

Temporary Dam is In!!!

Saturday, May 9th, a group of fourteen volunteers bolted steel beams to the concrete bridge abutments above the old dam and installed 6"x6" hemlock logs into the beams to create a temporary dam about four feet high. The temporary dam is currently holding back approximately 18" of water and levels have risen about 6" on the lake. A second work session is planned for the 16th to apply plastic sheeting to the face of the structure to decrease leakage. Volunteers will also help with general clean up of the site.

The Select Boards of both Canton and Hartford have approved an Inter-local Agreement for operation and maintenance of a fully restored permanent dam. This Agreement will go to Hartford voters on June 11th. Canton voters will be asked to approve the agreement at a future town meeting as well. Once adopted by the voters of both towns, filed with the Town Clerks and the Secretary of State, this Agreement will become effective upon completion of the repair, renovation or replacement of the present permanent dam.

The final copy of "*Phase I: Preliminary Engineering Report*" by Kleinschmidt is expected soon. Engineers will be meeting with State officials from MEMA and DEP to discuss the options described in this report. A new Dam Safety Order for the Town of Canton is also anticipated from MEMA setting forth State requirements of the new owners for the repair of the dam before the gates can be made operational. The Town of Canton will have to make a decision on which of the engineering options to take - build a replacement dam, repair the old dam with an emergency spillway and other possible modifications or repair the left embankment only and remove the old dam. Copies of the Kleinschmidt report will be available for review at the town office and from any core group member.

Regardless of which option is selected, it will take a lot of money to restore the permanent dam. Preliminary cost estimates range from \$400,000 to \$900,000. Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG) is searching for federal funding for the dam project. Research is being done to locate State and private grant money. A group of volunteers from the lake association are also planning a fundraising campaign. Events, raffles and activities will continue as long as money is needed. Support and volunteers will be needed from throughout the community to complete the dam project successfully.

Volunteers from both Canton and Hartford are actively involved in the installation of the temporary dam. There are parts of the permanent dam restoration that we believe volunteers will be able to accomplish in an attempt to limit costs. There is also a great need for volunteers to participate in fundraising activities of all sorts. New ideas and suggestions, particularly if volunteer support is also offered, are also appreciated. Donations to the Canton Dam Fund and the lake association's (L.A.A.) dam fund have begun and are gratefully accepted. There are a wide variety of ways an individual can participate and "buy into" the dam project. We need everyone to join this community effort. Please contact someone at either town office, any member of the core group or me. Let us know what you have to offer.

Submitted by, Judy Hamilton, Core Group Secretary (207-597-2604) <mafinch@megalink.net>