

Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust

Fall 2006 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

A summer season that started out rather miserable with rain and heat and humidity has turned stunning in August. With a little luck, this great weather trend will be with us through the fall foliage season.

As you'll read in the following pages, the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust has had a busy year so far—spring rafting and guided walks, community cleanups, a Spalding House open house, design and land acquisition progress on the Concord River Greenway, an environmental education program for school children in Nova Scotia, the development and dedication of Coburn Park, and advancement of the Red Cross project. Not a bad few months!

But already fall is on the way and our focus shifts to a whole new slate of events. Executive Director Jane Calvin and Project Specialist Kristin McCauley, continue to execute an amazing event and project schedule. These activities include the shepherding of our two major, ongoing development projects as well as additional land protection and park development strategies. They also include events for the simple enjoyment of our open spaces and special places and for the exploration of Lowell's natural and historic legacies. The season wraps up with our annual meeting in November.

I hope you enjoy the new season and take time to experience New England's foliage display in and along one of Lowell's hidden jewels—Jollene Dubner, Donahue and Coburn Parks, the state forest, the Vandenberg Esplanade, the Riverwalk and canalways.

As always, thank you for your dedicated support—it makes all that we do possible. I look forward to seeing you sometime this fall along the rivers, in the parks, or at one of our planned events.

Kind regards,
Henri

COBURN PARK REDEDICATION

On June 23, 2006, just past the summer solstice, nearly 125 people celebrated the rededication of Coburn Park at the corner of Chelmsford and Stevens Streets. Thanks to the vision and generosity of Mr. Alfred H. Coburn, the park has received significant capital improvements as well as an endowment for its upkeep. This important gateway into Lowell was donated as a park to the City of Lowell in 1907 by Gratia Ann Parker. Gratia was married to Stephen Adams Coburn, Mr. Coburn's great-great grandfather. This was the last parcel remaining from the Coburn Homestead and Dairy Farm, where CrossPoint now stands.

Capital improvements to the park included a granite post and chain fence, flagpole, park sign, a new chip seal walkway, and over 120 shrubs, perennials, and trees. Also, the original monument for the park was moved to the center of the walkway. Finally, there are two new granite benches with inscriptions and a granite monument with an etching of the Coburn Homestead. All park improvements were made possible through the patience, persistence, and tenacity of several contractors, many of which provided their services at cost: Colmer Monument, Environmental Design, Lowell Sign, Patriot Flag, and Almo's Garden Center. The city matched Mr. Coburn's investment with significant in-kind services provided by the Parks & Public Works Departments. Diane Tradd of the City's Dept. of Planning and Development created and oversaw the landscape design for the park. The 99 Restaurant generously provided food for the event. Thank you all!

At the rededication, Alfred H. Coburn commented "I like to think of Gratia Ann Parker as a woman ahead of her time as she donated the land for what we now call "Open Space." Perhaps she was a true environmentalist as the term is known today." (See page 4 for the full text of Mr. Coburn's remarks.)



Mr. Alfred H. Coburn & David Kronberg, Executive Director of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, celebrate the establishment of the city's fourth park endowment, in partnership with the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, at the rededication of Coburn Park last June.



Becky & Sarah Gordon and a neighborhood helper volunteered at Jollene Dubner Park several times this summer.

VOLUNTEER KUDOS & THANK YOUS!

Throughout the summer, Community Teamwork's **YouthBuild**, headquartered at the Lambert House (fka the Red Cross) has done a variety of projects for the Trust, from carpentry to landscaping. Whether trimming shrubs or fixing a garage door, we appreciate your skills and initiative!



Our Folk Fest exhibit tent was enthusiastically supported by: **Alan Cameron, Nancy Ciramella, Christine Cole, Lauris Donovan, Cara Johnson, Paul Lavoie, Henri Marchand, Cindy McLain, Tom Michelman, Judy Perrin, Mark Romanowsky, Emily Teller, and Mary Trombly**. Several of the volunteers came from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Trail, which will be under construction next year and eventually connect to the Concord River Greenway.



On Thursday, August 10th, the **Spindle City Corps** teams spent the morning at the Concord River cleaning up the riverbank by the Rogers Street bridge. Amongst the amazing haul: 15 shopping carts, a toilet, fencing (including its concrete bases and poles), and numerous bags of trash. Thank you to **DPW Commissioner Ed Walsh** for providing a dumpster! In the afternoon, they dedicated their landscaping talents to trim hedges, pull weeds, and clear the backyard at the Spalding House and the Lambert House. Thanks!



