

WHAT'S INSIDE

OUTLOOKS AT NHPTV

NH Public Television's Peter Frid gives an inside view of exciting changes at the station.

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GREEN LIGHT FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

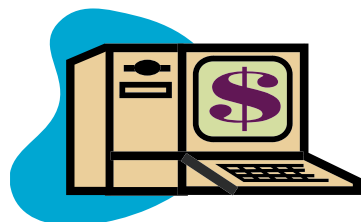
The town of Hudson saves energy and money with LED traffic lights.

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LIVING HISTORY

The Northern Forest Heritage Park in Berlin tells the story of those who made their living – and still do – from the North Country's forests.

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NASHUA'S ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Helping People Reach Their Potential

A single mother wants to become adept in computer technology so she can get a better paying job. A new business needs to hire a large group of trained individuals in order to thrive.

Two problems, one solution: Nashua's Adult Learning Center. This non-profit agency provides academic and skills training to help adults achieve more productive lives. Services not only benefit individuals and families, but also local businesses and the general community.

To address needed improvements in technology and facilities, the learning center has launched a capital campaign, with hopes of raising \$750,000 from the community.

To date, more than \$591,000 has been raised, including \$30,000 from PSNH. Funds from the donation will be used to upgrade training technology. ■

NH Matters

PUBLIC SERVICE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE: WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR STATE

PROTECTING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S ENVIRONMENT

RESCUING A THREATENED RESOURCE IN LACONIA

It may be impossible to turn back the clock, but PSNH has done the next-best thing in Laconia, where byproducts from a pre-1900 power plant contaminated the waters in Opechee Bay and the Winnepesaukee River. After more than six years of environmental studies and remediation work, the company and its partners are returning the river and bay to conditions that are again safe for fishing and swimming.

The story of one of New Hampshire's largest environmental cleanup projects goes back to 1894, when the Laconia Gas Light Company built a manufactured gas plant on Messer Street. Like the estimated 3,000 other MGPs operating throughout the country during this period, the Messer Street plant used coal and oil to produce gas to light and heat local residences and businesses.

The plant was operated by several different owners until 1926, when it was taken over by PSNH, who operated it until 1945. PSNH then sold the plant to Gas Services Incorporated. This company, which later became EnergyNorth Natural Gas, operated the plant until 1981, converting it over the years from manufactured gas, to butane/propane, to natural gas. In 1981, the facilities and equipment were removed, and the property was sold to a local businessman.

"In addition to producing gas, the manufactured gas process also generated several byproducts, including coal tar," says PSNH Scientist Bea Hebert. "In the fall of 1993, local divers discovered coal tar byproducts in the Winnepesaukee River. Since the discovery, PSNH has worked cooperatively with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to develop a plan to address the environmental issues at the site."

In a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to the NHDES, PSNH proposed a long-term solution to the contamination problem. Phase 1 would address the contaminants on the land that were leaching into the Winnepesaukee River. Phase 2 would

address the contaminants in the water.

In September 1999, contractor Maxymillian Technologies of Boston, MA, and the environmental engineering firm Haley & Aldrich of Manchester, NH, began Phase 1 work. PSNH affiliate Northeast Generation Services (NGS) provided engineering and construction oversight throughout the project.

"A major part of Phase 1 work



involved sealing off the water from the land by installing a 430-foot-long barrier wall and coal tar collection system along the shore of the Winnepesaukee River, designed to prevent contaminants from migrating into the river," says Bill Haswell of Haley & Aldrich.

In the river, divers from the Black Dog Divers used a vacuum pump to extract approximately 150 gallons of free phase coal tar from the bottom of the river in the cove area near the Messer Street Bridge.

"Early in Phase 1, we discovered a major source of the coal tar in the buried remains of a 'gas holder,'" Hebert explains. "The 53-foot-diameter holder was built in 1894 and originally held the gas that resulted from the burning of coal. After all the contaminants were removed from the holder and sent off-site for proper processing and disposal, the holder was backfilled with clean gravel – and the source of the coal tar was eliminated."

Phase 2, starting in August 2000, involved the daunting task of actually dredging some 2.5 acres and stabilizing 2.9 acres of coal tar-impacted sediments in Opechee Bay and the Winnepesaukee River. "Dredging was performed by selectively removing the top two feet of contaminated sediments," Haswell says, "and stabilization consists of placing a one-foot-deep layer of erosion-resistant soil and gravel on the river bottom. Some areas were just dredged or just stabilized."

