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Village governments need to be dissolved

A number of villages in our region, such as Blasdell, North Collins and Barker, are considering dissolution and merger with their adjacent towns. In my view, every village government in New York should be dissolved. This would reduce taxpayer costs by eliminating an entire layer of government.

Incorporated villages are anachronisms created more than 100 years ago. At that time, they served as key activity centers and were often isolated. Since then, their relevance has been diminished by population sprawl, industrial growth and mobility improvements.

Most villages have small land areas with fewer than 10,000 residents. These miniature governments create unnecessary inefficiencies while larger jurisdictions such as towns have proven more cost-effective. Many villages are obscured in a sea of urban and suburban sprawl. They have become redundant in relation to their surrounding municipalities.


Across our border, the province of Ontario has very few incorporated villages. The Town of Fort Erie encompasses several separate communities, none of which has its own government. This model has served Ontario well and it would likewise succeed in New York.

Robert A. Krohn

Amherst

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