



Ridge Church

New Durham | New Hampshire *Annual Report*

For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

New Durham | New Hampshire

Town Voting

When: Tuesday, March 11, 2007

Time: 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Place: New Durham Elementary School Gymnasium

Voting only by Official Ballot for the election of Town Officers and all other articles requiring vote by official ballot. Polls will open at 10:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. This is the only opportunity to vote on official ballot questions. After the polls close at 7:00 P.M., the ballots will be counted and the results announced appropriately.

Town Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 12, 2007

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: New Durham Elementary School Gymnasium

The remaining articles will be presented, discussed and acted upon beginning at 7:00 P.M. By law, Bond Articles must be presented at the beginning of the deliberative session of Town Meeting. Voting on bond articles is by ballot and the ballot boxes remain open for one hour.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Town of New Durham
New Hampshire



Year Ending December 31, 2007

Cover Photograph Courtesy of Bonnie Dodge: First Free-will Baptist Church

Photograph depicts original church located on Ridge Road Top in New Durham of the new religious denomination called the “Free-will Baptists” and was founded shortly after the town was incorporated in 1762 by Reverend Benjamin Randall. The Free-will Baptists later became known as Free Baptists and built their new church off Depot Road.

Photograph of the Town Hall located at the corners of Depot Street and Main Street ~ Courtesy of Bonnie Dodge.
The Town Hall celebrates its Centennial Birthday in 2008.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opening	
Introduction Page	1
About New Durham	5
New Durham Profiles	6
Citizen of the Year	9
In Memoriam	10
New Durham Legislators	11
Town Officers & Officials Listing	12
Meeting Calendar	16
Board of Selectmen's Annual Report	17

Financials	
Introduction Page	21
Audit 2007	23
Comparative Statements of Expenses & Revenues	27
Statement of Payments	31
Statement of Receipts	41
Summary of Valuation MS-1	45
Schedule of Town Property	46
Tax Rate Calculation 2007	47
Tax Rate History ~ 5 Year Overview	48
Town Treasurers Report	49
Town Clerk's Financial Report	55
Grants Report	56
Trustees of Trust Funds MS-9	57
Tax Collector's Report	58
Land & Buildings Acquired through Tax Collector's Deed	60
Long Term Debt Schedules	61
Wage & Salary Scale 2007	62

Town Department Reports	
Introduction Page	65
Boodey House Committee	67
Building Inspector & Code Enforcement	68
Capital Improvement Plan Committee	70
Conservation Commission	72
Fire Department	73
Library Director's Report	75
Friends of the Library Report	77
Library Trustees Report	78
Meeting House Committee	79
Parks & Recreation	81
Planning Board	85
Police Department	87
Highway Department	89
Solid Waste Disposal	91
Solid Waste Statistics	92
Town Clerk's Report	93
Town Historian	95
Welfare Report	96
Zoning Board of Adjustment	97

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Regional & Non Profit Agency Reports

Introduction Page	99
U. S. Senator Carol Shea-Porter	101
State Senator Kathleen Sgambati.....	102
State Representative Larry Brown	103
State Representative James Cyr	104
State Representative Bob Perry.....	105
Executive Council Report	106
Forest Fire & Ranger Report.....	107
Homemakers Health Services	109
Strafford Regional Planning Commission	111
Strafford County Community Action	112
Visiting Nurse Association.....	113

General Administration

Introduction Page	115
Town Meeting Minutes 2007	117
Fee Schedule	140
Town Office & Boards Hours	142
Right to Know Law	145
Roster of the General Court	147
Births, Deaths & Marriages	149

Copple Crown Village District

Introduction Page	153
Copple Crown Village District Meeting Minutes 2007	155
Copple Crown Budget 2008.....	158
Copple Crown Summary of Valuation	164

Warrant & Budget 2008 (Colored Paper)

Introduction Page	165
Town Meeting Warrant Narrative	167
Town Meeting Warrant 2008	172
Budget 2008 MS-7 & MS-4 (State Reports).....	187
Approved Housekeeping Warrant Articles.....	197

Last Page

Town Talent Bank Application.....	199
-----------------------------------	-----

Inside Front Cover

Town Voting Notice
Town Meeting Notice
Book Cover Description Narrative

Inside Back Cover

Exemptions & Credits Note
Current Use Taxation Note
Voting Registration Note
Dog Licensing Note

ABOUT NEW DURHAM

Incorporated: 1762

Origin:

