

# Emergency Management Report

Emergency management activities for 2005 focused in three areas: preparedness, response and mitigation. Planning took on a new approach during the year. Specifically, Warner joined the Capital Area Public Health Network. This network will serve as an important step in preparing for health related emergencies. Work continues with the tenants of the Old Graded School building in drafting an emergency plan for the building. I am hopeful that this will be completed in 2006.

Training and exercises are important tools in preparing for emergencies. In February, our emergency management team participated in a Winter Storm Table-top exercise. An outside Facilitator was utilized to coordinate this exercise. This was the first time that our Emergency Operation's Center was activated with telephone lines being transferred thanks to TDS Telecom. I would like to thank all that participated in this exercise. A full-scale exercise is planned for mid 2006 that will involve field operations as well as events at the Emergency Operation's Center.

One preparedness issue that has not been addressed is an alternate route off Kearsarge Mountain Road above Kirtland St. This item was identified in the 1999 Master Plan, but *no action* has been taken to date. Additionally, Warner's Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies this situation. If there were an incident in the center of Town or on Kearsarge Mountain Road which requiring the evacuation of Warner citizens, approximately 600 + residents on Kearsarge Mountain Road would have no way of evacuating. *It is time to address this issue.*

Back in 2003, FEMA approved Warner's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The approval permitted the Town to apply for Pre-Disaster federal grants. I am happy to report that Warner has applied for a Pre-Disaster grant to address the Warner River bank erosion in the area of East Roby District Road. If the grant is approved, Warner will receive a 75% federal match for this project.

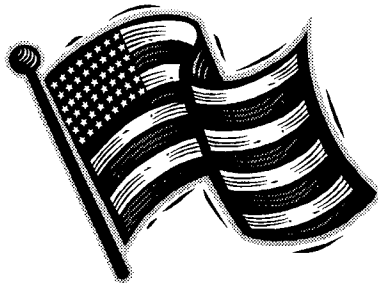
October 2005 was *very wet* with many inches of rain to this area. This presented many challenges for the Town with washed out roads, swelled streams and the potential of a dam breach in a neighboring community. This was the first time in recent years that emergency management was directly involved in response activities. Fortunately, the dam stayed intact. Due to the massive amount of damage, the State received a Federal Disaster Declaration. This allowed Warner to apply for reimbursement (Approx. 75%) of the funds expended to repair washed out roads and culverts. The Town is also working with the State in applying for Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation funding to replace outdated culverts.

# Emergency Management Report

I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen, all Town Departments, individuals, and organizations involved with emergency management activities for your continued support and cooperation during the year. By working together, we will be prepared when disaster strikes.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Edward F. Mical  
Coordinator*



# Budget Committee Report

The 2006 Budget Committee began the process this year analyzing the past budgets, and from that analysis, requested that the Selectmen limit their budget to a 3% increase over last year's budget. This goal was very difficult with exploding fuel costs and a consumer price index in excess of 4% for 2005.

We all realized that with a "limited budget increase" we would not be able to complete all the tasks that we "would like to do", but both the Selectmen and the Budget Committee feel we will be able to complete the tasks necessary to meet the needs of the residents of Warner and maintain fiscal responsibility to the Town of Warner. The completed budget meets both of these goals.

The Budget Committee would like to thank the Selectmen, Department Heads and the Employees of the Town of Warner for their efforts in the successful budget process.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mike Cutting - Chairman  
Jere Henley - Vice Chairman  
Christine Perkins  
Marc Violette  
Harold Whittemore  
David Karrick  
Peter Newman*

# Fire Department Report



In the year 2005, the Fire Department responded to 400 calls and alarms. This is an all-time record and the members should be commended for their quick and professional response to all the calls. We had a very positive response to our Sunday duty coverage at the fire station during the summer months so we will continue this year. Stop by and meet the members and see our equipment and operation.

Through the State of New Hampshire and the Federal Homeland Security Grant program we will be receiving 25 new portable radios for the Fire Department. Last year we received 7 new mobile radios for the trucks. This is about \$70,000 worth of radio equipment which is a huge help with the budget. With your support of our budget we will be able to maintain and replace our personal equipment to a high level. PLEASE number your homes so we can find your homes quicker in an emergency. There are still a lot of homes that are not numbered properly.

