



THE FLOW N' GO

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QUABBIN RESERVOIR OFFERS MUCH MORE THAN JUST OUR DRINKING WATER

In last quarter's *The Flow N' Go* we learned that Marblehead's drinking water travels over 90 miles from the Quabbin Reservoir in central Massachusetts to reach your faucet here in Marblehead.

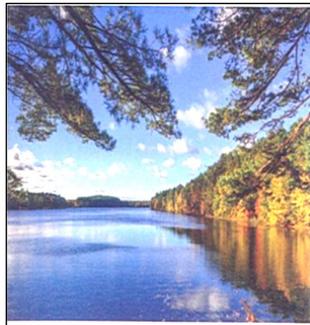
But this nearly 40 square mile man-made wonder has a lot more to offer than just water.

While the Department of Conservation (DCR) manages the Quabbin's watershed primarily for water quality and environmental resource protection, these vast areas are also used by the public for recreation.

For obvious reasons, public access is carefully regulated and controlled. State regulations require that all entry and exit be through designated gates. Direct water contact activities, such as swimming and wading, are strictly prohibited as are certain other recreational activities. And thinking of bringing Fido? Don't. Dogs are not allowed on any DCR property associated with the Quabbin Reservoir.

So what recreational opportunities are available

for the public? With over 82,000 acres of land and water in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed, there is plenty to do.



There are scenic sites from several locations surrounding the reservoir, with the New Salem and Enfield, Massachusetts, lookouts offering especially magnificent views. During the fall, this area has some of the best foliage viewing in the state.

The watershed has trails that are perfect for walking, hiking and snowshoeing. These areas are also popular for bird watching and for just "getting in touch" with nature.

Bicycling and snowmobiling are permitted on designated trails and roads. And, when the weather cooperates, a family picnic would be a great way to spend a weekend afternoon. But

remember: no littering! Whatever you carry in, you must carry out.

Are you looking for something even more relaxing? Fishing the Quabbin is a wonderful experience. Shore and fly fishing, while restricted to certain areas and times of the year, can yield catches including bass, lake trout, perch, pickerel and several other popular species.

As you can see, not only does the Quabbin Reservoir provide drinking water to over two million people, it also provides a recreational escape.

But it warrants repeating: activities of all types are strictly regulated. If you are planning a trip to the Quabbin, you are advised to read up on the regulations on the Mass. Department of Environmental Affairs website (www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/quabbin-reservoir) or call the Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown at 413 323-7221.

If you go, bring your own water to drink - Quabbin water bottled from your home tap, of course.

TIP OF THE QUARTER

A SIMPLE TIP TO HELP SAVE ON WATER COSTS:

Is your showerhead water efficient? Hold a bucket under your showerhead for 20 seconds. If more than one gallon accumulates, you need to install a water efficient showerhead. They are available at plumbing and home improvement stores.

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PAVING YOUR DRIVEWAY? DON'T COVER YOUR WATER GATE BOX

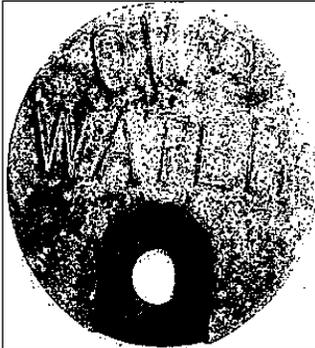
Ahhh! The glorious months of summer. The time for doing those long-put-off repairs to your house and for turning your yard into a summertime oasis.

Just when you think you have wiped out all memories of the winter past and your house and yard is a candidate for the cover of *House Beautiful*, you notice the cracks and frost heaves that make your driveway look like an earthquake had just hit Marblehead.

You can't have that so you

contact a contractor to have your driveway re-paved. A new driveway does amazing things for the curb-appeal (and value) of a house.

Before your contractor starts the job, make sure that you locate and mark out your water gate box so that it



doesn't get paved over. A covered gate box can cause all sorts of problems, especially in an emergency.

"Fine. I'll make sure I do that," you say. "But what in heck is a gate box, what

does it do and how do I find it?"

A water gate box is where the water department can turn off the water supply go-

ing to your residence.

Lets say that your plumber needs to repair a leaking water pipe and the turn-off valve at your meter isn't working. The only way to stop the water so that he can repair the pipe is to shut it off at the gate box.

Would you want for the water department to have to take the time to locate your gate box under the hot-top and jack-hammer your new driveway to get to it, as water from the leaking pipe is flooding your basement?

Not only could you have severe damage inside your house, you also have the pleasure of having your dam-

aged driveway paved again.

Every water service has a gate box, usually located near the street curb, in front of the house. It has a round metal cover, about four inches in diameter, with a small hole near the edge.



(These photos show two examples of the type of covers used in Marblehead.)

So, before you have your driveway paved, make sure you first find the gate box and that your contractor knows not to cover it when he paves.

Either that or kiss the cover of *House Beautiful* goodbye.



On-Line Video Takes Comical Look at Serious Subject

If stormwater pollution was rubber duckies, it wouldn't matter what goes down the storm drains. But it does matter.

Did you know that the first inch of rainfall washes a whopping 90% of the pollutants off the land and into our waterbodies?

Included with your last quarter's water and sewer bill was a brochure titled "Scoop It" that encouraged dog owners to pick up after their pooch and to prevent their pet's waste, - as well as other contaminants such as pesticides, gas and oil - from going into the stormwater drain system.

The Massachusetts Greenscapes Coalition has produced a brief video that, with a bit of a comical slant, demonstrates how these contaminants find their way into the ocean, lakes and streams. We have posted this video on our website at www.marblehead.org/drain. Simply click on the "Think Blue Massachusetts" link under Health and Safety. (The video will take a couple of minutes to download, but it's worth it.)

If only stormwater pollution was rubber duckies ... but it's not. It's trash, cigarette butts, pesticides, oil and more. And it's bad.

Sewer Pipeline Replacement Forces Rate Increase

Did you notice that your water and sewer bill is higher this quarter? Of course you did.

The cost of purchasing our water and of getting rid of it went up but this increase is mostly attributable to the higher sewer rates that were necessary to cover the cost of replacing two pipelines running under Salem Harbor.

These pipelines, which transport our sanitary waste to the South Essex Sewerage District treatment plant in Salem, had deteriorated to the point that total replacement was the only option.

The work is being done under the direction of the SESD and the expected \$20 million cost is being passed on to Marblehead residents through our annual SESD assessment. Repayment of the debt is scheduled over a 20 year period.

Unfortunately, this expense can't be avoided.