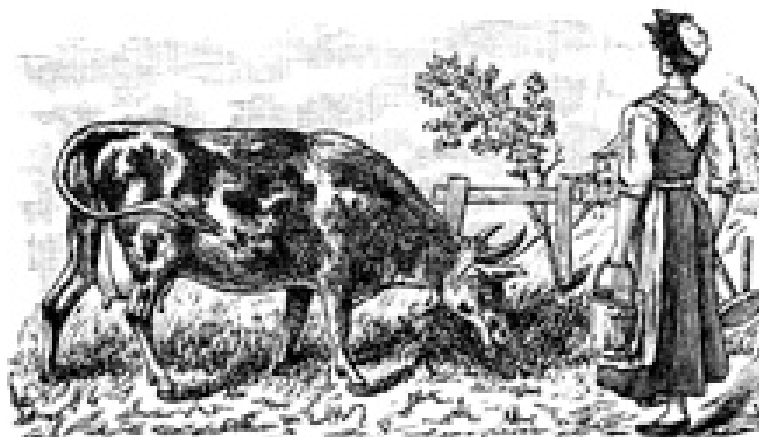
First known as “Cochecho Township”, a group of settlers from Durham petitioned the Masonian Proprietors in May of 1749 for a 45 square mile grant of land north of Rochester. In the spring of 1750, the land was surveyed and a plan (map) of numbered lots was drawn up and lots auctioned off. The terms of the settlement were:

“There should be forty families settled within five years after peace was proclaimed between the English, French and Indians. Each lot owner was to build a house at least 16 square feet and each family should have three acres cleared within six years and a sawmill within five.”

It is not known exactly how many people came in the years between 1750 and 1762. The residents put in a request to the Royal Governor, Benning Wentworth, for recognition in the form of a charter, which would authorize them to have a town government of their own. King Charles III granted the charter and the town was officially born in this wild, wooded land. New Durham is very fortunate to still hold its original Town Charter, only one of a very few known to still exist in the state.

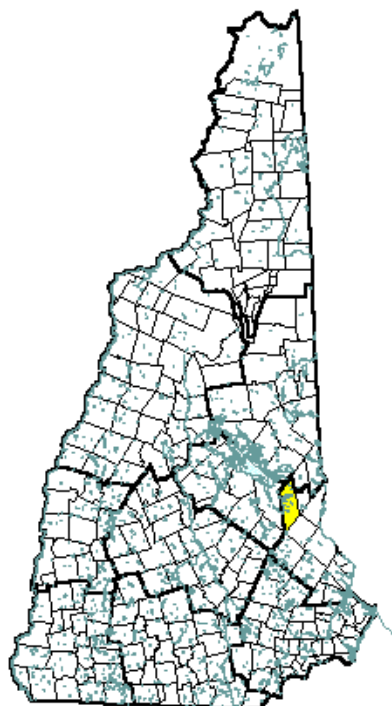
And such was the beginning of “New Durham

Taken from excerpts “New Durham Historical Material” by Eloise Bickford and “Origin of the Name”



NEW DURHAM PROFILES

New Durham, NH



Community Contact	Town of New Durham April Whittaker, Town Administrator 4 Main Street, PO Box 207 New Durham, NH 03855
Telephone	(603) 859-2091
Fax	(603) 859-6644
E-mail	ndadmin@worldpath.net
Web Site	www.newdurhamnh.us
Municipal Office Hours	Monday through Friday, 9 am - 4 pm, and Saturday, 9 am - 12 noon
County	Strafford
Labor Market Area	Rochester-Dover NH-ME Metro-NECTA, NH Portion
Tourism Region	Lakes
Planning Commission	Strafford Regional
Regional Development	Wentworth Economic Development Corp.
Election Districts	
US Congress	District 1
Executive Council	District 2
State Senate	District 4
State Representative	Strafford County District 3

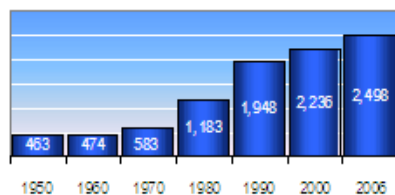
Incorporated: 1762

Origin: Granted in 1749 as Cocheco, New Durham was first settled almost entirely by colonists from Durham, New Hampshire. Colonel Thomas Tash, who had fought in England's Seven Years War against France and was granted land in reward for his service, was appointed proprietor's clerk and called the first town meeting. The town was incorporated as New Durham in 1762. An early minister in the town, Reverend Benjamin Randall, founded a new religious denomination called the "Free-Will Baptists," later known as Free Baptists.