Four members resigned this year including Warren Sawyer with 31 years of service, Jere Henley with 28 years, Ron Piroso Jr. with 20 years and Bob Dumong with 12 years. The Department wishes to thank them all for their many years of service to the Town. New members include Jon France, Ross Mingarelli and Andy Harte. I would like to extend my thanks to all members for your continued support and response. We have an excellent Fire Department and it would not be possible without you. Thanks also to the Selectmen, residents and all other Town departments for your support.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Richard Brown  
Fire Chief*

## Summary of Calls and Alarms of 2005

Medical Emergencies	195
Vehicle Fires	5
Brush/Grass Fires	15
Alarm Activations	24
Power Lines Down & misc.	12
Service Calls	16
Vehicle Accidents	78
Chimney Fires	6
Illegal Burns	4
Haz Mat	5
Mutual Aid out of Town	40
Total for the year	400

# 911

**Be sure that your house number is  
visible from the street.  
To obtain a 911 number  
contact the  
Assessing Clerk  
Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
or you may call and leave a message  
456-2298 ex.223**

## **Report of Town Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger**

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands work collaboratively to reduce the risk and frequency of wildland fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, please contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. A fire permit is required for all outside burning unless the ground is completely covered with snow. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services also prohibits the open burning of household waste. Citizens are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 1-800-498-6868 or [www.des.state.nh.us](http://www.des.state.nh.us) for more information. Safe open burning requires diligence and responsibility. Help us to protect New Hampshire's forest resources. For more information please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2217, or online at [www.nhdfl.org](http://www.nhdfl.org).

Fire activity was high during the first several weeks of the 2005 fire season, with red-flag conditions issued by the National Weather Service and extreme fire danger in the southern and central portions of the state. This period of increased initial attack activity prompted a 5-day ban on open burning, the first such ban in several years. Despite the dry conditions, the state's largest wildland fire was contained at 29 acres. Our statewide system of fire lookout towers is credited with keeping the fires small and saving several structures this season due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. Fires in the wildland urban interface damaged 10 structures, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wildland fire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles, and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe.



**ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRES**

**2005 Fire Statistics**

**(All fires reported thru November 18, 2005)**

**Totals by County**

**Causes of Fires Reported**

	<b><u># of Fires</u></b>	<b><u>Acres</u></b>		
Belknap	52	15.00	Arson	2
Carroll	78	5.00	Campfire	34
Cheshire	10	29.00	Children	29
Coos	42	8.00	Smoking	40
Grafton	48	10.00	Debris	284
Hillsborough	115	15.00	Railroad	1
Merrimack	80	25.00	Lightning	5
Rockingham	40	25.00	Equipment	7
Strafford	22	31.00	Misc*	111
Sullivan	8	2.00		

(\*Misc: powerlines, fireworks, railroad, ashes, debris, structures, equipment )

	<b><u>Total Fires</u></b>	<b><u>Total Acres</u></b>
<b>2005</b>	513	174
<b>2004</b>	482	147
<b>2003</b>	374	100
<b>2002</b>	540	187

**ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRES**

*Respectfully submitted,*

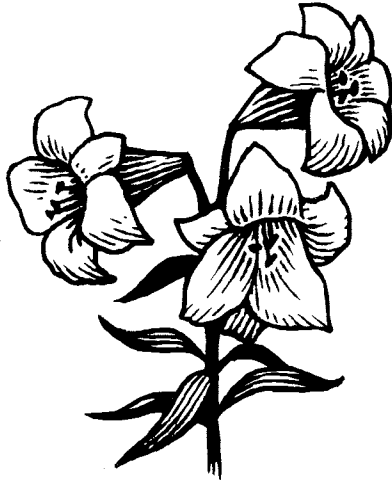
*Philip Bryce*

*Director of Forest Protection Division*

*Brad W. Simpkins*

*Chief of Forest Protection Division*

# Trustees of Town Cemeteries Annual Report



The Trustees of Town Cemeteries are responsible for the maintenance, repair, and improvements to the thirty cemeteries in the Town of Warner. Some of these are small family lots in presently undeveloped sections of Warner, as well as the New Waterloo Cemetery located on Route 103 west of Town.

