

# NH Public Works Association

## Community Profile:

### Deerfield NH

Submitted by Alex Cote, Road Agent, Deerfield



Every August Deerfield hosts *Old Home days*, a festival of concerts, children games, adult sports, barbeque, and fireworks. During *Old Home Days*, the

Highway Department hosts an "open-house." The public tours the facilities, equipment, views photo albums, and asks questions about highway projects.

There are four full-time and two on-call employees in the highway department. There is a highway agent and assistant, heavy equipment operator, and truck driver/laborer. The town maintains 138 lane miles. Twenty four of those miles are dirt.

The highway Department contributes to the *Deerfield Newsletter*, published quarterly. They write about seasonal topics such as mailbox policies and snow removal. The newsletter is mailed to each of the town's 3,678 residents.

On October 24, 2005, a 5 x 3' culvert collapsed on Gulf Road. Gulf Road is the only access for 300 residents in Deerfield and Northwood. The highway department responded by installing sixty feet of thirty-six inch culvert.

Alex Cote, Highway Road Agent, believes the emergency response was successful. One lane of traffic was open during repairs, and both lanes were closed for only one half hour. Using Public Works Mutual Aid, Northwood provided one man to direct traffic. The emergency repair took only a few days to complete.

This year the highway department plans to replace the emergency culvert on Gulf Road with a four by six concrete box culvert. Overall, they will increase road maintenance, such as brush cutting, ditching, adding gravel, and replacing old culverts.

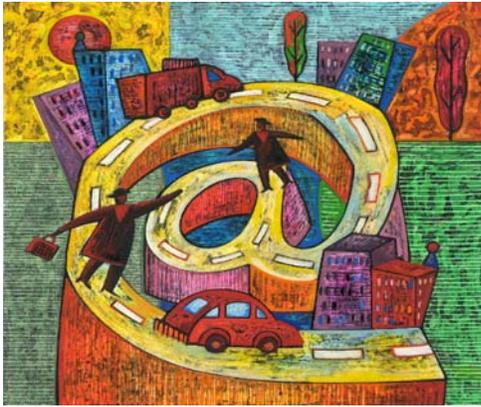
Last year, the department reconstructed 3 miles of roadway on Old Center Road North, Mt. Delight Road, and Swamp Road. These projects took between eight and ten weeks to complete.

For more information [www.ci.deerfield-nh.us/](http://www.ci.deerfield-nh.us/)

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# Public Works PR Improvement

By Chum Cleverly, DPW Director, Bow



“What’s orange and sleeps three?” Why not ask, “What’s red and sleeps four?” Or, “What’s black and white and doesn’t move?” The jokes and snide comments about public works bother me. We need to improve our public relations. Although, we are as professional as other departments I often feel we are criticized.

There were no accolades for the employee who drove a loaded dump truck off the road and over an embankment to avoid a head on collision with an out of control school bus. The truck driver was seriously injured. Another employee intentionally rolled a sand truck to avoid crashing into a crowded restaurant. These drivers didn’t receive praise for taking a risk to save others; instead they were criticized for damaging town trucks.

Public works are emergency responders. Other emergency responders depend on us to get them safely to an emergency. We spread sand to get the fire trucks up steep untreated driveways. We barricade and re-route traffic when an emergency closes a road. We are called upon when there is a problem no one can solve and a fast solution is needed.

Public works departments spend hours maneuvering trucks during ice storms, or spend days operating a plow truck to keep the roads accessible and safe for other “emergency” personnel and citizens.

Why is it when a public works employee takes a break he or she is doing something wrong? Why is it that a highway worker not in constant motion, is considered a drain on taxes? Why do people accuse a plow truck driver of malicious intent when snow is accidentally pushed into a driveway? I think we need a better image.

## President’s Message

In October the Monadnock Region experienced serious flooding. I was amazed at the number of people who volunteered time, resources, and equipment during the following days. I was overwhelmed with calls from engineering firms and contractors offering assistance.

