Lake, due to insurance and zoning restrictions the Silverlaken Estate does not allow PWC/Jet Ski usage at our waterfront, other than temporary dockage (15 minutes or less) to pick up passengers and drop off gear.

There is a launch ramp at the Silver Lake State Park. Overnight parking for your PWC's trailer can be arranged at Silverlaken with advanced notice.

Dockage/ Launch Ramp

Guests are welcome to bring their own **kayaks and similar craft** that can be carried by hand and self-launched at Silverlaken.

For guests with **small powerboats**, a launch ramp with parking area is found less than a mile from Silverlaken at the Silver Lake State Park.

- ✓ If agreed in advance, certain docks at Silverlaken may be used to tie up your boat during daylight hours.

- ✓ Plan to pull your boat out of the water at the State Park's launch ramp (or return to at local Marina) at nightfall or strong wind/waves during the day, as the docks at Silverlaken are residential duty rather than commercial grade.

Lake Water Quality

Silver Lake is fed primarily by underwater springs. The clear water allows sunlight to reach the lakebed which in turn encourages lake grass to grow, especially in the late Summer.

Silverlaken happens have a gravel lakebed which prevents the lake grass from growing as dense as most places on the lake. However, at certain times of the year, guests may need to paddle out into deeper water to get past the lake grass.

The **lake grass is an essential part of the lake's ecosystem** as it provides coverage for smaller fish to hide from predators. It is not feasible nor environmentally sound to cut lake grass like a lawn.

- ✓ Area farmers engage in state-of-the-art, precision farming to manage the amount of nutrients going into the fields.
- ✓ In 1979, the cottage owners joined together and built a municipal sewer system around the entire lake to end leaking septic systems.
- ✓ Silverlaken has constructed multiple decorative ponds, not just for scenic beauty, but to catch the excess nutrients from the farms upstream before it hits the lake.

When does the lake "turn over"?

Simply put, lake turnover is the seasonal mixing of the water column. When lakes are deeper than 20 feet, distinct, thermally stratified layers of water form.

- ✓ When temperature or wind conditions are just right, the layers are mixed and nutrients rise to the surface where they react with sunlight to turn the lake surface a light green for a few days before the system resets itself.
- ✓ This is a natural phenomenon, not to be confused with harmful algae blooms.
- ✓ Silver Lake turnovers are notoriously hard to predict but generally don't occur more than 3 times per year for a few weeks in total.

Fishing

A valid New York State fishing license is required for ages 16 and up. You may find small pan fish under the docks at Silverlaken, but larger game fish inhabit the deeper water about 50 feet off the shore, along the weed bed.

- ✓ Please **do not fillet your fish** at Silverlaken and **never dispose of fish guts on the Estate grounds or in trash bins** as it will attract nuisance animals.
- ✓ Be very careful to **never leave sharp hooks and tackle** on the ground or docks at Silverlaken.
- ✓ Please **don't fish from inflatable stand up paddleboards** as hooks easily puncture the craft.

The **Silver Lake State Park** and the **Perry Village Beach** are also **suitable for fishing**. The local convenience and hardware stores offer live bait.

Farmlands & Manure

Wyoming county is known for dairy farming and has the most cows per capita of any county in America (outside of Wisconsin!).

Today's farms have computer systems that automate the milking and feeding of the cows using robotics. But old fashion manure still needs to be injected into the soil a few times per year to provide nutrients for the crops.

Depending on the wind direction and season, on rare occasions, "farm freshness" may be noticeable during your visit to various parts of Western NY.

Bugs & Poison Ivy

Western NY has its share of insects and a bit of poison ivy. We don't have many biting insects on Silver Lake and luckily the breeze keeps most of the mosquitos away. Wear bug spray in the early evenings if you are sensitive to insects.

While spiders are common outside, there are no poisonous spiders in our area. **A small vacuum is provided in each rental unit to suck up the occasional bug** that may find its way into your rental unit. Since flying insects are attracted to light, turn off the lights when you are away and the bugs won't hang around your entry area.

At the parks and lakes of Western NY, poison ivy may pop up in mid-summer, usually along the water's edge in a place with direct sunlight. If we find it at Silverlaken, we move quickly to eradicate it.

Remember: "**Leaves of three- let it be"**.

Wild Animals

Out here in the countryside we have plenty of birds and critters, but **please don't feed the animals** as it is dangerous for them to get accustom to humans.