Thank you **Maria Robarge** for your insightful research for the Coburn Park rededication.



Keep Lowell Beautiful generously provided trash bags & gloves for our June clean-up at the Wang School, Jollene Dubner Park workdays, and Concord River clean-up with the Spindle City Corps.



We welcome aboard two new active land stewards, **Cara Johnson & Sandy Green**. Cara is monitoring the newly acquired Greenway parcel and Sandy is monitoring our West Meadow Street property in her neighborhood.



Notini's, a business member of the Trust, generously provided drinks and snacks for the June clean-up at the Wang School.



Many thanks to **Michelle Todd** for participating in Concord River Greenway committee meetings with the City of Lowell.

GREENWAY SIGNAGE

The Trust is pleased to share that the **Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities** has awarded us a Cultural Economic Development Grant, a new grant category made possible from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's John and Abigail Adams Arts and Humanities Fund. The grant will assist in the design/construction of several **wayside exhibits** for the Concord River Greenway. The permanent exhibits, which will incorporate text and images, will utilize the Concord River scholarship of UMass Lowell's Professor of History, **Chad Montrie**. Dr. Montrie's research included oral history interviews with current and former residents of river-abutting neighborhoods. The exhibits will interpret sites that tell the story of human impact on the Concord River. **VOLUNTEER REQUEST:** *The Trust is seeking community members to serve on a committee that will have input into the signage. Please call Kristin at 978-934-0030 to learn more about volunteering on this committee.*

CONCORD RIVER GREENWAY

"**Thumbs up** to the visionaries at the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust and the City Council for promoting the Concord River Greenway project. With help from a \$138,000 state grant, the city has purchased a key piece of land along the river's banks that will eventually become part of a 1.75-mile public trail. Jane Calvin, the trust's executive director, said the completed trail will feature art installations along the river, making this unique environmental path much more than just a walk in the park. Once again, Lowell's can-do spirit gets the job done!"

Jim Campanini, Editor, *The Lowell Sun* (August 13, 2006)

FIRST PARCEL SECURED FOR GREENWAY

The first segment of the Concord River Greenway was recently secured through a vote of the Lowell City Council. On July 26, 2006, the Lowell City Council approved the taking of a 3.17 acre parcel, an important gateway to the Greenway. Funding for the acquisition was secured partially through a \$138,000 grant to the City from the Executive Office of Environment Affairs from funds set aside by the state to mitigate the expansion of Route 3. Other funds were secured through a city fund from the sale of real estate dedicated directly to the greenway project. The parcel follows the east bank of the river, beginning where Lawrence Street crosses the Concord River and abuts the Lowell Cemetery. The property follows an old railroad bed and is actively used by dog walkers and those interested in birding. This important gateway to the future Concord River Greenway provides scenic vistas that are unparalleled in Lowell, overlooking Massic Falls. Cormorants, otters, wood ducks and herons are some of the variety of wildlife found at this unique property.

As members, you're well aware that the Concord River Greenway will:

- parallel the eastern bank of the Concord River, primarily on abandoned railroad right-of-way, for 1.75 miles.
- provide public access to the river for walking, bicycling, fishing, bird watching, whitewater rafting, kayaking and other activities
- fill a missing link in the 200-mile Bay Circuit Trail; and
- will connect (in Phase II) with the Bruce Freeman Trail (construction to begin spring 2007) at CrossPoint.

The Trust has been working closely with the City to facilitate the conceptual (25%) design of the Greenway through a \$35,000 grant from the MA DCR Recreational Trails Program. EarthTech, Inc., a design and engineering firm from Concord, MA, was selected to create the design which will be finalized this fall. The Trust is working closely with the City's Department of Planning and Development, neighborhood groups, and abutting businesses to ensure broad public input on the Greenway's design.

In addition to developing the conceptual design, the Trust is also in the final stages of completing a public art plan for the Greenway. Artists Mags Harries and Lajos Heder have been hired to create the art plan that will be coordinated with the overall trail design developed by EarthTech, Inc. We hope that our effort to include art so early on in the Greenway's design will create a unique aesthetic experience. We thank Charlie Tracy with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for his support and assistance with developing the public art plan.

"Your group is doing SUCH good work in Lowell... hopefully more and more people will learn what you are doing and what has already been done and great links are in the future to continue to make Lowell a wonderful, liveable, environmentally conscious city that people will love living in and enjoy visiting."

