

PRESS RELEASE:

May 24, 2020

Elaine Tears, Public Relations Chair
Bath Rotary Club
Phone: (607) 776-4554
Email: ektears@gmail.com



Written by Elaine Tears

BATH ROTARIANS CLEAR ROADSIDE OF LITTER

Three times a year Bath Rotarians don orange safety vests, work gloves, and heavy footwear to pick up litter along the on and off ramps of I-86 Exit 38, as part of New York State's Adopt-A-Highway program. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Rotarians also wore facial masks and adhered to the recommended six foot, social distancing guidelines.

On May 20th Bill White, Bath Rotary Club's Adopt-A-Highway Chair and Club Service Director, was joined by the following in this community service project: Jane Russell, President; Terry Bilancio, Program Co-Chair; Robin Lattimer, Community Service Director; Cheryl Muller, Vocational Service Director; Al Johnson, Historian; Angela Mattoon, Webmaster; Joe Latham.

For several years the local Rotarians have participated in this program which not only helps to provide an aesthetically pleasing roadside but also provides great satisfaction to the Rotarians themselves. "Taking part in this highway cleanup program is just one example of how Rotarians apply the principle of 'Service Above Self' to promote pride in their community", remarked White. "We are most pleased that we are able to extend a helping hand to keep America beautiful."

Legislation to formalize New York State's Adopt-A-Highway program which encourages individuals, organizations, or businesses to clean up highway roadsides was passed in 1990. Approximately 5000 miles of the state's highway roadsides have been adopted; the segment of highway, designated for each group, is usually about two miles in length. In addition to the pride that the adopters themselves feel, the New York State Department of Transportation erects a blue and white Adopt-A-Highway sign within the group's designated segment which acknowledges the adopters. Today all fifty states have some type of Adopt-A-Highway program because there is a need for litter free highways in spite of the reality that roadside beautification simply cannot compete with highway safety for diminishing public funds.

The Bath Rotary Club, chartered in 1923, is part of Rotary International which is a service organization with over 34,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas throughout the world. It was the world's first volunteer service organization and is now more than 100 years old. The Adopt-A-Highway program supports one of the organization's primary purposes, i.e., a global network of volunteers who provide humanitarian service. The members experience the fulfillment that comes from giving back to the community. Community Service is one of the Five Avenues of Service which represent Rotary's philosophical cornerstone and the foundation on which club activity is based.

Anyone interested in joining the local club or seeking more information about Rotary should contact Jane Russell, President, at: cateringjane@empacc.net.