

TogetherTime

by: Brette McWhorter Sember

Plan a fall day trip to Skaneateles (pronounced "Skanny atlas") for your next TogetherTime adventure. Skaneateles is a picturesque village on Skaneateles Lake, about an hour and half drive from Western New York (take the I-90 east to exit 40, then Route 34 south to Route 20 east. Or for the more adventurous, take Route 5 east from Buffalo to the 20 for a leisurely drive through small towns).

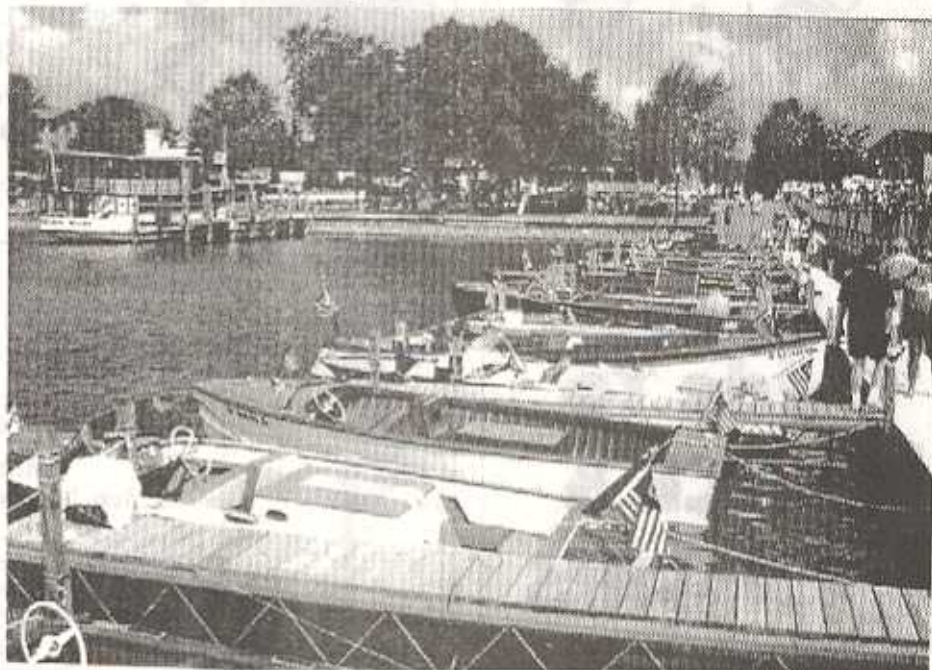
Plan to go on a Saturday if possible, so that you can make it to the T.C. Timber Toy Outlet (4407 Jordan Street, open only Saturdays from 10 to 1; 315-685-6660). T.C. Timber sells wooden train sets, wood puzzles, blocks, balls and other great toys (including some Fisher Price things) at phenomenal prices.

After you have rushed to get to T.C. Timber, drive back to town and browse through the terrific shops on East and West Genesee Streets (the main street) and Jordan Street. The White Sleigh Christmas Shoppe (1 West Genesee Street) will delight all family members. Do everything you can to go into Imagine (8 East Genesee Street), even if one person has to stay outside with the kids (there are many breakable items in here!). I have never left without a purchase. The Rhubarb Kitchen (59 East Genesee Street) will tickle every cook's fancy.

The Bookie (24 East Genesee Street) is a fantastic toy and book shop that always has an interactive display that may keep your kids (and some grown-ups!) there longer than you'll want. You will also want to be sure to head into the Everson Museum Shop. This is located at the back of 1st National Gifts at 2 East Genesee Street in an old bank building. The Everson Museum is the children's museum in Syracuse and this is one of their museum shops. Next to the museum shop is a real bank vault, which your family will enjoy going into. It also houses a tourist information center.

If you have the antique bug, stop into the Skaneateles Antique Center (12 East Genesee Street), which has two floors of merchandise. Get your trip T-shirts and other casual family clothing at Rolands (50 East Genesee Street).

The Skinny On Skaneateles



There are wonderful parks in the village (consider leaving the kids in the park with one adult while the other shops if you can't bear to repeat the "don't touch" mantra). The park that is farthest east, Thayer Park, is quiet and serene with a few benches and a fantastic view of the lake. The western park, Clift Park, is more popular. It has a gazebo, a swimming area (Beware! Even in summer, Skaneateles Lake has beautiful crystal clear spring fed water that is COLD!) and a long public pier. Stroll out onto the pier and when you get to the end, turn around and look at the lake side of the historic downtown buildings that are dotted with the cutest little apartment patios. If you walk through the rest of the park you'll come to a war monument and some pleasant gardens. Austin Park (between Jordan and State Streets) has playground equipment and picnic tables.