Emily Teller, Friends of the Bruce Freeman Trail and LP&CT Folk Fest Volunteer

FLOWERING CITY REVISITED

November 4, 2006, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wannalancit Mills, MIL Conference Center
600 Suffolk St., Lowell

**Community Celebration Will Review Progress on
"Flowering City" Vision**

Keynote Speaker: Michael Dukakis

Lowell: the Flowering City is a 25-year community improvement plan created in April 1996. The Committee has worked with residents, groups and the City of Lowell to focus on three major areas: historic preservation, social diversity and environmental improvement. This 10th anniversary event will focus on the Flowering City's, Lowell residents', and local organizations' accomplishments to date. It will also set the stage for the group's vision for the next 15 years.

People who live and work in Lowell are encouraged to attend and contribute to the organization's vision for the betterment of the City.

LP&CT RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT GRANT SUPPORT FROM:

Theodore Edson Parker Foundation

City of Lowell CDBG Program

EPA Healthy Communities Program

Massachusetts Cultural Council

Baldwin Foundation

Joseph & Eileen Donahue Foundation

Aubert J. Fay Foundation

Greater Lowell Community Foundation

The Entrust Fund

MA DCR Recreational Trails Program

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities

New England Foundation for the Arts/Fund for the Arts

Starbucks Foundation

Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center

Richard K. Donahue Sr. Park Maintenance Fund of the
Greater Lowell Community Foundation



Massachusetts Cultural Council



WE THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR SIGNIFICANT IN-KIND SUPPORT:



Anstiss & Co., P.C.
Eno, Boulay, Martin & Donahue
LDFC/Lowell Plan

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TO RSVP CALL (978) 934-0030

LOWELL: THE RIVER CITY

Wednesday, September 27, 2006 7 - 8:30 PM
Spalding House, 383 Pawtucket St., Lowell

Please join us for a presentation about the Lowell Historical Society's newest book of postcards. This second postcard book features historic postcards of the Spalding House. Books will be available for signing.

CONCORD RIVER GREENWAY WALK

Thursday, October 5, 2006 7:30 AM

Enjoy an early morning exploration of the Concord River Greenway route during peak fall foliage. We'll visit historic overlooks, walk under bridges and explore the flora and fauna along the eastern bank of the river. *Meet at the entrance to the Lowell Cemetery on Lawrence Street. Expect rugged footing and an eye-opening experience!*

MERRIMACK RIVER HIKE

Saturday, October 21, 8:30 AM - 3 PM

Meet at the front entrance of the Lowell Memorial Auditorium

Join us for a hike along the Merrimack River—from the Lawrence/Andover border into Lowell. The entire trip is 10 miles. Wear hiking shoes and be prepared for an adventure. We'll drop you off at the Lawrence/Andover border and you'll walk back to Lowell, enjoying the marvelous trails and vistas along the Merrimack River. Reservations required so we have enough space in the van to drive you back. Cost \$15/\$10 members, please send a check in advance. Tidbits of history and plenty of wildlife will punctuate the tour. Rain or shine. Bring a brown bag lunch and plenty of water.

AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR NATHANIEL TRIPP

Thursday, October 26, 7:30PM

Lowell National Historical Park Visitor's Center

The Lowell Parks & Conservation and the Lowell National Historical Park are co-sponsoring this event which is part of the Concord Festival of Authors. Nathaniel Tripp is the author of *Confluence: A River, The Environment, Politics, and the Fate of All Humanity*, a book which tells the story of the "political ecology" of the Connecticut River. One of only three events offered in Lowell as part of the Festival.

ANNUAL MEETING — NOVEMBER

Please look for your invitation in the mail.

NEW BUMPER STICKER AVAILABLE



All membership renewals will receive this new bumper sticker!
Like the message it sends? Put one on your car today!

PARKS & TREES

“On behalf of the **Friends of Shedd Park**, I would like to thank you for your work planting trees at the Park... We are currently working on raising funds to replace the existing playground equipment... and the trees your organization provides, not only make the park look nice, but offer much needed shade to families enjoying our beautiful space.”
Stacy Marsden, Friends of Shedd Park, Exec. Comm.

Recent Tree Plantings in Your Neighborhood

We thank the City of Lowell's CDBG Grant Program for support for our Urban Forestry Program. Working in cooperation with City agencies, local non-profits, local tree nurseries, and neighborhood groups, the Trust prioritizes tree plantings where trees can provide 'broad public benefit'. Please call with suggestions for tree projects in your neighborhood.