A **Bald Eagle** frequents the wooded side of our property. Great Blue **Heron, Geese** and **Ducks** hang out at water's edge. **Deer, Fox, Raccoons, Squirrels & Chipmunks** pass thru on an almost daily basis. You maybe even hear **Coyotes** at night off in the distance. If you are lucky a **Muskrat, Beaver** or **Turtle** will swim up to the docks to say hello. **Skunks** have poor vision and may wander into the Estate by accident at night on the very rare occasion. Don't startle it. Just walk away while talking in a calm tone so it knows you are not a threat.

Shy **Black Bears** inhabit the State Park and occasionally wander around our area. This large one was recently harvested inside Letchworth State Park as part of the effort to control the bear population.

There are **no poisonous snakes** around Silver Lake on land or water. There are rattlesnakes in Letchworth State Park. They are essential to the ecosystem and should be left alone. Only dangerous if provoked.

Woodchucks (groundhog) are the largest member of the squirrel family. They grow to 10 pounds and live in the holes along the field on West side of Silverlaken. It is easy to get within 30 feet of them if you move slow and don't make noise. But please don't walk out into the field or leave Silverlaken property as the farmer's crops are easily damaged.

Things to Eat, See & Do Nearby

The **Village of Perry** is home to a brewery, Cheese Factory, Drive-in Theater and various dining options. It has a lot going on for a small town with more cows than people! Performance art, galleries, comedy shows, farmers markets, athletic events, festivals, stock car racing, fishing derbies and more.	

Please visit www.silverlaken.com/things-to-do-nearby/ for up-to-date and curated itineraries for what to see, do, buy, eat and drink in and around Perry, Silver Lake & Letchworth State Park.

Thank you for visiting Silverlaken!

If for any reason you experienced any issue during your stay, no matter how large or small, please contact us before you check out.

As a small, family-owned business, we greatly appreciate a chance to resolve the issue on the spot, to your full satisfaction, rather than risk a negative review later.

We truly appreciate that you choose to vacation at Silverlaken
and we warmly welcome any suggestions you may have!

The Bellamy Family

Appendix:

- ✓ Silverlaken **Sauna Hours, Booking & Experience**
- ✓ Mike's interview on **local history, culture, tourism & economic trends**

SAUNA EXPERIENCE

High praise from Scandinavian guests:

"Thank you for the kind service and beautiful estate. The sauna was especially satisfying and authentic. This is coming from two Finnish people! The best sauna we have encountered in the USA!

Complementary Sauna

- ✓ 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM Daily
- ✓ Free of Charge
- ✓ 30-minute session
- ✓ Target Temperature: 170 F +/-

Private Sauna

- ✓ 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM and 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM
- ✓ $60 per group. Up to 10 people per private group.
- ✓ 45-minute session
- ✓ Target Temperature: 188 F +/-

Booking Process

Text **585-969-0040** with **name, # of guests & availability.**

Silverlaken staff will confirm time & arrange towels.

Sauna requires 2 hours to reach full temperature.
Reservation window closes at 6:30 PM each day.

If no reservations are received, sauna will remain off to conserve energy as the heater uses more power in 1 hour than the entire estate uses in a day.

Heading to Sauna

- ✓ Avoid congestion in the changing room: **put bathing suit on ahead of time.** Arrive at the sauna no earlier than the agreed time slot.
- ✓ Don't bring metal jewelry or cell phones as they will overheat.
- ✓ Do bring a bottle of water with you and **drink plenty of water**.

Entering the Sauna

Authentic Finland-style dry sauna is made entirely of raw cedar with no paints or chemical adhesives. To protect wood & keep the sauna pristine:

- ✓ **Guests must remove all make up and shower before entry.**
- ✓ Place towels between your body and the benches/walls.
- ✓ **No footwear, food or beverage (other than water)** allowed inside the sauna. No sports drinks or colored water, please.

It's **not a competition** to stay in the sauna the longest. Breaks should be taken to cool down.

Leaving the Sauna

- ✓ The timer will shut the heater off automatically.
- ✓ **Place used towels in the bin.** Do not leave wet towels inside sauna.

*If you are the last user of the day and feeling helpful, feel free to **spray down the walls, benches and floor of the inner sauna** using the hose next to the sink. But **kindly refrain from hosing down the heater** as the cold water could damage the heating element.*

Sauna Basics

Hot & Cold Shock Therapy

- ✓ Going from hot to cold can relax your body and help you get better sleep.
- ✓ In the interest of quiet hours (and no swimming policy) do not jump in the lake. Cool off with a cold shower or pour cold water from the cedar bucket over your head.