As we continue to work on our plan to refurbish our Town's older cemeteries, the voters at the March Town Meeting again approved \$5,000.00 for the Expendable Cemetery Trust for Headstone Restoration. We were also pleased to receive another donation from the Nancy Sibley Wilkins Trust.

On Cemetery Review Day in April, stones needing repair were staked in Old Waterloo and Peaceful Retreat Cemeteries. The main gate at New Waterloo was found to need adjustment and it was confirmed that the red oak limb had been removed from the Pumpkin Hill cemetery. Coal Hearth and Poor Farm cemeteries were also looked over but continuing rain ended further activity.

By the end of the summer Perry Brothers had completed work in Old Waterloo cemetery. We now expect to turn our attention to Peaceful Retreat.

# Trustees of Town Cemeteries

## Annual Report

At our request, a public hearing was held on November 15, 2005 on a proposed policy regarding vehicular access to New Waterloo during the winter. There were no objections from those in attendance and the Selectmen approved the policy: *Vehicle access to New Waterloo Cemetery will be prohibited from November 15 to May 1 or at the discretion of the Cemetery Trustees based on weather conditions. The pedestrian gate will remain open for year- round access.*

We express our thanks to the American Legion, Gary Young, FVB Landscaping of Bradford, and Perry Brothers of Concord for their exceptional efforts in caring for our cemeteries. We also thank the citizens and organizations of Warner who have so generously provided the necessary funds that make these efforts possible.

Our care of the cemeteries is a reflection of our respect for the past and a measure of our ongoing commitment to the well being of our community.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Anna M. Allen  
Kenneth W. Cogswell  
Gerald B. Courser  
Robert C. Shoemaker, III  
Donald H. Wheeler*

# Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association and Affiliates

Lake Sunapee Region VNA is proud to provide home health, hospice and community services to residents of the Town of Warner, a member town of Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association since 1970. We are committed to being able to meet the health care needs of residents of your community to the best of our ability. During the past year, 1033 home care, and 174 hospice visits were made to adults and children needing skilled home health services. More than 1975 hours of support services were provided for those with long term care needs. Fifteen residents used our Lifeline program and 8 individuals had their health status monitored daily using our telemedicine technology. Other services utilized include caregiver training and support, bereavement support, parent/child program, and prevention and wellness services including screening clinics, foot care clinics, and immunization clinics.

Our mission remains at the heart of our care. LSRVNA provides many services that are integral to our mission but which are not reimbursed and are often provided at minimal or no cost. These include support groups (bereavement, caregiver, parent/child), community education, certain hospice services, telemonitoring of patient health status, clinics, health fairs and more.

Cost saving and efficiency measures are constantly explored. We believe that innovation is essential for a strong future. Thoughtful hiring and cross-training of staff, a growing volunteer base, and use of telemedicine and other technology like laptop computers for clinical staff are key to controlling costs. Our costs per episode of care are among the lowest in our region. We now have five years of experience in utilizing telemedicine. This tool helps us encourage patients and families to take an active role in managing their illness, reduce unplanned emergent visits to the hospital, schedule nursing visits with greater efficiency, and communicate useful trended data to physicians for improved disease management. LSRVNA's rate of unplanned hospitalization is 31% below the state average, and 21% below the national average. We know that it's important to you as a patient and consumer to manage your illnesses and avoid emergency situations that put you at increased risk.

Staff competence is highly valued and LSRVNA annually invests in education of staff to ensure their skills will meet our patients' needs. We have over 130 staff and more than 70 active volunteers. Nurses are certified in areas like wound care, hospice and palliative care, and advance care planning.

# Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association and Affiliates

Others specialize in cardiac care, diabetes, bereavement care and nutrition. Longevity of VNA staff means continuity of care for our patients. Twenty percent of the staff has worked for the VNA for over 10 years, with the average length of employment at over 6 years.

Lake Sunapee Region VNA depends on support from our communities. Funds appropriated by the towns help us to care for more patients in the face of declining reimbursement and increasing costs. About 65% of our revenue comes from Medicare and Medicaid. Medicaid reimburses about 60% of what it costs us to care for a patient; and does not reimburse at all for mileage, care coordination or travel time. Our staff travels about 400,000 miles a year. In 2006, we expect the burden of high prices of gasoline alone to add as much as \$32,000 in expense to our budget for mileage. Other challenges include a growing and aging NH population, nursing and therapy shortages, costly Federal regulatory requirements, increasing fixed costs such as health care and other insurance, and high costs of technology upgrades.