- Coburn Park**
- Cushing Street**
- Ennell Street & Lakeview**
- Montview Avenue**
- Shedd Park**
- St. Margaret's School**
- Veterans' Park**

Donahue Park

Take a drive up Fairmount Street and enjoy the view this fall from Donahue Park at 95-99 Fairmount Street. We thank Richard & Nancy Donahue and Joseph Donahue, Jr. for funding an upgrade to the irrigation system at the Park. Installed by Wyndmere Landscaping, the irrigation system will be solar powered with a system designed by Richard Hansen of Soluz, Inc. The system will be designed to run on sunny days, a more sustainable design meant to provide water to the park when truly needed rather than when scheduled.

Enjoy the view, sit & relax for a while at this beautiful park!

“TWO SISTERS AND TWO BROTHERS”

This spring, **Coburn Park became the city's fourth endowed park**. The three other parks include Kittredge Park, Jollene Dubner Park and the Trust's Donahue Park. Each endowment has come about differently—through memorial donations, insurance gifts, or cash donations. Each endowment is set up with the Greater Lowell Community Foundation such that the income from each fund supports enhancements that are above and beyond the city Parks Department's maintenance capacity. ***If there's a corner of the city that you're particularly fond of, give us a call and we can work with you on how to ensure its perpetual care and beautification. Please call the Trust at (978) 934-0030 to learn about how to LEAVE YOUR LEGACY.***

The text below was spoken by Mr. Alfred H. Coburn at the rededication of Coburn Park, June 23, 2006. Many found his words inspiring. Visit http://www.lowelllandtrust.org/Coburn_park.html to hear a radio feature (91.5 WUML's Ellis at Large) about the dedication.

To introduce myself, I am Alfred H. Coburn, the great-grandson of Stephen Adams Coburn. I am the direct ninth-generation descendant of Edward Colbourne, who arrived from England to Boston and Ipswich in 1635. In my line of descendants, I am the last person with the name of Coburn. So it did seem right to take steps to honor the family name of Coburn.

My short story today concerns two families and I have entitled it “Two Sisters and Two Brothers.”

The two sisters grew up at the Parker Homestead on Boston Road in Chelmsford, a very historic location, as an ancestor, Jock Parker, who was a captain of the Chelmsford militia, drilled and trained the Chelmsford Minutemen in his backyard for their march to Concord and Lexington in 1775. The sisters were Gratia Ann Parker and Rhoda Parker. They became acquainted with, and friends of, two brothers, Henry Albert Coburn and Stephen Adams Coburn.

The two brothers lived in two large houses facing Chelmsford Street. They were partners in business and operated a large farm and dairy. They commenced a retail milk route and delivered dairy products to families living in the outer Highlands of Lowell. They owned many acres for agriculture purposes and acres of woodlands in Lowell and Chelmsford, where from time to time they cut stands of trees and sold the lumber. They were hard-working and enterprising, successful businessmen and well known in the Lowell area.

Stephen Adams Coburn married Gratia Ann Parker on June 22, 1848, and Henry Albert Coburn married Rhoda Parker on September 6, 1855. Their marriages lasted for many years. Finally the two sisters were widows. They subdivided much of the Coburn land holdings and sold off the lots. Gratia was very elderly when she gave title to a triangular piece of land located at Chelmsford Street and Stevens Street, across from the Coburn Homestead in 1907, almost a hundred years ago.

I like to think of Gratia Ann Parker as a woman ahead of her time as she donated the land for what we now call “Open Space.” Perhaps she was a true environmentalist as the term is known today. Her gift has been enjoyed by many and now I have endowed Coburn Park for further improvements and beautification.

I am now reminded of the partnership of the two brothers, Stephen A. Coburn and Henry A. Coburn, of long years ago, and now we have a new partnership between the City of Lowell and two private agencies and a local business to join me for this venture to beautify Coburn Park for future enjoyment by ever so many people.

ALEWIFE RESTORATION

While the rains and floods of the spring washed out our monitoring season, our volunteers continue to remain enthusiastic. A group toured the Nashua Fish Hatchery in July with Kyle Flanery, the hatchery manager. We were able to see the salmon, endangered mussels, and the shad culturing program. The shad were captured on the Merrimack River just below the Essex Dam in Lawrence, transported to Nashua for spawning, and the juveniles were released in the Charles River as part of a restoration project. **We remain hopeful that Spring 2007 will be the “Year of the Alewife” in the SuAsCo Watershed!**

Thank you members...