Temperature Control

- ✓ Different locations inside the sauna have different temperatures. Move around and feel the difference.
- ✓ The small vent in the ceiling above the bench can be adjusted to encourage air circulation and change the temperature.
- ✓ The fewer the people, the warmer the sauna will feel as your combined body temperatures cools down the sauna slightly.

Creating Löyly

Löyly (pronounced "**Louu-lou**") is the super-heated vapor that comes off hot sauna rocks when water hits them.

The process creates negative ions: odorless, tasteless molecules given off in certain environments such as at beaches, waterfalls and after thunderstorms.

Researchers have found that these negative ions not only induce a feeling of well-being in users, but bring certain health benefits.

Sauna Pro Tip

The **ladle is made of raw cedar** with no chemical sealant. After making löyly, "those in the know" **place the ladle upside down across the top of the cedar bucket** so that the ladle is left dry.

Sauna Mastery

Authentic Finnish saunas are **designed for mediation:**

- ✓ **Dimly Lit**
- ✓ **No Music**
- ✓ Smell of **fresh cedar wood**
- ✓ **Sound of löyly.**

Meditating in the Sauna is a great way to relieve stress and promote healthy circulation.

- ✓ After admiring the view of the lake from the sauna, **close your eyes and concentrate on your breathing.** Breath through your mouth and note how it feels each time you exhale and inhale the warm air.
- ✓ If your thoughts begin to wander - gently bring them back to focusing on your breathing.
- ✓ **Visualize the sweating as a cleansing process**, clearing your body from stress and negative emotions.
- ✓ Sit on a towel in an upright position. Keep your hands relaxed in your lap. **Focus on the experience of the heat and how it feels against your skin.**

Sauna Pro Tip

	When you make löyly, use no more than a few scoops of water at a time. Pour in a **"Z" pattern,** well above the surface of the rocks, so that you **do not risk the hot steam touching your hands.**

SAUNA RULES & REGULATIONS

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

By entering the sauna, guests agree to the following:

I have read and understand the posted instructions for using the sauna at Silverlaken and take full responsibility for the care and safe usage of the sauna. I acknowledge that use of a sauna comes with certain risks, not limited to the posted list, to health and property including overheating, injury, medical conditions, death, or property damage and that I assume these risks and responsibilities.

Guests who violate the sauna rules may be asked to leave Silverlaken and will be financially responsibility for costs associated with damage and cleanup.

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

- ✓ Be sure to **drink plenty of water** before, during and after the Sauna. Alcohol dehydrates the body, which is aggravated by a sauna, so it is best to **avoid alcohol** for an hour or two before, during, and after a sauna.

- ✓ NYS Health Department suggests **no longer than 10-15 minutes in a Sauna at a time**. Overexposure to high temperatures can be dangerous to your health. Exit immediately if nauseous, uncomfortable, dizzy or sleepy. Use a cooling off period between sauna sessions. No more than 2 sessions per day. It may be tradition and refreshing to briefly go into the cold air outside and even roll in the snow to cool off. That causes a temperature shock to the body and should only be done by people in good health. The area outside the sauna, including any steps or decking, may become wet or icy and very slippery, care should be taken when entering or exiting the sauna to avoid slipping and falling.

- ✓ Nothing will be allowed in the Sauna except for bathing suit, towel & water bottle.

- ✓ Sauna users must be at least 18 years of age or accompanied by an adult. Children under 6 are not allowed to use the sauna as their bodies may not be able to handle the extreme temperatures. **Sauna alone is dangerous.** Contact your host for special instructions.

- ✓ Pregnant women CANNOT enter the Sauna. Use of Sauna is not recommended for persons with high blood pressure, cardiovascular disorders or pulmonary diseases. Persons with medical conditions should consult a physician before using this room. Do not use the Sauna while under the influence of any type of alcohol, drugs, anticoagulants, antihistamines, vasoconstrictors, vasodilators, stimulants, hypnotics, narcotics or tranquilizers.

- ✓ In order to avoid damage to the heating unit, do not put more than a small scoop of water on the sauna rocks at a time. Beer, wine, aroma oils, candles should never be brought into the sauna, let alone poured onto the hot rocks.

- ✓ Direct body contact with the sauna stove or heater, sauna rocks, steam, stove pipe, heat shields and/or other metal objects in the sauna may cause serious injury; this includes metal jewelry worn in the sauna, which can get very hot and can burn the skin.

