



May 13 through 15, 2006 saw the worst flooding in 70 years. Andover Fire Department and East Andover Fire Department were joined by crews and equipment from 17 other towns in the battle to pump out the pond at Proctor before it could damage surrounding school buildings. Photo: David Brownell

## Andover And Proctor Help Each Other In Good Times And Bad

By Matt Quinn  
Proctor Journalism Class

It is difficult to predict how a college preparatory school and the surrounding community will interact with one another. The relationship of the town of Andover and Proctor Academy, although strained at times since 1948, is growing stronger and is best described as symbiotic.

As Proctor's needs rise, the contributions from the town of Andover increase, and vice versa. Both communities, although separate, share a bond that grows tighter each year.

"The relationship between Proctor and the town of Andover is strong now and continues to develop each year," says Proctor Head of School Mike Henriques. He noted several instances where Proctor and Andover have benefited from one another.

One of Proctor's largest contributions is that Proctor is Andover's largest employer. With over 180 employees, it is the largest employer in Andover.

Proctor also saves Andover money by taking students that would otherwise need to go to Merrimack Valley High School. For each student that comes to Proctor, the Andover School District saves approximately \$12,000. This year there are 11 students from Andover enrolled at Proctor, saving the School District approximately \$130,000.

Mike also made it clear that in Proctor's times of need, the town of Andover has helped the school, specifically with the flood in May of 2006. When more than eight inches of rain fell in 36 hours, the town of Andover supported Proctor. "The volunteer firefighters helped save Slocumb Hall and Shirley Hall. Without the town's contributions, we may not have been able to save those buildings."

Chuck Will, Proctor's Director of Communications and a town resident for over 35 years, noted that Proctor is the town's largest taxpayer, with approximately \$100,000 paid annually. Proctor also opens its doors to the town of Andover to offer access to the Meeting House (used by

the Andover Elementary School for productions), the playing fields, tennis courts, Blackwater Ski Area, and hockey rink.

Chuck also highlighted the town's contributions to Proctor. "We lost the biggest dorm on campus – Cary House – to a fire in 1977. The people of the town opened their doors and took in about 24 boys for the remainder of the school year." He went on to explain that this was a breakthrough because times had been difficult between the two communities. But when Proctor was in need, the town of Andover was again there to help.

Jake Johnson, an Andover selectman and an employee at Proctor Academy, commented on the Proctor Academy Fire Department (PAFD), which is aided by the East Andover Fire Department. He discussed the possibility of having a fire station here at Proctor. "If a post did exist, PAFD could assist in fire incidents in the town." Jake also mentioned that PAFD runs fire drills and escape routes for dorms.

Although some people may perceive the relationship to be strained, the connection between Andover and Proctor is extremely strong.

*Matt Quinn is a postgraduate at Proctor from Seekonk, Massachusetts. He enjoys history and hopes to play football or baseball in college.*

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