Villages and Place Names: Copplecrown Village District

Population, Year of the First Census Taken: 554 residents in 1790

Population Trends: Population change for New Durham totaled 1,773 over 50 years, from 463 in 1950 to 2,236 in 2000. The largest decennial percent change was a



103 percent increase between 1970 and 1980, followed by a 65 percent increase between 1980 and 1990.

The 2006 Census estimate for New Durham was 2,498 residents, which ranked 119th among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

Population Density, 2006: 60.4 persons per square mile of land area. New Durham contains 41.4 square miles of land area and 2.4 square miles of inland water area.



Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau, NH Employment Security, 2007. Community Response Received 09/07/07

All information regarding the communities is from sources deemed reliable and is submitted subject to errors, omissions, modifications, and withdrawals without notice. No warranty or representation is made as to the accuracy of the information contained herein. Specific questions regarding individual cities and towns should be directed to the community contact.

NEW DURHAM PROFILES

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Type of Government	Selectmen
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2006	\$3,031,929
Budget: School Appropriations, 2006	\$32,424,180
Zoning Ordinance	1971/03
Master Plan	2006
Capital Improvement Plan	Yes
Industrial Plans Reviewed By	Regional Planning Comm.

Boards and Commissions

Elected:	Selectmen; Library; Cemetery; Trust Funds; Planning
Appointed:	Zoning; Conservation; Budget; Parks & Recreation

Public Library **New Durham Public**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department	Full-time	
Fire Department	Volunteer	
Town Fire Insurance Rating	9/10	
Emergency Medical Service	Volunteer	
Nearest Hospital(s)	Distance	Staffed Beds
Frisbie Memorial, Rochester	15 miles	112

UTILITIES

Electric Supplier	PSNH; NH Electric Coop
Natural Gas Supplier	None
Water Supplier	Private wells
Sanitation	Private septic
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant	No
Solid Waste Disposal	
Curbside Trash Pickup	Private
Pay-As-You-Throw Program	No
Recycling Program	Mandatory
Telephone Company	Verizon; Union
Cellular Telephone Access	Yes
Cable Television Access	Yes
Public Access Television Station	Yes
High Speed Internet Service: Business	Yes
Residential	Yes

PROPERTY TAXES (NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)

2006 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	\$16.86
2006 Equalization Ratio	88.6
2006 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	\$14.89
2006 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type	
Residential Land and Buildings	96.6%
Commercial Land and Buildings	2.7%
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other	0.8%

HOUSING SUPPLY (NH Office of Energy and Planning)

2006 Total Housing Units	1,572
2006 Single-Family Units	1,425
Residential Permits, Net Change of Units	25
2006 Multi-Family Units	29
Residential Permits, Net Change of Units	0
2006 Manufactured Housing Units	118

DEMOGRAPHICS

(US Census Bureau)

Total Population	Community	County
2006	2,498	119,990
2000	2,236	112,676
1990	1,948	104,348
1980	1,183	85,324
1970	583	70,431

Census 2000 Demographics

Population by Gender	
Male	1,151
Female	1,069

Population by Age Group

Under age 5	145
Age 5 to 19	501
Age 20 to 34	324
Age 35 to 54	810
Age 55 to 64	202
Age 65 and over	238
Median Age	38.1 years

Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over

High school graduate or higher	90.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	24.9%

ANNUAL INCOME, 1999

(US Census Bureau)

Per capita income	\$22,139
Median 4-person family income	\$52,941
Median household income	\$52,270

Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers

Male	\$35,574
Female	\$28,092

Families below the poverty level

3.7%

LABOR FORCE

(NHES – ELMI)

Annual Average	1996	2006
Civilian labor force	1,201	1,413
Employed	1,144	1,364
Unemployed	57	49
Unemployment rate	4.7%	3.5%

EMPLOYMENT & WAGES

(NHES – ELMI)