When you, your family or neighbors need home care or hospice services, it is your right to choose the agency that provides that care. We are fortunate to have a strong base of support from towns, businesses and individuals and will strive to maintain our reputation in the community as an agency that is responsive, innovative, caring and worthy of your choice. Town support helps us maintain our commitment to our patients and the greater community to provide the care that you expect and deserve. Thank you for your confidence in our organization.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Andrea Steel  
President and CEO*

# Building Inspector's Report

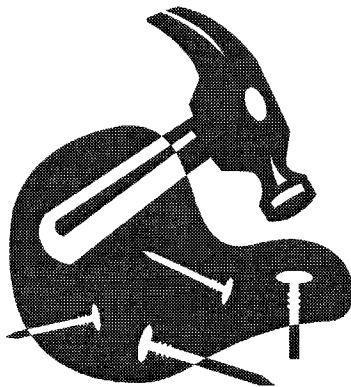
## Building Permits Issued in 2005

18	new homes
27	additions
12	barns/sheds
8	garages
1	business/commercial
0	demolition

Presently, the Town of Warner requires building permits for all new structures (including barns, sheds and other outbuildings) and any construction that changes the footprint or the use of an existing structure. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through the Selectmen's Office.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Ken Benward  
Building Inspector*



# Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

Established in accordance with state law, the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) is a voluntary association of 20 communities in Merrimack and Hillsborough Counties. The Town of Warner is a member in good standing of the Commission.

The Commission's mission is to improve, through education, training, and planning assistance, the ability of the municipalities of the region to prepare and implement municipal plans; to prepare a plan for effective and appropriate development and utilization of the resources of the region; and to assist municipalities in carrying out the regional plan.

The Commission provides a variety of planning services, including consultations on planning issues; planning research; sample ordinances, regulations, and planning documents; access to Census information and other data sources; grant information; review and comment on planning documents; development review; and educational programs. Membership also entitles a community to affordable master planning assistance, geographic information systems (GIS) mapping, build-out analysis preparation, and other land use and transportation planning-related assistance.

In 2005, CNHRPC staff:

- Prepared **NHDOT SPR Special Study (Exit 9 Warner)** for the Town, analyzed impacts of exit, land use implications, and safety considerations. Prepared and distributed GIS data for a presentation, collected and processed traffic count data for the study, and printed maps for the preparation of a final document. Attended meetings of the Planning Board and Zoning Board to discuss the zoning/land use regulation recommendations.
- Assisted town with proposed zoning amendments, driveway regulations, site plan provisions and access management issues.
- Assisted town with questions on site plan regulations and access management issues.
- Assisted town with questions on traffic studies and general site plan issues.
- Consulted with the Town on their zoning map.

In addition to the local services described above, in 2005 the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission:

- Provided general local planning assistance to member municipalities and responded to inquiries regarding zoning ordinance, subdivision regulation, and site plan review regulation revisions.

- Coordinated sub-regional workshops related to Planning Board process and general land use/transportation planning issues.
- Coordinated three meetings of the CNHRPC Regional Resource Conservation Committee (R2C2). The R2C2 seeks to bring representatives of each of the region's communities together to work on conservation issues that affect the overall region.
- Conducted approximately 165 traffic counts throughout the region.
- Finalized the update of the FY 2007-2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and participated in the development of the Statewide 10 Year Transportation Improvement Plan.
- Continued the development of the natural resources and transportation chapter of the Regional Plan.
- Organized and hosted three meetings of the CNHRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).
- Continued to maintain and improve the regional transportation model. The transportation model is an integral component of the I-93 Bow to Concord Transportation Planning Study and other local and regional transportation planning projects.
- Provided assistance to municipalities, groups and interested individuals regarding the Transportation Enhancements (TE) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) programs.
- Developed a Class 6 roads fact sheet and provided guidance related to Class 6 road issues to interested communities.
- Provided continuing technical assistance to the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (UMRLAC) and assisted in the initiation of the UMRLAC Management Plan update.