Before you go to Skaneateles, call the Mid-Lakes Navigation Company for a schedule (1-800-545-4318). Mid-Lakes runs boat cruises and your family will be interested in taking a U.S. Mailboat cruise on the Judge Ben Wilcs. This is one of the only water delivery routes left in the U.S. and it really delivers mail to residents on the

lake! Lunch, brunch, dinner and other cruises are also available.

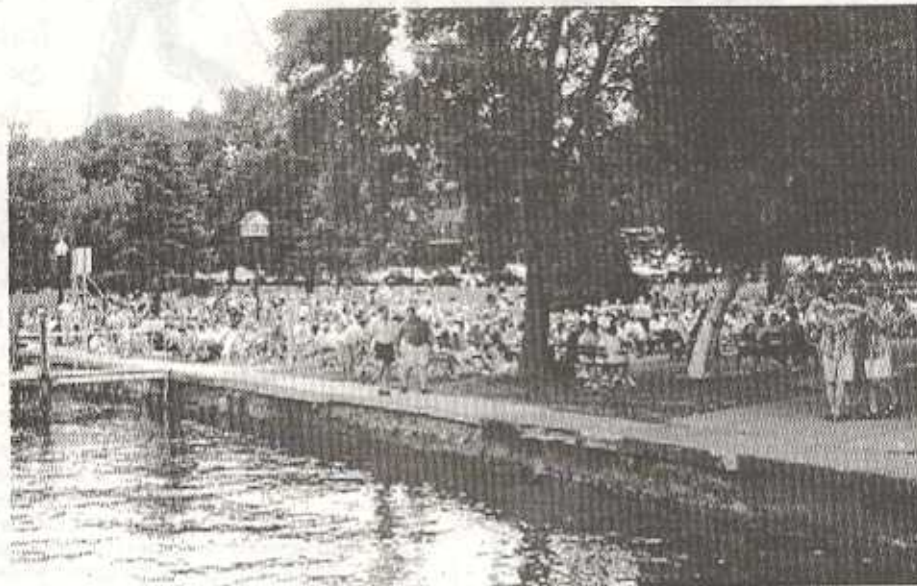
There are lots of eating options available in Skaneateles. The Blue Water Grill (11 West Genesee Street, 315-685-6600) has great food and a water view, but does not have a children's menu and does not cater to young children. We ordered from their menu and took it to the park and had a picnic. If you have older children, you'll love the historic Sherwood Inn (directly across from Clift Park - it also has rooms available, 1-800-3Sherwood) which has a dining room and a tavern. Another historic option is The Krebs (53 East Genesee Street, 315-685-5714) which serves a multi-course prix fixe dinner which is a lot of fun, but is hard for young kids to sit through (we had our five year old under the table for half the meal one year, playing Barbies).

There are family friendly restaurants that kids will do well at. Johnny Angel's Heavenly Hamburgers (22 Jordan Street, 315-685-0100) has terrific hamburgers and French toast. Doug's Fish Fry (8 Jordan Street, 315-685-3288) is not to be missed. It serves delicious chowder, fried fish, clams, shrimp and scallops. Hot dogs are
continued page 42

The Skinny On Skaneateles *continued*

available for little people who scorn fish. There is lots of seating behind the building where you order the food. If all you really just want a couple of sandwiches and chips to eat in the park, go to Valentine's Delicatessen (18 W. Genesee Street, 315-685-8804).

Try to pay a visit to the Skaneateles Bakery (19 Jordan Street, 315-685-3538). Whatever you do, do not miss the Vermont Green Mountain Specialty Company (50 East Genesee Street), a delightful candy store that also sells cookies and gourmet coffee. Kids love the chocolate covered Oreos that are decorated with faces. The Blue Water Chill (7 West Genesee Street, next to the Blue Water Grill) serves terrific ice cream and frozen yogurt and is conveniently located next to the park. The Skaneateles Pizza and Ice Cream Shoppe is directly across the street if you want to give that a try as well.



Before your trip, check out www.skaneateles.com (the village's award winning website) for a great virtual tour of the village. The website can provide you with information about seasonal events, as well as information about other

local attractions, like a local mill, an art gallery and a museum housed in an old creamery building. If you decide you would like to spend the night in Skaneateles, contact the Chamber of Commerce (315-685-0552 or email: Skaneateles-Chamber@earthlink.net) for a listing of local motels and inns (there are many to choose from!).

Brette McWhorter Sember has two children, ages 7 (Quinne)

and 1 (Zayne) and lives in Genesee County with her husband, Terry, and their two golden retrievers. She gave up her practice as a matrimonial and family law attorney when Zayne was born to have more TogetherTime with her family.

Cool Clothes for Back to School AS SEEN ON THE COVER!



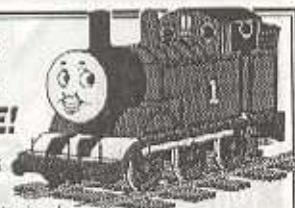
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