Annual Average Covered Employment	1996	2006
Goods Producing Industries		
Average Employment	22	34
Average Weekly Wage	\$422	\$542
Service Providing Industries		
Average Employment	113	213
Average Weekly Wage	\$388	\$620
Total Private Industry		
Average Employment	135	247
Average Weekly Wage	\$393	\$609
Government (Federal, State, and Local)		
Average Employment	43	85
Average Weekly Wage	\$352	\$610
Total, Private Industry plus Government		
Average Employment	178	332
Average Weekly Wage	\$383	\$609

n = indicates that data does not meet disclosure standards

NEW DURHAM PROFILES

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Schools students attend: **Grades K-12 are part of Governor Wentworth Regional (Brookfield, Effingham, New Durham, Ossipee, Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro)** District: **SAU 49**

Career Technology Center(s): **Region 9 Vocational Technical Center, Wolfeboro** Region: **09**

Educational Facilities	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	1			
Grade Levels	K 1-6			
Total Enrollment	194			

NH Licensed Child Care Facilities, 2007: Total Facilities: 3 Total Capacity: 54

Nearest Community/Technical College: **Laconia**

Nearest Colleges or Universities: **McIntosh; University of NH**

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Powerspan	Computer boards	50	1979
Johnson's Dairy Bar	Restaurant	50+	2005
Town of New Durham	Municipal services	30	
New Durham School	Education	19	
State of New Hampshire	Fish hatchery	12	
Sporto's	Restaurant, inn	6	1999

TRANSPORTATION (distances estimated from city/town hall)

Road Access US Routes
State Routes 11

Nearest Interstate, Exit **Spaulding Tpk., Exit 17; I-93, Exit 15**
Distance 12 miles; 30 miles

Railroad No

Public Transportation No

Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation
Skyhaven, Rochester Runway 4,001 ft. asphalt
Lighted? Yes Navigation Aids? Yes

Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service
Pease International Distance 33 miles
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport 2

Driving distance to select cities:

Manchester, NH	40 miles
Portland, Maine	65 miles
Boston, Mass.	88 miles
New York City, NY	299 miles
Montreal, Quebec	258 miles

COMMUTING TO WORK

(US Census Bureau)

Workers 16 years and over

Drove alone, car/truck/van	82.8%
Carpooled, car/truck/van	10.7%
Public transportation	0.0%
Walked	1.5%
Other means	1.2%
Worked at home	3.8%

Mean Travel Time to Work 35.9 minutes

Percent of Working Residents:

Working in community of residence	16%
Commuting to another NH community	76%
Commuting out-of-state	8%

RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS

X Municipal Parks
YMCA/YWCA
Boys Club/Girls Club

X Golf Courses
Swimming: Indoor Facility
Swimming: Outdoor Facility
Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility
Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility
Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility
Bowling Facilities
Museums
Cinemas
Performing Arts Facilities

X Tourist Attractions

X Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)

X Youth Sports: Baseball

X Youth Sports: Soccer

X Youth Sports: Football

X Youth Sports: Basketball

X Youth Sports: Hockey

X Campgrounds

X Fishing/Hunting

X Boating/Marinas

X Snowmobile Trails

X Bicycle Trails

X Cross Country Skiing

X Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area

Overnight or Day Camps

Nearest Ski Area(s): **Gunstock**

Other:

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

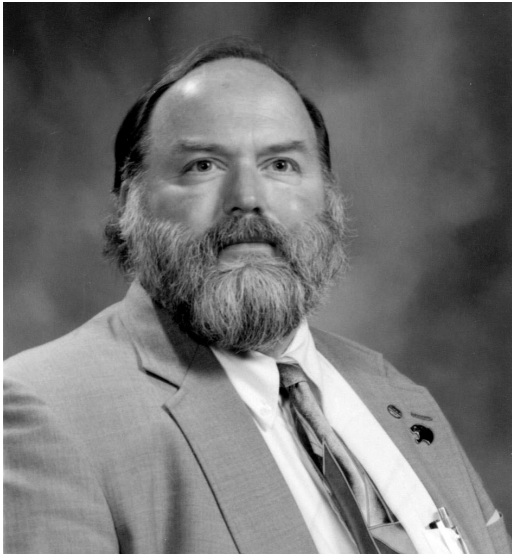


Photograph courtesy of Fosters Daily Democrat

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Photo depicts Citizen of the Year recipient Catherine E. Orlowicz receiving award from Rod Doherty, New Durham Resident and Editor of Fosters Daily Democrat. The “Citizen of the Year” Award is a private citizen initiative with a nomination panel composed of past recipients.