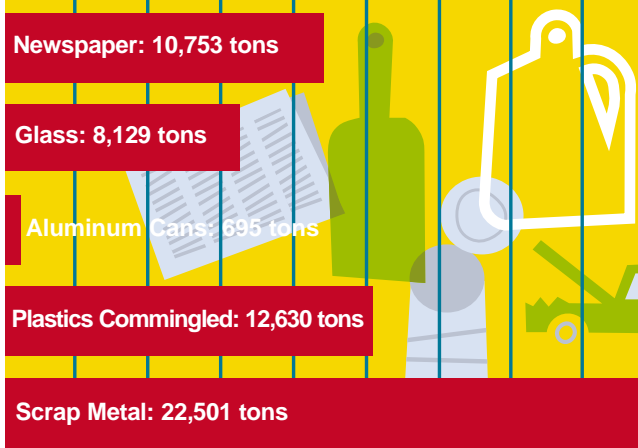
Most of this work was completed during an extended drawdown of the river. Lowering the water level five feet exposed much of the area that needed dredging, allowing workers to use conventional excavation equipment. When the drawdown was over, workers went back to using equipment on barges. Global positioning systems (GPS) on huge cranes guided the work, while level-cut buckets specially designed for environmental work allowed steady depth control and minimized sediment loss from the bucket.

From the river, the 8,000 - 13,000 cubic yards of tarry soil went into a giant tent at the former gas plant site, where the water was drained from it, collected, treated, and sent to the local waste water treatment facility. The dry soil was hauled to Environmental Soil Management, Inc. in Loudon, one of about 20 facilities in the country qualified to remove contaminants from coal tar-impacted soil. PSNH will be monitoring the results of its work over the next several years with periodic groundwater and surface water testing.

"Over the last several years, PSNH has done everything we would like them to do at the Messer Street site – and more," says Bob Minicucci, NHDES's project manager for the site. "I know that PSNH and its parent company, Northeast Utilities, have endorsed the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES) principles. In their work at Messer Street, the company is acting as if it believes in, and is living these principles." ■

A SNAPSHOT OF NH RECYCLING

Municipal Recycling in 1999*



* Represents a sampling of all recycled items. Includes NH municipal recycling only, and not any figures from industrial or commercial entities.

SOURCE: THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GOVERNOR'S RECYCLING PROGRAM, 2001.

Donations Summon Computers Out of Retirement

Before Frank Eaton became New Hampshire College's director of purchasing, he spent some time in Honduras as a photo journalist with the medical detachment of the National Guard. There, he witnessed great poverty and need, something that opened his eyes to the supplies being wasted here in the United States.

"When I came back, I noticed there were so many things we were throwing away that would be gold to them," said Eaton. "Come to find out, there's a great need here as well."

Recognizing a classic case of supply and demand, Eaton got himself in the business of middleman. By giving

Some of the first recipients of PSNH's computer donations to The Donation Depot: (l to r) Jean Desany, Voluntary Action Center in Manchester; Rev. Dan Stauffacher, First Congregational Church in Pembroke; Bob Miller, Southern New Hampshire Services in Manchester; John Daigle, Hooksett Police Department; Nancy Ladd, Pillsbury Free Library in Warner; Roxanne Kate, Community Health Access Network in Raymond.

companies a single destination for surplus equipment, donations could be distributed equally to a broad range of non-profit organizations.

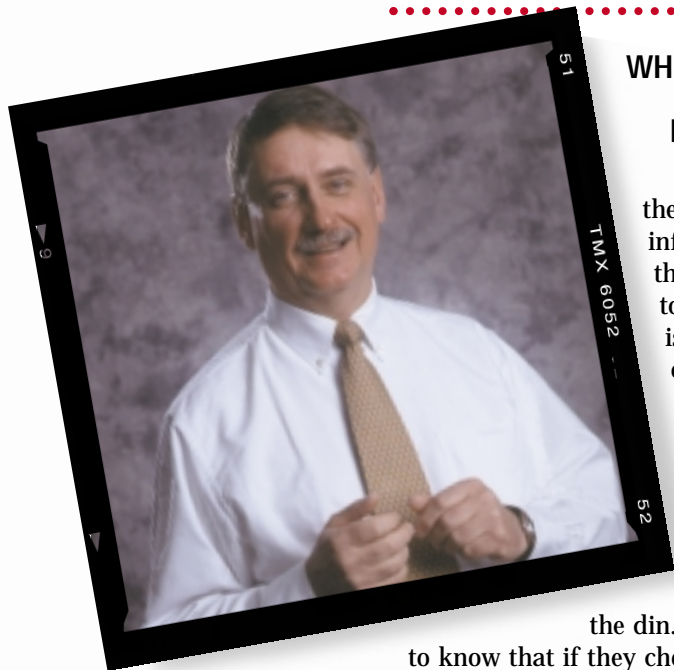
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PHOTO BY TERI BEAULIEU

