

HERITAGE

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Many of us work in a community rich in history. I think a big part of our job consists preserving this history for the good of everyone.

In our day to day operation, we often gripe about the complexity of our jobs. We must follow many rules, from federal regulations on down through state and onto community laws. We gripe because, as hard as the job may already be; these rules make it harder. Somehow we manage, although we might curse those that have made our job what it is; we manage to plow through all the red tape and finish, even on time.

I mention this because I recently had a situation develop that reminded me of how frail our attachment to history and our heritage really is. For the sake of the job we sometimes turn a blind eye to what we may be doing to remnants of our past, for the sake of progress. Long and snaking stonewalls were built by our forefathers. Those large and stately trees that provide shade and beauty on warm summer days are somewhat forgotten in the midst of winter. The many scenic vistas are hidden away on some, less traveled road. Country lanes bordered by the trappings of a bygone era, and homesteads rich in history are often vital to the shaping of the community. There are so many other things that make the place we call home so special to us. Once these things are gone, they may never be replaced, and with them a part of our link to past generations. They remind us of a way of life that to us seems so simple and forthright. We can all too easily bulldoze them away forever.

As professionals, I believe we have a duty to protect and preserve these links from the ravages of time and machine. We were so fortunate to grow up with them. To ensure that our children and their children will have a sense of heritage passed on to them; we should endeavor in our daily work to preserve as much as is humanly possible. That link will bond them with our forefathers and their mark on history. Sometimes we may lose sight of our heritage and diminish it, for the sake of just getting the job done.

Milestones:

Kevin Clement is the new Road Agent in Lisbon.

Patrick Doughty has become the Road Agent in Lyman.

John Jurta has become the Road Agent in Andover.

Carl Quiram has become the new Director of Public Works in Goffstown.

Driveway and Curb Cuts

RSA 472:6 becomes effective July 18, 1997. It clarifies a municipality's authority of driveways and other connections to public streets and highways. Private driveway connections, including structures such as culverts, remain the responsibility of the landowner. If any driveway connection threatens the integrity of the highway due to plugged culverts, erosion, etc., the planning board or designee can order the owner to repair it. If the owner fails to repair, the municipality can do the repair and charge the cost of the repair to the owner. It also clarifies local driveway regulations, or driveway permits issued under RSA 236:13, contain

language governing the breach or removal of stone way, then an owner acting under that permit will not be in violation of RSA 462:6, which otherwise prohibits destruction of stone walls.

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Contact the UNH T2 Center for a copy of the RSA/