IN MEMORIAM



Mark D. Jarvis

April 6, 1951 – September 3, 2007

New Durham Fire Department

Firefighter: 1978 ~ 1980

Firefighter: Advanced First Aid: 1980-1990

Firefighter/Emergency Medical Services:
1990-May 1996

Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician
February 1997-October 2006

Fire Department Membership Committee:
1998-October 2007

Parks and Recreation Committee: 1979 – 1997

Chairman: 1995-1996

Major Achievements:

New Ball Fields - 1989

New Durham Town Beach - Opened 1995

Elmer Smith Recreational Area - Continuous
upgrading and enlargement

Budget Committee: 1997 – 2007

Chairman: 2003-2007

New Durham Citizen of the Year: 2004



Frank Parsons

December 23, 1929 ~ February 2nd, 2007

Mr. Parsons was a past employee of the Town and
worked for the Highway Department for 20 years.

NEW DURHAM LEGISLATORS

Representatives

District 03

Larry Brown 1362 White Mountain Highway, Milton NH 03851-4451

Rachel B Burke 563 Main Street, Apartment 2, Farmington, NH 03835-1420

James E. Cyr 154 Parker Mountain Road, Strafford, NH 03884-6376

Marlene DeChane PO Box 123, Barrington, NH 03825-0123

Kay Oppenheimer 88 Province Road, Strafford, NH 03884-6637

Robert J Perry 88 Evans Mountain Road, Strafford NH 03884-6507

Robert A Srnec 68 Sam Plummer Road, Milton NH 03851-4549

Dennis P Vachon PO Box 328, Northwood, NH 03261-0328

Senate

District 04

Kathleen G Sgambati 25 Pine Street, Tilton, NH 03276

TOWN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

As of December 31, 2007

Term Expires

Selectmen: Ronald W. Gehl, Chairman.....2008
Peter C. Rhoades.....2009
David A. Bickford.....2010

Town Administrator: April Whittaker

Auditors: Plodzik & Sanderson, P.N.

Assessor: Robert A. Estey
Vickie Blackden, Assessing Clerk
Laura Zuzgo, Assistant

Animal Control Officer: Leon Smith

Boodey House Committee:

Catherine Orlowicz, Chairman	Mark Foynes
Cheryl E. Cullimore, Vice Chairman	Diane Thayer, Resigned
Carlton Woods	Ann Brady
Katie Woods	Jessie Box - Resigned

Budget Committee:

Cecile Chase, Chairman	2008	M. Dean Stimpson	2009
Ann Brady	2008	Lois Parker	2008
David Curry	2010	Virginia Skinner, CCVD Representative	
Catherine Orlowicz	2009	Ronald W. Gehl, Selectmen's Representative	

Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement

David T. Lindberg
Richard Grondin, Assistant
Daniel J. Nebesky, Assistant

Capital Improvement Plan Committee

Christopher LaPierre.....2008
Padraic McHale – Resigned.....2008
David A. Bickford, Selectmen's Representative
David Curry, Budget Committee Representative
Robert Craycraft, Planning Board Representative

John C. Shirley Cemetery Trustees:

Michael Clarke.....2009
Michele Kendrick.....2008
Tom Mason..... 2008
Mark Fuller, Sexton

Conservation Commission

Dennis Gagne, Chairman	2009	Alternate ... Vacancy
Charles Berube	2010	Alternate ... Vacancy
William J. Malay, Alternate	2009	Susan Randall, Alt. Resigned 2009
Robert Craycraft, Alternate	2010	David Bickford, Selectmen's Rep.
Michelle Craycraft.....	2008	
Donna Swett, Resigned	2008	

Copple Crown Village District

Christopher LaPierre, Chair.....2010
Michael French, Commissioner.....2009
Virginia Skinner, Commissioner.....2008
William Buttermark, Moderator
Toni McKenna, Clerk
Cynthia White, Secretary / Treasurer

TOWN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

As of December 31, 2007

Emergency Management: Jason Lamontagne, Director.....2008

Equipment Mechanic: David Valladares

Ethics Policy Committee: Cecile Chase, Chairman
Diane Booth, Secretary – Alternate
Sheri Joy
Ronald Malone
Katie Woods

Financial Assistant: Vickie Blackden

Fire Department:

Brinley "Rod" Nelson, Interim Fire Chief	David Brulotte
Russell Sample, Assistant Chief	Michael Clarke
Peter Varney, Deputy Chief	Michael Davenport, Jr.
Michael Davenport, Captain	Kurt Driscoll
Leon Smith, Captain	Sean Edeman
David Stuart, EMT Lieutenant	Michael Egeler
Kevin Ruel, Lieutenant	Helen Jenckes
Kevin Jenckes, Lieutenant	Clayton Randall
Thomas Swett, Lieutenant	Douglas Roberts
Mark Behr	Jonathan Roy
Megan Beaupre	Michael Sproul
Brandy Bolstridge	Donna Swett
	Michael Varney