New Hampshire Public Television's PETER FRID: Responding to the needs of a rapidly growing and regionally diverse state population.

Peter Frid, CEO and general manager of New Hampshire Public Television, talked with us recently about how NHPTV is making itself heard in the media landscape. Creative uses for technology and new programming like NH Outlook, a regional current affairs news program hosted by Allison McNair, are just some of the exciting changes taking place at the station. "It's all about being responsive and making a positive impact on the community," Frid says.



WHERE DOES NHPTV FIT INTO THE MARKETPLACE?

If you look at all the media choices and information sources that are available today, the competition is very intense for our station. We know that public television is a highly trusted medium, so our vision is to become a "clarifier" in the din. We want people to know that if they choose NH Public Television, they will get well-researched information, and good quality content with multiple viewpoints.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR AUDIENCE THAT LED YOU TO DEVELOP NH OUTLOOK?

New Hampshire has a great sense about itself. The traditions here are very different from other regions. People come to NHPTV with a passion for programming that accurately reflects the culture and values of the state. This feeling has traditionally made shows like New Hampshire Crossroads, Granite State Challenge, and New Hampshire Roundtable popular. We're also aware that our state is facing many deep and complex issues, and that to be able to make informed decisions, people need substantive information. This need is what we hope to address with new programming like NH Outlook.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF NHPTV?

Our mission is to serve the public interest through education, culture and civic discourse. When I arrived five years ago and started talking to the board about the direction of NHPTV, there was a fair amount of discussion about, "What should public television be doing in New Hampshire to make it relevant

to the future?" Parallel with this process of inquiry, two other statewide organizations – NH Public Radio and the New Hampshire Historical Society – were asking the same questions of themselves. We decided to collectively survey people from around the state about their needs and concerns to determine how our organizations can better serve the people of New Hampshire. Eighteen months later, we have had more than a dozen facilitated conversations. This has helped set the future course for the station.

ARE THE RESULTS SURPRISING AT ALL?

Yes and no. One thing that is fascinating is the sense of disconnectedness among the regions in the state. Even though New Hampshire is a small state, it is very different living in the Seacoast than it is in the North Country. Some of the regions feel like their voices are not heard in a balanced way. It has made us realize that, since we serve 98 percent of the state's population, we need to be more responsive to their diverse set of needs.

WHAT CHANGES ARE YOU MAKING AS A RESULT OF THIS FEEDBACK?

We have been investing a tremendous amount in technology, as we convert from analog to digital broadcasting at the station. This new technology will allow us to deliver more services in the future. Our goal is to produce relevant, quality content. And so one of the things we've been working on is to think of ourselves less as being in an infrastructure business and more as a content and outreach service. We want this content to make a difference, whether it is delivered through television or other technology platforms such as the web, video streaming or distance learning.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES?

Our support of education initiatives is probably the best example. We have used technology to create an electronic classroom to teach teachers how to use media in the classroom. We produced a 16-part environmental series with the Squam Lake Natural Science Center. This series was targeted to

students in grades 3-6 and is one of the highest-rated PBS offerings available to schools nationwide this year.

In addition to conventional programming, we're also using our broadcast signal to deliver classes to "distance education" students who live in remote locations or can't easily get to a classroom. We are currently broadcasting college credit courses for New Hampshire Community Technical College students who are working on their associate's degrees and we're exploring ways we can use our station and new technologies to deliver other educational programs. Using our video-conferencing capability, we've conducted teacher-training sessions across the state, and we see potential for training programs for business and industry as well.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS, COMMUNITY, AND EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AT NHPTV?

These relationships are critical, and we plan to continue to explore partnerships with corporations and foundations not only for their essential financial support (they provide 13 percent of our operating budget), but because everything we do is built on relationships and partnerships. For instance, PSNH has been a longtime sponsor of Granite State Challenge and New Hampshire Roundtable, which speaks to PSNH's commitment to community service. In addition, their substantial support for NH Outlook will help bring important information about state issues to our audience.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO PETER FRID?