For additional information, please contact the CNHRPC staff, your representatives to the Commission Rick Davies and Jim McLaughlin, or visit us on the internet at [www.cnhrpc.org](http://www.cnhrpc.org).

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Sharon Wason, AICP  
CNHRPC*

**28 Commercial Street v Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
phone: (603) 226-6020 v fax: (603) 226-6023 v internet:  
[www.cnhrpc.org](http://www.cnhrpc.org)**

# Conservation Commission Report

The Conservation Commission has been busy this past year. In addition to the successful land protection projects listed below, and others in the works, we are planning to complete a town-wide Natural Resources Inventory with conservation funds, followed by a Town Conservation Plan.

## LAND PROTECTION

Working with its conservation partners and several generous Warner families, the Commission has completed the following protection efforts. In 2005 three projects were completed, protecting 507 acres of land in Warner with a total estimated value of \$388,500. This cost the Conservation Fund \$156,131.40, which is approximately \$308.00 per acre.

The Courser family made a generous donation of a conservation easement (CE) on 201 acres, valued at \$245,000. The Town Conservation fund helped cover the costs associated with creating the easement (\$23,966.58 of a \$27,366.58 total), in which the Town holds a back-up interest. We partnered with the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust and The Nature Conservancy to protect the land on the west side of Schoodac Road at the Webster town line. The property includes important wetlands and well managed forestlands, and abuts other land donated by the Courser Family in Webster. This was Phase I of a two-phase land protection effort with the Coursers, about which you will hear more in the future.

The Commission and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests worked with George Chase Jr. to purchase, at a discounted rate, a conservation easement on 272 acres off East Joppa Road in the Mink Hills. The CE was appraised at \$135,000. The forested property contains a large beaver pond with an active heron rookery. The Town provided \$125,000 to purchase the easement, and paid \$5,864.82 in expenses (transaction expenses and an Easement Stewardship Endowment contribution). The Forest Society took a Grantee interest and the responsibilities for monitoring and enforcement. The parcel was identified as one of the top ranked parcels in the Town's Mink Hills Conservation Plan.

John and Terrill Henderson generously gifted the Town of Warner fee ownership of 34 acres of land along the Warner River, with an estimated value of \$8,500. The Henderson's learned of the Commission's wish to conserve land along the river and offered to donate their land, with the Town paying \$1,300 for surveying, legal and ZBA fees. The land, comprised mostly of wetlands, was added to an existing Town-owned parcel to further increase the protective floodplain buffer along the river.

# Conservation Commission Report

## BUDGET COMMITTEE REMARKS

The following remarks were presented to the Budget Committee on January 16, 2006 concerning conservation funding.

“Each year in the budget, we as a community make declarations of what is important to us. For the past several years we have stated emphatically that appropriating money to the Conservation Fund is an important investment which reflects one reason we all choose to live and raise our families in Warner.

In addition to the intrinsic value of respecting our natural resources from wetland to transitional to upland zones, there are pursuits we all like to enjoy in the woods of Warner. As I look around this room I see folks who enjoy our open spaces. Some of you like to hike, bike or simply walk the dog. Others hunt, fish, ski or snowshoe. The Trail Snails help us all by maintaining the many snowmobile trails. Still others go birding or scouting our treasury of wildlife like turtles, deer, coyotes, bear, moose, deer and more. The spiritual nourishment of Warner’s undeveloped places is inestimable.

Keeping open space also means preserving agricultural lands and renewable forest resources as well, which bring an economic as well as aesthetic return. We will always have to expend tax dollars to replace highway equipment, police cruisers, fire trucks and buildings. But once we as a community invest in open space, with one-time expenditures, the land will be there to offer our grandchildren’s grandchildren the same experience we have had while living here.

Most of the money in the conservation fund is used to negotiate and acquire easements from willing landowners. They are your neighbors and acquaintances who share a desire to keep Warner the beautiful place it is. Making this investment is just as important as tending to our services and infrastructure. The capital improvements plan calls for a \$50,000 per year investment in conservation funding. The Budget Committee should, like the Selectmen, vote to support that investment by recommending adding at least another \$50,000 to the Conservation Fund.”

*Respectfully submitted,*

*John Dabuliewicz  
WCC chair*