Fire Department: Amanda Jenckes
Junior Members Brian Jenckes

Fire Department: Scott Quigley Alexandria Swett
Explorer Post 16 Nichole Sproul Katherine Swett

Forest Fire Wardens: David Stuart, Forest Fire Warden
Michael Davenport, Deputy
Brinley "Rod" Nelson, Deputy
Russell Sample, Deputy
Leon Smith, Deputy
Don Vachon, Deputy
Peter Varney, Deputy

Health Officer: James W. Grigg.....2008
David T. Lindberg, Deputy.....2008

Highway Department:

Mark J. Fuller, Road Agent	Matthew C. Ingham, Heavy Equipment Operator
Michael R. Clarke, Supervisor Foreman	David A. Horne, Light Equipment Operator
Bruce C. Boles, Heavy Equipment Operator	Leon Smith, Light Equipment Operator
Don R. Vachon, Light Equipment Operator	Francine Bonfanti, Part-time Secretary

TOWN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

As of December 31, 2007

Inspector of Election

Barbara M. Dyer.....2008
Stephanie MacKenzie.....2008
Linda Snow.....2008
Theresa Glidden.....2008
Mary McHale, Alternate.....2008

Land Conservation Committee:

Dennis Gagne, Co-Chairman
William Malay, Co-Chairman
Donna Swett
Ronald Gehl, Selectmen's Representative

Land Use Admin. Asst:

David Allen

Library Director:

Max V. Crowe
Cathy Allyn, Library Assistant
Nancy Rodrique, Library Assistant

Library Trustees:

Richard McCormack, Chairman.....2010
Lee Lilljedahl.....2010
Nancy Rhoades.....2008
Sharon Malone.....2008
Thomas Swett.....2009

Meeting House Committee:

George Gale, Chairman Bob Craycraft
Linscott "Skip" Fadden Mary McHale, Resigned
Ernie Vachon
Cathy Allyn

Milfoil & Invasive

Aquatic Weeds Committee:

Arthur W. Hoover, Chairman	2008	Susan Hoover	2008
Michael Downes	2008	Alan McQuiston	2008
Michelle Downes	2008	Cynthia Quimby	2008
Wayne Glidden	2008	Fred Quimby	2008

Moderator:

James Fenske

Northern Strafford County Health & Safety Council

Jason N. Lamontagne

Overseer of Human Resources

April Whittaker
Laura Zuzgo, Welfare Clerk

Recreation Department:

Jessica Bailey, Director
Laura McCarthy, Day Care Director
Theresa Giles, Day Care Assistant

Parks & Recreation Commission:

Sheri Joy, President	2010	Nancy Baver, Commissioner	2010
Bonnie Dodge, Vice Pres. – Resigned	2010	Lucinda Erwin, Commissioner	2009
Marcia Berry, Treasurer	2008	Paula Gehl, Commissioner	2008
		Dwight Jones , Commissioner	2009

TOWN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

As of December 31, 2007

Planning Board:

Catherine Orlowicz, Chair2010
Robert Craycraft, Vice Chair2008
Donald Voltz 2008
Paul Raslavicus - Appointed2008

Robert Duane Armstrong – Resigned ..2008
Christopher LaPierre, Alternate ... 2008
George Gale, Alternate2008
Padraic McHale, Alternate2010
Paul Gelinis, Jr. Alt. Resigned2010
Alternate - Vacancy
Peter Rhoades, Ex-Officio
Ronald Gehl, Alternate Ex Officio

Police Department:

Shawn C. Bernier, Chief
James C. Hathcock, Sergeant
Reginald Meatty, Detective
Karl Koch, Patrolman, Resigned

Jason N. Lamontagne, Patrolman
Toby M Perry, Part-Time Patrolman
Andrew S. Hall, Part-Time Patrolman
Kathryn B. Woods, Executive Assistant

Strafford Regional Planning Commission:

David Allen

S.R.P.C.M.P.O.T.A.C.

