Greater Binghamton has the only carousel collection of this kind in the world. Of the fewer than 150 antique carousels remaining in the United States and Canada, six are in Greater Binghamton, New York. Because of the uniqueness of these carousels and the incomparable circumstances of their survival and existence, all six are placed on the New York State Historic Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

Several of our carousels have undergone painstaking restoration projects. The costly refurbishing of these priceless machines further attests to the commitment of our community to preserve these cultural legacies for future generations to enjoy.

For further information on our carousels and our "Ride the Circuit Program," please go to www.visitbinghamton.org or www.gobroomecounty.com. You may also stop by the Binghamton Visitor Center at Roberson Museum to learn more about our carousels and our community history. Our carousels are featured in the "Heritage Areas of New York State" promotional publication as a powerful example of a local legacy providing economic opportunities for the region. The report can be viewed on the County's website at www.gobroomecounty.com.

Carousel hours of operation are subject to change. Please check individual carousel listing for regular hours of operation. Carousels may not operate in inclement weather, so please call ahead to confirm carousel is running.
Between 1919 and 1934, George F. Johnson (1857-1948), shoe manufacturer and great benefactor, donated six beautiful carousels to our local parks. Johnson’s commitment to recreation was always more than just good business. He felt carousels contributed to a happy life and would help youngsters grow into strong and useful citizens. Because of his own poor childhood, “George F.” believed carousels should be enjoyed by everyone and insisted that the municipalities never charge money for a magic ride.

Now, into their tenth decade, these magnificent machines still spin from Memorial Day to Labor Day at no charge or for an admission of “one piece of litter.” In a day when nothing is free, we boast the world’s greatest entertainment bargain!

Our carousels (we’ve always called them merry-go-rounds), were all manufactured by the Allan Herschell Companies of North Tonawanda, New York, in the “country fair” style. You can still hear the sounds of the original Wurlitzer Band Organs on the Recreation and Ross Park carousels. And, if you are lucky enough to ride on all six merry-go-rounds, you will be delighted by monkey chariots, horses with hidden lions in the saddle blankets, a pig, and even a dog. Not to worry, every carousel animal in Greater Binghamton is a “jumper!” You can “Ride the Carousel Circuit” by collecting a card at each carousel, and when you have all six you’ll receive a special button. What is even more remarkable is that of 150 wood-carved carousels remaining in the United States and Canada, six are right here in Greater Binghamton, New York!