To the maximum extent allowed by law, I agree on my own behalf and on behalf of my family, personal representatives, heirs, executors, administrators, agents and assigns, to waive and release any and all claims, suits or related causes of action against Silverlaken LLC, Laken Holdings, agents and subcontractors against any and all claims. I agree that I will indemnify, defend and hold harmless Silverlaken LLC, related entities, holding companies, subsidiaries, agents, employees and subcontractors, to the maximum extent allowed by law, from negligence, injury, loss, death, costs or other damages to me, my family members, heirs or assigns, or third parties for any and all claims.

With that out of the way… *Enjoy your Sauna!*

Rev 4.26.2026

Mike's Interview with Upstate Summer Magazine

Letchworth State Park was recently crowned the best state park in America and is quickly becoming one of NYS's most significant tourist destinations, attracting just under 1 million visitors per year. Upstate Summer Magazine interviews Mike Bellamy (owner of the Silverlaken Estate & Glampground) to find out what is so special about the park and surrounding area.

What would you say to someone that is thinking about visiting the area?

The 17-mile-long Letchworth State Park divides the greater Rochester metropolitan area from the rural countryside. In the communities along the western edge of the Park, you will not find a single fast-food chain or any strip malls. The pace of life is slower and the natural beauty of the landscape more pronounced. Cows outnumber people in Wyoming County. But rural does not mean boring.

Adjacent to Silver Lake, the historic little Village of Perry NY serves as the western gateway to Letchworth State Park. It offers a unique mix of small-town charm, vibrant arts scene, craft beverage, destination dining, agriculture, outdoor recreation & unique overnight accommodations.

Any can't-miss features of Letchworth State Park that you want to point out to visitors?

After discovering the 3 main waterfalls and exploring the 550-foot-deep gorge, most visitors will agree that Letchworth State Park's "Grand Canyon of the East" moniker is well-deserved. Check out the Humphrey Nature Center for interactive exhibits and guided tours with the Park Rangers.

Sadly, some visitors rush in and out of the Park without learning the stories of our two most famous residents- William Pryor Letchworth and Mary Jemison.

At age 12, Mary Jemison (1743 – 1833) was taken captive in Southeastern Pennsylvania by a Shawnee raiding party during the French & Indian War. She was later adopted by the Seneca tribe, assimilated into their culture, took the name "Dehgewanus" and ended up raising her family in what is now known as Letchworth State Park. She witnessed the turbulent transformation from wild frontier controlled by the indigenous peoples into farmland dominated by European settlers.

Mr. Letchworth **(**1823 – 1910) was an American businessman and philanthropist that purchased, preserved, protected, and donated the land to create the State Park. His mansion, the Glen Iris, sits prominently next to the Middle Falls. However, hidden behind the parking lot, across the road, is as museum dedicated to sharing the stories of William Letchworth and Mary Jemison.

The little gallery also serves as Mr. Letchworth's personal "wunderkammer." The collection of curiosities includes a mastodon skeleton, indigenous weapons, antiques, and other historic, cultural, and geological items of significance.

Take the steps behind the museum up a short trail to pay your respects at Mary Jemison's grave and admire the larger-than-life statue above her final resting place.

What sort of things are most popular or unique in your area near the State Park?

When you leave the State Park, do yourself a favor and do not let google maps send you to the nearest highway and back to urban sprawl. Take the country roads, through the cornfields and forests, westward out of the Park and over the hill to Perry.

Downtown is compact, walkable, and full of little shops, the lumberyard steakhouse, bakery and microbrewery. The splash pad at the Village Park is a great place for the kids to cool off. Just outside the village is a creamery offering grass-fed artisan cheese. Their 24-hr cheese vending machine shows up on Instagram a lot!

Perry and Silver Lake are connected by walking, biking and even kayak trails. A well-marked, 2-mile-long path starts at the downtown mural, meanders along the Silver Lake outlet, passes the Pioneer Cabin (where you can visit a one-room schoolhouse) and ends up at the Village Beach and lakeside pavilion.

Kayaks, Paddleboats, Sailboats and Motor Boats are available for rent on Silver Lake. Explore the protected wetlands at the North or South ends of the lake to find turtles, beavers, and bald eagles.

The Charcoal Corral & Silver Lake Twin Drive-In Theatre is a stand-alone destination. Come over for the BBQ and stay for the mini-golf, ice cream or drive-in movies. Dairy cows like to hang out behind screen 2 and photobomb the tourists.