Michael Clark
Mark Fuller

Rural District Visiting Nurse Association:

Patrick Lanzetta.....2010

Supervisors of the Checklist

Cheryl E. Cullimore..... 2012
Susan E. Hoover2008
Aline Goss2010

Town Clerk:

Carole Ingham2010
Stephanie MacKenzie, Deputy

Town Historian

Catherine Orlowicz2014
Cheryl Cullimore, Associate2014

Tax Collector:

Carole Ingham2010
Stephanie MacKenzie, Deputy

Treasurer:

Janet Thorell..... 2009
Cecile Chase, Dep.2008

Trustee of Trust Funds:

Theresa Jarvis 2010
David Allyn.....2009
Catherine Orlowicz 2008

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Theresa Jarvis, Chairman2009
Lawrence Prelli, Vice Chairman2008
Bill McGrew2008
Michael L. Hoffman2010
Vacancy

Wendy Anderson, Alternate2010
Helen Wellman, Alternate2010
Alternate - Vacancy
Alternate - Vacancy
Alternate – Vacancy

*** Strafford Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee:**

MEETING CALENDAR

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The first and third Mondays of the month at the New Durham Town Library unless otherwise noticed.

BOODEY HOUSE

The fourth Thursday of the month

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The last Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the New Durham Town Hall.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

The first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM at the New Durham Town Library unless otherwise posted

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the New Durham Elementary School, unless otherwise posted.

PLANNING BOARD

The first Tuesday of every month at the New Durham Town Library 7:00 PM.
The third Tuesday of every month at the New Durham Town Hall 7:00 PM, unless otherwise posted

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

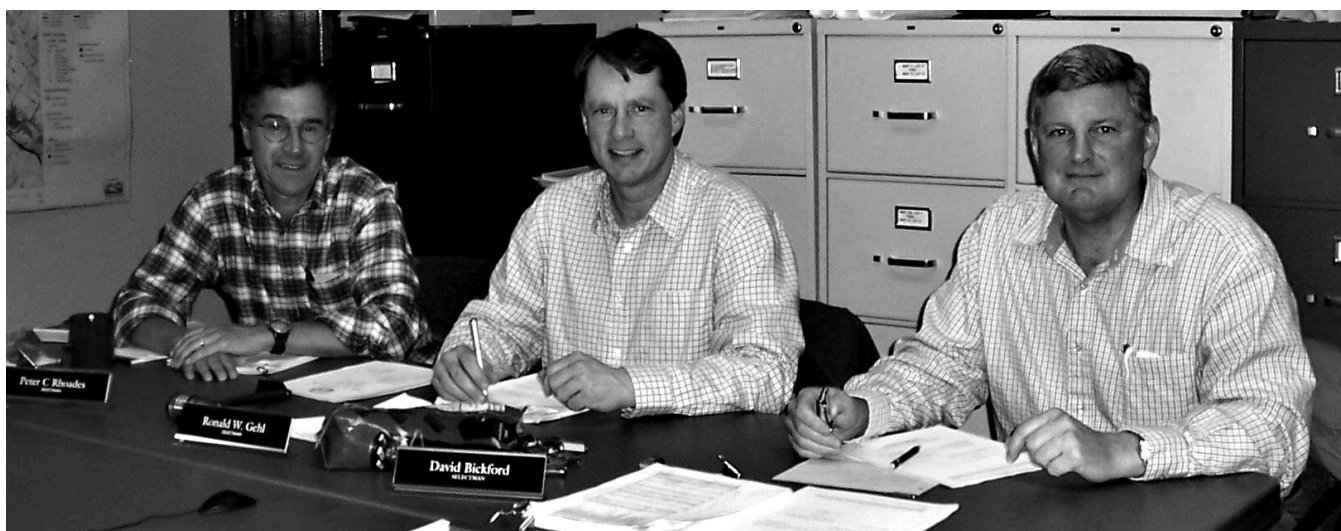
The second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the New Durham Town Library, should an application be received.
(Check with the Town Hall for scheduled hearings)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

After what seemed like an extremely busy 2006 in town government, 2007 once again saw many challenges for the Board of Selectmen to address, along with significant progress in the areas of financial planning, town facilities and policy. Despite the downturn in the real estate market, issues related to land use and growth continue to dominate many of our meetings, and have a bearing on almost every decision being made. We continue to strive to help maintain our town's character and economic stability while adapting to the inevitable changes that come with this growth.

