



Joint Committee on the Bicentennial

Aurora

Holland

Wales

PRESS RELEASE

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Three Towns Launch Bicentennial Plans

On April 15, 1818, New York State adopted legislation creating the Towns of Aurora, Holland, and Wales, effective March 1 of the following year. In anticipation of the 200th anniversary next year, representatives from the three communities have been meeting to organize a bicentennial celebration that will begin a year from now and continue through March 2019.

Each of the three towns is planning celebrations of their own; and a joint committee, which includes the town supervisors, town historians and town councilmembers from each town, have joined forces to plan collaborative events.

Each of the three towns this week unveiled their bicentennial logos, which will be used to promote the celebration.

Plans are under way to host a “Charter Day” event on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at the South Wales Community Hall, as well as a joint meeting of the three Town Boards on the exact 200th anniversary of the first Town Board meetings, March 2, 2019. Other commemorative events will be held between the two anniversary dates.

The highlight of the yearlong celebrations in each community will be the Tulip Festival in Holland; the Third of July celebration and Reunion Weekend in Aurora; and a Picnic in the Park on July 15, 2018, in Wales. The towns are also planning other projects throughout the year, including educational programs, commemorative books, and banners featuring the bicentennial logos along the main streets of each town.

Organizers in all three towns invite community organizations and businesses to plan bicentennial-themed events of their own.

The committees encourage local civic groups, businesses and churches to hop on the “bicentennial bandwagon.” The committee hopes community organizations and businesses will use this opportunity to highlight and celebrate their own histories and contributions to our communities.

Although the three towns were home to Native American communities for tens of thousands of years, and to pioneer settlers since the early 1800s, the bicentennial marks the anniversary of the division of the Town of Willink into Aurora, Holland and Wales in 1818 and 1819. Between 1819 and 1827, the Town of Holland also included present-day Colden.

Those interested in joining the bicentennial effort or who would like additional information may contact the bicentennial chairman for their community:

—In Aurora, Town Historian Robert Lowell Goller: historian@townofaurora.com, 652-7944

—In Holland, Town Councilwoman Karen Kline: kkline545@verizon.net, 803-2892

—In Wales, Town Historian Dee Zeigel: dmzeigel@earthlink.net, 982-8362