Public broadcasting has been my career for 33 years, and I believe what television can do, as an educational and information resource, is extraordinary. What I hope to accomplish is to engage both my staff and community in identifying important community issues and needs and then delivering those programs and services to the public. I hope NHPTV can create a spirit that helps people feel that they are really making a difference in the quality of life in our state. ■

GETTING ALL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ON THE SAME FREQUENCY

NHPR Extends its Signal into the North Country

Being a relatively small state, New Hampshire harbors the possibility of creating a statewide sense of community – a discourse of ideas, culture, and events that links every town and city from Littleton to Nashua, Claremont to Portsmouth.

Just as New Hampshire Public Television (see story above) is seeking to accomplish this through new programming, New Hampshire Public Radio (NHPR) is using its medium to help turn this possibility into a reality. With last year's addition of WEVC, 107.1 FM, a station based in Berlin, NHPR has extended its reach over the White Mountains and into the northern regions of the state.

"We continually heard from residents of northern

New Hampshire, asking that we work toward making New Hampshire Public Radio available to them," says Mark Handley, president and general manager of New Hampshire Public Radio. "In fact, the 1999 session of the New Hampshire Legislature passed a resolution asking NHPR to do all that it could to extend its signal north."

With no lack of conceptual support from the state, the only thing holding NHPR back was the funding. In 1999, NHPR began a campaign to raise the money necessary to start up a new station in Coos County.

"The North Country Capital Campaign was launched in the summer of 1999 and the response from the statewide public radio listening audience



was tremendous," Handley said.

Among the supporters was PSNH, who contributed \$50,000 to help NHPR expand into northern regions.

"PSNH has been an enthusiastic supporter of New Hampshire Public

Radio for the past decade," said Gary Long, PSNH president and COO. "We fully recognize their value in providing in-depth news, information and diverse cultural experiences to the New Hampshire audiences. We are very pleased to contribute to NHPR's growth and to help extend their outstanding broadcast services to our customers in the North Country." ■

LEDs Lead to Savings in Hudson

If you're looking for cutting-edge technology and cost-cutting innovation, a town's department of public works might not be the first place that comes to mind. But in the town of Hudson, some out-of-the-box thinking at the DPW is putting a sizable amount of money back in the town's coffers.

Evidence of the growth and popularity of the town, Hudson has 10 town-owned lighted traffic intersections, more than many small cities in New Hampshire. A typical four-way traffic intersection has at least 24 lights, and more if the intersection has traffic arrows



Kevin Burns, Hudson's public works director, displays a demonstration LED traffic light.

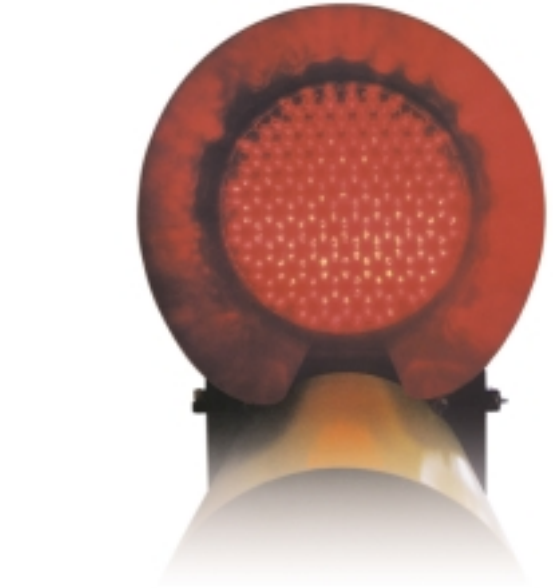
or "Walk/Don't Walk" signals. This, coupled with the fact that traffic lights operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, makes it worthwhile to think twice about opportunities to save on the electric usage associated with these lights.

But when sales reps called on Kevin Burns, Hudson's public works director, to sell him on the benefits of new LED traffic lights – light-emitting diodes that are much more efficient than incandescent bulbs but also much more expensive initially – Burns sent them packing. "I told them they were crazy if they thought I was going to replace a \$4 light with a \$200 one," he says.