Floods, a Dam Breach and Other Woes

For the second year in a row, historic flooding struck the town. Melting April snow pack along with severe rains conspired to create one heck of a problem during the Patriot's Day storm, but once again our highway crew rose to the challenge. Road Agent Mark Fuller and staff, along with fire and police crews, deserve everyone's thanks in bringing this difficult situation under control quickly through their "round-the-clock" effort. Probably the largest and most time-consuming challenge selectmen faced this year was the response to the deterioration of March's Pond Dam. Engineering and planning had been underway for the past three years to rehabilitate this 120-year-old dam with the understanding that outside funding could be obtained to assist in this project. After a small leak in the dam embankment was discovered in July, the town was ordered by the state Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau to immediately lower the water level in the pond, to the disappointment of not only residents around the pond, but to all who value it as one of New Durham's most important natural resources. While we were able to put an interim solution in place that brought the water level back up a few feet, the town was disappointed to find that funding previously available from state and federal sources has been diverted to other programs as a consequence of the severe flooding of recent years in New Hampshire and nationally. Efforts directed toward engineering the needed repairs were complicated when we found that the Dam Bureau, to our dismay, had declared our 4-foot embankment to be a "High-Hazard" dam! After negotiations with Dam Bureau staff, the selectmen and the town's engineers prepared a rehabilitation plan for presentation to the voters at Town Meeting 2008,



"Board of Selectmen ~ from Left to Right: Peter Rhoades, Ron Gehl, Chair, and David Bickford getting ready for business at their February 4, 2008 meeting."

which we hope you will support as a reasonable solution to restore March's Pond and Chalk Pond.

A "Thank You" to Staff and Volunteers

We extend our appreciation to department heads and staff who work diligently to keep town services running smoothly. Special thanks to our Fire Department, with more certified firefighters than at any time in recent memory, and whose EMS is providing paramedic-level Advanced Life Saving (ALS) capabilities. Town Hall staff has provided invaluable assistance while wading through ever more complex regulations and issues. We are also thankful for the many individuals who volunteer their time to the various Boards and Committees that

oversee critical town functions – your dedication is most appreciated. New staff joining us in 2007 included Assistant Librarian Cathy Allyn, Highway Department jack-of-all-trades Leon Smith, Police Officer Chris Chesley and part-time Town Hall assistant Laura Zuzgo – welcome and thanks for a job well done!

Fiscal Matters

One group's efforts have flown under the radar for much of the year, but will have a significant and positive long-term impact on the town. Our new Advisory Capital Improvements Planning (CIP) Committee, under the leadership of Paddy McHale, has worked with department heads to expand upon Town Administrator April Whittaker's 2006 efforts at further developing our comprehensive long-range plan for capital improvements for the town. We now have a "road map" for our larger equipment and facilities needs that will be reviewed and updated annually, helping to stabilize local tax rates by laying out a savings plan for these larger purchases. Another significant accomplishment during the year was an overhaul of purchasing and other financial policies, which will ensure the greatest possible level of accountability to the taxpayers. Given the challenges provided by sharp rises in the prices of insurance, fuel and other commodities, along with the misfortunes of the New Hampshire Retirement System, it was a struggle this budget season to provide for adequate town services and undertake needed projects without placing an undue burden on property taxpayers. Yet we are proud to report that through many days of effort and compromise by selectmen, Budget Committee members, department heads and staff, we have arrived at budgets for 2008 that will result in a municipal tax rate increase of only about 5.5%. We'll continue to do our utmost to seek out other sources of revenue for town projects and operations, and be vigilant in getting



Photograph courtesy of Joan Martin
Marchs Pond Dam

the most out of every taxpayer dollar.

Facilities and Operations

We had some high-quality siding and painting work completed on the Town Hall in preparation for the building's 100-year anniversary in 2008; we hope you like the results. Other improvements were funded by grants and included the purchase of a generator for core emergency operations and additional insulation at our solid waste transfer station. On the operations side, we instituted a successful plastics recycling program, stepped up efforts to ensure safety at all town facilities and continued work on the modernization of our tax maps. The Board has also taken steps to tighten up on junkyard infractions through enforcement proceedings and policy changes – look for a new ordinance to be voted on in March.

The Board will continue to do its best to keep you informed about what's going on in town government. Look for our new, more user-friendly website to come online shortly. We'd love to have you join us at our meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month to provide your input, or feel free to contact any of us directly with your questions or concerns. We look forward to the honor of serving you in 2008.

Ron Gehl, Chairman

Peter Rhoades

David Bickford

