



The dam at the old shingle mill (seen here in a 2008 photo), just downstream of the Highland Lake Dam, needs to be lowered by six feet according to the state.
Staff photo: Charlie Darling

Selectmen Plan To Bring Highland Lake Dam Into Compliance

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Everyone thought the Highland Lake dam project was finished when the last layer of asphalt was rolled out last year and the guardrails installed. But it turns out there's one more issue that must be dealt with.

Even though the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) signed off on the Town's engineering plans for rebuilding the Highland Lake dam in 2007, DES has since increased the dam's hazard classification from Significant Hazard (the classification the dam held for many years) to High Hazard. This change in classification doubles (to \$1,500) the dam registration fee the Town pays to DES every year, and it increases the Town's liability if there ever were damage caused by

a problem with the dam.

But, those problems are moot, as DES insists that the Town take steps to reduce the Highland Lake dam's classification from High Hazard (meaning a failure would result in probable loss of human life).

The Board of Selectmen have appealed the dam's new classification twice to DES, but both appeals were denied. The Board contends that if DES had raised these issues before approving the Town's plans for rebuilding the dam, the Town would have had the option to "over-engineer" the new dam enough to at least retain its long-time Significant Hazard classification.

When the appeals were denied, the Board took up the matter with legal
See Dam on page 4



Apple cider production was going full tilt at Highland Lake Apple Farm during its annual AppleFest celebration the weekend of September 26. While visitors from near and far picked their own apples in the orchard, Peter Zak (l) and his granddaughter Alaina Chmielinski, with the help of Alaina's friend Catherine Phelan (r), loaded apples into the chopper in preparation for squeezing fresh cider.

Highland Lake Apple Farm, on Maple Street in East Andover, will be open weekends for pick-your-own apples, cider, honey, vinegar, jams, jellies, and candles through November 7.
Staff photo: Bob Bussey

Our 5th Anniversary!
Andover Beacon
AndoverBeacon.com October 2009 \$2.00

Getting Ready For Seasonal And H1N1 Flu In Andover

The *Beacon* has received a lot of information from healthcare organizations about the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu (often called "swine flu"). Here is a summary of the information we've received, with suggestions at the end about how to get more information.

Two Different Flu Strains

Both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu are Influenza A viruses, but they are two different strains. The seasonal flu has been around before, creating an ongoing immunity in the community that prevents widespread transmission. H1N1, however, is a relatively new strain of the influenza virus, so there isn't immunity in the community to stop it from spreading rapidly.

The two flu strains have different impacts on different groups of people. First, let's consider the risk of catching

the flu. If you're exposed to the seasonal flu virus, the risk of coming down with the seasonal flu is about the same for everyone.

If you're exposed to the H1N1 flu virus, you seem to be more likely to come down with the H1N1 flu if you are a child and or a young adult up to about age 25. No one is sure why this group is more easily infected by the H1N1 virus than people who are older.

As with any virus, people like healthcare workers or people with children in school or daycare are more likely to be exposed to either the seasonal or H1N1 flu virus, of course, and are therefore more likely to get the flu than people who are exposed to either virus less frequently.

Once you have the flu, what are the risks of developing complications (some
See Flu on page 5

Things To Know Before Heading Down To Making Strides In Concord

By the Making Strides Planning Committee

The American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event will take place on Sunday, October 18, at Memorial Field. The Concord Planning Committee invites you to join thousands of other participants who are making a difference in the fight against breast cancer. Registration starts at 11 AM. The survivor photo and opening ceremonies will take place at 12:45 PM, and the walk will begin at 1 PM.

When you participate in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, you are:
• Helping someone with breast cancer find a ride to treatment or a free

place to stay

• Keeping the phone lines open every minute of every day and night for questions that need answers



Breast cancer survivors at the 2008 Making Strides event

• Connecting people who are newly diagnosed with survivors who have "been there"

See Strides on page 35

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Many Andover people have had their lives affected in some way by this disease. Many Andover people will be very active this month, raising awareness and funds to defeat this disease. Coverage begins above and continues on page 35.

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