It sometimes takes an unusual event, such as this, to remind us of how important volunteering is. There are many programs, such as the State’s Water Science Fair, Public Works Week, and our association which would not be possible without volunteers.

Recognizing that people are extremely busy, organizations can greatly benefit from even the smallest contribution. Many of our Public Works Associations programs are coordinated by volunteers. There are other boards and committees, such as Best Practices, Mutual Aid, and the Public Works Academy, which provide valuable services and operate solely on volunteers.

I am requesting your assistance to get involved. It may not require much time to help with the set-up of a program or participation in a committee. Many hands lighten the load as I saw with the October flooding. If the Association is going to continue to provide programs, it needs a small commitment from everyone.

If you are interested, please feel free to contact any officer or board member. I look forward to seeing you.

~Kurt Blömquist,  
President, Keene

# NH Retirement System

By Carl Quiram, Public Works Director,  
Goffstown



The New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) is a public employee pension plan. It offers secure lifetime benefits to its eligible members.

Benefits are governed by RSA 100-A and the Rules and Regulations promulgated by the NHRS Board of Trustees. They are based on salary and service credit. NHRS is funded by member and employer contributions and trust funds.

The NHRS Board of Trustees set the current targeted rate of return at 9.0%. That rate is scheduled to decrease to 8.5% on July 1, 2007. NHRS has informed participating employers of these changes.

The NHRS's consulting actuary determines the amount needed to pay future benefits to members. Many variables are considered, including value of trust fund assets, number of members contributing to and receiving benefits, salary amounts, and life expectancy. The actuary projects those variables into the future. These are known as "benefit obligations" or "pension liabilities."

There are 51,000 active members in the System. Eighteen thousand of them are retirees collecting monthly pension benefits.

For more information, NHRS Public Information Officer, 1-877-917-6477 x252 or [kim.france@nhrs.org](mailto:kim.france@nhrs.org)



## Member Profile

### Kathy DesRoches

Kathy DesRoches is the Director of Educational Programs at the UNH Technology Transfer Center. She joined the center in 1984. Some of Kathy's responsibilities are workshop development, staff supervision, and serving as the contact person for the majority of the center's affiliations.

Kathy earned a M.A. in Women's Studies from UNH in 2003 and her B.A. in Literature from UNH in 1992.

Kathy's first job, at age 16, was working for the highway department in the Town of Durham. She painted, moved dirt, and worked with the surveyors.

Kathy's involvement with public works is extensive. She currently serves committees that include NH Standards & Training Council, NH Public Works Mutual Aid, NH Public Works Association, and the Transportation Research Board.

Kathy loves to ride her 1997 Honda Rebel motorcycle. She currently has quilts hanging at Art Stream Studios in Rochester. She teaches knitting and a class on creating fabric journals.

Kathy loves to spend time with her boyfriend, Sean; her niece, Monique; and her cat, Eeyore.

NHPWA  
c/o LGC  
PO BOX 617  
Concord NH 03302

### NHPWA Annual Meeting is May 4, 2006 at the LGC

#### \*Planned Sessions

- Mutual Aid                                      ➤ Historical resources
- NH Retirement System                      ➤ Invasive Species

#### \*National Public Works Week is May 21-27, 2006

#### Web Resources:

Stay Safe Traffic Products: [www.staysafetraffic.com/](http://www.staysafetraffic.com/)

#### What's wrong with this photo?



Answers: These signs are not mounted on the correct fixtures or mounted independently of each other. See 2A.16, 2A.18, and 2B.06 of the MUTCD.

This is a quarterly publication. For submissions, contact:

**Kathryn Claytor**

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kclaytor@unh.edu

## Join NHPWA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Work E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Optional Information:

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Pager: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellular: \_\_\_\_\_

Home E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership \$25.00

Group Membership \$100.00

Membership term expires June 30, 2006.

Please detach and mail this form along with payment to:

**NHPWA**  
**c/o LGC**  
**PO Box 617**  
**Concord, NH 03302-0617**