If your timing is right, you can also catch an outdoor concert or vintage car show at the Corral.

Do you have any annual events or special events that you recommend to your guests?

For a village with less than 4000 residents surrounded by farms and fields, there is an amazing variety of things to do in Perry NY. There is an event happening just about every weekend in the Summer.

I'll provide links to the master calendars of events at the local, county and regional levels (at the end of the article), but here are some highlights:

- NY State Puppet Festival
- Chalk Art Festival & Taste of Summer
- Shake on the Lake (Alternative Shakespeare Performances)
- Ring of Fire & Boat Parade
- Saturday Farmers' Market
- Silver Serpent Triathlon & Multisport Festival
- Tour de Perry Bike Rides

Are there any background information and recent changes to tell people about?

To be honest, when I was a child growing up in the 80's and 90's, downtown Perry was depressing. The factories moved overseas, young people left for the cities, vacant shops dotted main street. The Silver Lake outlet was full of old tires and broken bottles. Agriculture alone could not save the town.

Today, most villages in Western NY are still stuck in that same position with no way out. Perry on the other hand was blessed to have Letchworth State Park in our backyard.

New businesses popped up to service the growing number of State Park visitors. The local leaders and civic organizations realized that outdoor recreation and the arts could help revitalize the town. The young people who left started to move back, raise families, and invest in Perry. As a result of the Covid experience and climate catastrophes, Perry is even welcoming "domestic climate refugees" who are sick of city life or natural disasters. Perry does get some snow and the occasional drought, but no earthquakes, hurricanes, tornado, wildfires, or floods! We have plenty of fresh air, clean water, and affordable housing.

In 2023, Perry was recognized as a model for rural revitalization and given a $10 million grant from New York State to improve the few remaining distressed buildings downtown.

What is your favorite thing about your part of Wyoming County next to the State Park?

When I think about Perry, two words come to mind: Duality and Discovery.

Duality

A small rural village offering a level of art, food & beverage, and events on par with those found in the large urban areas. There is also a duality in distance. Buffalo and Rochester are only an hour's drive away, yet Perry feels very remote thanks the buffers of Letchworth State Park and the vast countryside.

Perry has a split personality too. A vegan may be buying tofu and drinking kombucha on main street, while a 7th generation farmer has a glass of milk with a steak at the diner next door. It is not uncommon to see a rainbow pride flag flying next door to a "don't tread on me" banner.

Despite the differences, those same folks end up sharing a pew at church, breaking bread together at the Rotary club lunch and serving on the same local government committees.

Discovery

Letchworth State Park and Perry have found ways to benefit from tourism in a sustainable fashion without sacrificing what makes them special.

When I visit certain parts of the Finger Lakes wine country or Niagara Falls, I am turned off by the tour buses and over-development. In Perry, visitors are personally welcomed at the individual level. Locals are humbled to see that visitors are interested in our culture, products, history, and events.

I am happy to report that Letchworth State Park is not as well-known or developed as the State Parks in Watkins Glen & Niagara Falls. There are not too many places left in New York State where you can feel like you discovered someplace special that your friends back in the city don't know about.

Is there anything else I have not asked about you would like to say to people to inspire them to visit?

When you visit Silver Lake and Perry you may notice a lot of Sea Serpent imagery. Back in 1855, a group of men fishing from a boat swore they saw a sea monster the size of a dinosaur appear on the surface of Silver Lake at dusk.

News spread and train loads of people arrived daily in hopes of catching a glimpse of the monster. Harpoon boats were launched. Armed men patrolled the lake.

No trace of the monster was found… until a fire broke out at the Walker Hotel. A serpent like wire frame and some green mesh was found in the rubble. Mr. Walker confessed he had created the monster to attract tourists to the town and his hotel. To this day, the locals of Silver Lake and Perry celebrate the story and retain the monster as a mascot.

Updated Event Calendars

Wyoming County Chamber & Tourism for county wide events.

Perry Main Street Association & Village of Perry for local events.

Explore Genesee Valley for regional events.

Copyright 2018 to Present. Silverlaken LLC

All rights reserved. No part of this document (including, but not limited to, the listing, images & text) maybe reproduced, stored, or transmitted by any means- whether auditory, graphic, mechanical or electronics, without written permission from the author.

Unauthorized reproduction of any part of this work is illegal and is punishable by law.