Clearly very skeptical but also intrigued by the promise of savings, Burns eventually agreed to the free 60-day field trial offered by one of the salespeople, replacing 14 incandescent lights with LEDs at the intersection of Lowell Road and Central Street. Sixty days was more than enough time to prove the point: Although the intersection still had 24 incandescent lights in service, electricity usage at the intersection dropped almost in half as a result of the LEDs. If all the incandescent lights had been replaced, the town would have seen about a 90 percent drop in electricity usage at the site.

The savings were clear, but the up-front cost of the LEDs was still an obstacle. That is, until Burns heard about the rebate PSNH offers to municipalities for replacing incandescent traffic lights with LEDs.

"As part of our Energy Efficiency Program, we provide qualifying customers with rebates to help buy down the costs of energy efficiency improvements," says PSNH Senior Engineer Randy Dixon. "We feel that providing rebates for LEDs is a great way to



help cities and towns save energy and improve safety at their intersections with more efficient and longer-lasting traffic lights."

Burns saw that PSNH's rebates brought the LEDs' payback time down from 26 to 15 months. Equally important, the LEDs have a life expectancy of 10 years and a warranty of 5, as opposed to the incandescent lights, which burn out in less than a year and often require expensive emergency replacement.

These facts, and an LED demonstration model he set up at the highway department facility, were enough to convince the town's budget committee in 1998 to provide funding to gradually replace the town's existing traffic lights with LEDs. By January 2001, all 10 of Hudson's lighted intersections were lit by LEDs, with the exception of the yellow lights, which are not on long enough to make replacement economical. Burns notes, however, that any new intersections will be 100 percent LEDs.

"Last year, the LEDs saved the town about \$10,000 in electricity costs, and cut maintenance costs related to traffic lights by 25 percent," Burns says. "I'm sold. I don't know why every town isn't using LEDs." ■

THE PALACE THEATRE

Reviving the Performing Arts in the Heart of Manchester

During the glory days of theater in Manchester – from 1915, when it was built, to the 1930s – the Palace Theatre on Hanover Street was just one of 22 active theaters in the Queen City. In those years, its stage hosted performances from the likes of Jimmy Durante, Bob Hope, Harry Houdini, and The Marx Brothers.

Today, the Palace is the only surviving – and some might even whisper, thriving – theater in Manchester. Recent performances at the 865-seat theater include *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Forever Plaid*, *Annie*, *The Sound of Music*, *Grease*, and *Carousel*, as well as popular acoustic acts like The 10,000 Maniacs, Bruce Cockburn, and Tim Janis.

It was only a short time ago, however, when things weren't looking very good for the Palace. In 1998, the financial collapse of its operating company, the New Hampshire Performing Arts Center, forced the theater to shut down. Most show schedules stopped mid-season that year, and it was clear that major changes would be necessary to save the Palace from facing a final curtain call.

The building's owners, the Palace Theatre Trust, assumed management of the theater and immediately set these changes in motion by hiring a new executive director, Peter Ramsey, director of the Lakes Region Theater. He arrived to find a building with its lights out and its doors locked. Despite this inauspicious beginning, Ramsey had an appreciation for what the Palace had been, and a clear vision for what it could become.

"More than one actor has told us it was their dream to 'play the Palace,'" he says. "It is probably the most well-known theater in New Hampshire. It's also a very intimate theater, even though it has over 800 seats. That small-theater feeling is partially due to the fact that the back row is only 80 feet from the stage. We can't do everything, but what we can do is put good theater on the stage that is reasonably priced. And that is working."

That and a few other things he has done. In less than two years, Ramsey has reorganized the Palace



PHOTO BY GERALD DURRETT

operation, hired a full-time staff, cleaned and painted the theater – and staged performances that have brought over 100,000 people through the doors.

Restored to its ornate splendor, with its gold proscenium surrounded by carved border and figures, the Palace stage is now home to the New Hampshire Symphony Orchestra, the New Hampshire Philharmonic, the Opera League of New Hampshire, The Silver Stars (see related story), Palace Professional Production, and the Palace Youth Theater Group.

"We have seen a dramatic turnaround in the theater, and it is certainly a reflection of both the professional management and the community's response to good theater and intelligent programming," notes Palace Board of Directors member Patrick McGee.

The community has responded both by buying tickets and by making contributions. Individuals and organizations have helped the Palace raise over \$550,000 to help retain professional management, create breathing room in the form of a three-year infusion of operating funds, and build a financial plan to stabilize the theater. One of these organizations, PSNH, pledged \$15,000 over three years to help the theater get back on its feet.