PLEASE NOTE: ALL DONATIONS LISTED BELOW WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN
March 21, 2006– August 18, 2006

NEW MEMBERS

Simone Allard, Louise Andrews, Nicole Barakat, Stephen & Camille Bartlett, George Behrakis, Christopher Benning, Norman Birrell, Emma Kate Blydenburgh, James Bogue, Bernie Cassidy, Francis Charette, Cheang Chea, Kate Kennedy & Philip Chonacky, Brian Connors, Brian Considine, Paul Conway, Beverly Coughlin, John Curwen, Stephanie Duato, F.J. Duggan, James & Carol Dwyer, Alison Edmondson, Joyce Fafard, Laurie Fischer, Dr. Stephen Fisher, William Gendron, Bill Gerber, Tonya Gilmore, Kevin Goddu, Lieba Golden-Koulendros, Sandy Green, Gordon Halm, Jennifer Harmoning, Stephen Hattan, Eva Herndon, Doug & Peggy Higgins, Donald Hogan, Julie Iatron, Cara Johnson, Robert & Mary Johnson-Lally, Markus Jork, Edward & Margaret Jump, Priscille LeBlanc, Betty Levinson, David Lucil, Jo Lund, Stephen Marcaurelle, Marie McCahon, Patricia McLaughlin, Cheryl Merz, Tom Michelman, Frank Miller, Jr., Donna Mitchellson, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Mondou, Paul Morse, Georgiana Mueller, Joanne Pacella, Jim Pack, Steven Panagiotakos, Edward Parsons, Carlo Piacenza, Anyta Pich, Gail Pickering, Norton Pierce, Dick Roberto, Burt Adelman & Lydia Rogers, Kristin Ross-Sitcawich, Gary Ruprecht, Bill Scarth, Lori & Darryl Selstad, Daniel Singer, Stephen & Roberta Spang, Pamela Stavely, Amy Sunderland, Richard Elliott & Karen Szczesiul, Mary Talbot, Linda Tanini, Hilary Taylor, Thomas & Deborah Thornton, Katherine Van Greenby, Debra Vicharelli, Becky Warren, James Waters, Stanley Werkowski, Anne White, Cynthia Wilkening, Hongwen Zhang

NEW MEMBERS - BUSINESSES

Please support those businesses that support us:

Attorney James J. Gaffney, III, Butler Bank, Canalside Realty Trust, Highland Maintenance Co., Sagendorf, Taupier and Assoc.

ANNUAL FUND DONORS (incl. businesses)

Maxa Berid, Mary Blazon, Richard & Pamela Bohne, Andrew Brennan, Kamala Madhu & James Calvin, Enterprise Bank, Ed & Barbara Flanagan, Joyce Frazee, Kevin Gilligan, William Lipchitz, Lowell Cemetery, Suzanne Molleur Beebe, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Peterson, Watermark Environmental, Inc. James Wilde

JOLLENE DUBNER PARK DONORS

David Bulman
Harvey & Gail Klain

RENEWING MEMBERS - BUSINESSES

Please support those businesses that support us:

Anstiss & Co., Belanger & Foley, Bickling Financial Services, Evan Coravos, DMD Frank P. McCartin Co., Inc., Frontier Development Corp., Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank, Massbank Charitable Foundation, Pawtucket Pharmacy, Subway, Washington Savings Bank

RENEWING MEMBERS - INDIVIDUALS

Jo Anne and Read Albright, Deirdre & John Anderson, Philomena Armstrong, Walter Bacigalupo, John Bain, Vanessa & Marlene Banyas, Kathleen & Brian Barry, Steve Smith & Anne Barton, Beverly Bennett, Robert Brady, Elizabeth Brady, Arlene Brewster, Mr & Mrs. Joseph Brodeur, Richard Brouillard, Cheryl Brunelas, Jim Brunelle, John Bukala, David Bulman, Gilbert & Jane Burns, Cynthia & Charles Calvin, Joseph Cambray, Charles F. & Sheila Carney, Frank & Rose Marie Carvalho,