"Supporting the rebirth of this incredible asset was an easy decision for us," says PSNH Community Relations Manager Doris Burke. "We will all benefit as the Palace once again becomes a dynamic, community-oriented center for the performing arts." ■

"During our premier production, I watched an 87-year-old woman who had never been on a stage before, sing her heart out at the Palace Theatre," recalls Ken Rondeau, founder of The Silver Stars, a

THE SILVER STARS GIVE SENIORS A CHANCE TO SHINE

theater group for seniors. "We started organizing The Silver Stars in February 2000, and we

now have over 90 seniors on our mailing list – with over half of them performing in the first production, *The Silver Stars REVUE*, to a combined audience of over 1,100 people."

The first performances took place on two mornings and an evening in October 2000 and were a "rousing success" according to Rondeau. "Everyone benefits with this program," he says. "It's affordable (at \$5.00 per ticket and free for participating seniors), and the performances are scheduled for the beginning of the week, which is a great time for the theater and also works for our audience. Most importantly, there is laughter, learning, and companionship."

A PSNH employee by day and active himself in theater locally, Rondeau says he has passed on much of the planning for the next performance to the Show Committee, made up of 12 seniors who are busy selecting material and building schedules for The Silver Stars' spring show *The Silver Stars Salute to the Silver Screen*, May 29th and 30th. ■





Present Meets Past at Northern Forest Heritage Park

Most times, when people speak of their heritage, they're talking about the past. But there are still some places left where heritage is so firmly bound to a community's livelihood that it remains a functioning, breathing thing.

Situated on the far side of the White Mountains, the Northern Forest of New Hampshire may seem even further removed from cities like Concord and Manchester than the hour-long drive would indicate. There, people are still – as they have been for more than a century – immanently tied to the woods for their way of life.

The Northern Forest Heritage Park celebrates this connection. Located in Berlin, the Heritage Park promotes the concept of a working forest, where advocates of conservation, recreation, tourism, industry, education, and cultural interests all find themselves on common ground.

"When you visit other 'heritage' sites across the country you see pictures and visit restored buildings, and you hear that the industry died or left the region," said Lew R. McCreery, Economic Action Program coordinator for the USDA Forest Service. "The Northern Forest Heritage Park is not taking that approach. You see the pictures, hear the stories, and visit recreations of the past. But, then, you also have the opportunity to experience today's industry and meet the people whose livelihood depends on caring for and using the forest."

The Northern Forest Heritage Park Trust works to preserve, interpret, and promote the story of the working forest and the multi-cultural heritage of the region. Established in 1994, it continues to grow



A participant in the spring-board event at the Great NorthWoods Lumberjack competition held at Northern Forest Heritage Park.

in size and scope through the efforts of dedicated volunteers and the donations of individuals and corporations.

The park features a 500-seat amphitheater overlooking the Androscoggin River, a main house with rotating exhibits of paintings by local artists, a working blacksmith shop, an ESPN-style lumberjack competition, and the annual Festival Du Bois, an international celebration of wood, paper, traditional arts, music, and French culture.

With capital raised through grants and their newly established annual fundraising campaign, the park will soon add buildings to its Logging Camp Museum, boat docks

for river access, more outreach programming for local school children, and classes in paper making and an array of forest-related traditional arts.

Along with the objectives of educating and passing on local heritage, the creators of the park also have other goals in mind.

"We believe that rural communities need to find creative ways to diversify their economies from single industry-based to more diverse and integrated ones, and that by creating community sustainability, underlying conservation and preservation goals will be achieved," said Joan Chamberlain, Heritage Park executive director.

By showcasing the industry that has sustained the region for the last century, the folks at Heritage are actually creating a new source of income for the area: tourism. In doing so, they are taking some of the economic pressure off of mills and the logging industry to support the local economy, thereby increasing the likelihood of support for forest preservation by locals working to sustain both their families and the health of the ecosystem.

PSNH is a partner in this effort, donating \$5,000 to the park's new campaign.

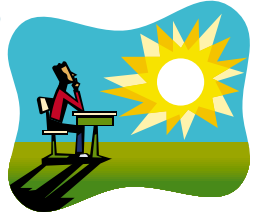
"Berlin is a microcosm of the Northern Forest Region," said Pat McDermott, economic and community development manager for PSNH. "The living heritage of the region is apparent in its buildings, still in use; its resources, still much in demand; and its people, determined as ever to make a living in the area they love. The Heritage Park gives us insight into this world, at once a part of New Hampshire's greater history, and a realm unto itself." ■

POSTSCRIPTS ON PROGRESS

Here are some updates on subjects of previous NH Matters stories:

SOLAR ON SCHOOLS EXPANDS

With the addition of three more schools, 25 percent of public high schools in PSNH's service territory are participating in the New Hampshire Solar on Schools Program. A partnership between the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services, the New Hampshire Department of Education, Solar Works, Inc. of Wilton, and PSNH, the program is designed to educate students and the public about an important renewable energy technology. In addition to providing partial funding for one- or two-kilowatt rooftop solar electric (photovoltaic) panels and access to a solar energy educator, the program offers each qualifying school a package of resource materials on renewable energy, including a variety of interactive classroom and field exercises for students. Nashua High School, Portsmouth High School, and ConVal High School in Peterborough recently joined the 10 other high schools already participating in the program. ■



Donations Summon Computers Out of Retirement Continued from front page.

"It simplifies the process," said Eaton. Run out of a former dormitory on the North Campus of New Hampshire College in Hooksett, he named his creation the Donation Depot. It now serves over 900 registered non-profit organizations.

Carrying a wide variety of inventory, including reams of cloth, paper supplies, and office furniture, one of the depot's most popular items is the computer, and with good reason. Expensive to purchase, both new and used, computers provide unparalleled access to modern learning tools.

For businesses keeping pace with ever-changing technology, computers become outmoded

after only a few years of use. However, these same computers are priceless to students and agencies who otherwise might have little or no access to computer technologies.

Representatives from any non-profit organization can retrieve computers and other supplies from the Donation Depot on the last Friday of every month. Eaton has also designated one Saturday morning each month just for teachers and other school officials.

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

The Donation Depot works closely with the New Hampshire Governor's Recycling Program,

which has its own computer recycling program. The Governor's Computers in the Schools Program has a similar, though more specific, mission as the Donation Depot; it seeks to put up-to-date computers in the classrooms of New Hampshire's public schools. In the last three years, nearly 1,400 computer systems have been distributed to districts in need.

"A lot of schools in New Hampshire don't have the resources to pay for the kind of technology that students should be using," said Todd Ellis, recycling planner for the Governor's Office. "This program has definitely made a great impact on the schools that have received computers, but there's still a great need. And as technology becomes more a part of everyday life, that need is increasing."

At Manchester West High School, computers donated through the Governor's program have drastically expanded the possibilities of drafting and Tech Ed classes. At Bartlett and Brown Elementary Schools, the kindergarten through third

grade classes now boast two computer stations each. And at Newmarket Middle/High School, students are gaining useful training in everything from typing to creating spreadsheets with Microsoft Excel.

PSNH MAKES GOOD USE OF OLDER TECHNOLOGY

Understanding the value of its technology resource, PSNH is donating a combined total of more than 340 used computers to the two programs.

"PSNH donated computers to the Governor's program in 1998, and we were very happy with the results, so we were eager to continue supporting the initiative," said Doris Burke, community relations manager for PSNH. "We were also aware that the Donation Depot reached organizations desperately in need of computers, including charities and agencies not covered by the Computers in Schools program. Partnering with both programs, we're able to expand our reach in the community to encompass a wider scope of non-profit organizations." ■

BUSH A CLEAR WINNER WITH NH KIDS

When some 17,000 kindergarten through grade 12 students went to the polls on Election Day 2000, there was no question who won their race for president. George W. Bush received 8,365 votes to Al Gore's 7,590 in the Kids Voting election results.



Founded in 1988, Kids Voting is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization designed to teach children across the country, from kindergarten through high school, about the importance of voting in a democracy. Working with schools in Concord, Manchester, Greenland, Portsmouth, Rye, Whitefield, Lancaster, Twin Mountain, Jefferson and Dalton, the Kids Voting-New Hampshire program is designed to educate students, increase voter turnout among adults, and help to battle voter apathy.

Just as the Kids Voting presidential results mirrored the actual state election results, the students – like their parents – also returned Governor Jeanne Shaheen to the Governor's Office with 8,970 votes to 5,795 votes for Gordon Humphrey. ■



Public Service of New Hampshire

The Northeast Utilities System

We welcome your comments.

Please contact:

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