Richard & Anne Cavanaugh, William & Dorothy Clark, Arthur & Sandra Clough, Christine Cole, Peter & Elizabeth Cole, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Conant, Bruce & Joann Conant, Mr. & Mrs. James L. Cooney, Mrs. Judith Crotty, Jim & Carol Cullen, Dolores & Matthew Czyzycki, Joe Davis, Mike & Beth Donahue, John & Eleanor Donohoe, Joseph & Anna Donovan, Brian & Chrisanne Douglas, Jane & Gary Facente, Henry Fanion, Helen & Richard Fearon, Julie Sarason and Paul Feuerstein, DMD, Allegra & David Fieldsend, Deborah Finch, Shirley & Leonard Fitzgerald, Newell Flather, Queena Flomp Traggis, Robert Flynn, Gilbert and Claire Gagnon, Richard & Christine Gaiero, Carl & Sandra Greenbaum, David & Kathleen Gwiazda, Raquel Ruiz & Stephen Haber, Ellen Harde, Shirley and Raymond Hardy, John Hassett, Donald & Joan Hearn, Kathy Hirbour, Kate Hollister, Martha Jackson, Stephen and Mary Kandrotas, Catherine & Gerard Keane, George Stalker & Jean Keskulla, James and Terri L. Decker Kilmartin, Eleanor Kilmartin, Eleanor King, Claire King, Richard Kinnal, Sheila Kirschbaum, Harvey & Gail Klain, William Koenig, Leo & Deborah Krygowski, Tom Langan, Claudine Langlois, Connie Lanseigne-Case, Dan Laughlin, Chris Laughton, Jim & Kyra Leary, Paula & Ray Leavitt, Timothy Little, Helen Littlefield, Yona & Sinn Nin Mak, Bob & Anne Malavich, Paul Clark & Susan Manoiian-Clark, Rene Marchand, Henri & Nancy Marchand, Michele & Frank Marino, Mrs. William Martin, Jay Mason, Marie McAvinnue, The McCauley Family, Mary Ann McNamara, Gail Barton & Colin McNiece, Mark and Virginia Meyer, Ray & Trudy Michel, James Moloney, George Montminy, O.D., Dierdra Murphy & Stephen Moriarty, Anne Mulvey, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Natsios, Joyce Nichols, Yildiray Erdener & Martha Norkunas, Maurice Comtois & Marian O'Brien, Carol O'Dea, Jean O'Neill, Manisha Kher & Manoj Padki, Mrs. John Pearson, Sr., Helen & Francis Picanso, Doug Preble, Stephen Purtell, Gail Ralston, Alan Recco, Michael and Caroline Rider, R. Edward Roach, Violet Santamaria, Pat Sawyer, Curtis & Patsy Siller, Joseph & Donna Smith, Julie Springwater, Naomi Title, Russell Todd, Ted Trivers, Evelyn Trudel, H. Bailey & Audrey Trull, Margarita & David Turcotte, Maryann Visniewski, Carolyn Walsh, Helen Whiting, Patricia Williams, Helen Young

GULF OF MAINE*- LOWELL?

If you asked Erica Dupras, 11, of Lowell, "What did you do for the 4th of July?" her answer may surprise you. Erica, along with Becky Gordon, 12; Maitrik Desai, 12; and Sarah Gordon, 10, all of Lowell, traveled to Cornwallis, Nova Scotia from July 2-8, 2006

to attend the Gulf of Maine Institute Community Based Initiative Summer Workshop (GOMI CBISW). Kristin A. McCauley, Project Specialist, coordinated the team of youth from the Wang Middle School with the help of Suzanne Dupras of Lowell.

"I finally made it to go rafting. It was glorious! The guides and equipment are were truly first class, but the scenery was truly Spirit Enriching... seeing local vistas and venues that we'd never seen from the road or the shore was an incredible experience."

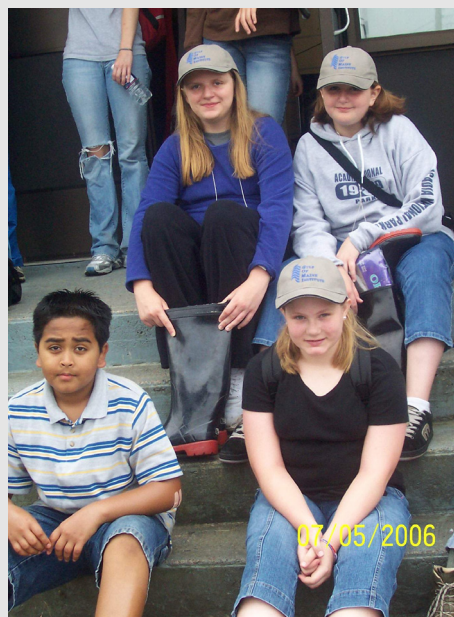
Leslie Morin
LP&CT member and rafter

The 2006 GOMI CBISW brought together 65 students, teachers, scientists, and partners from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to share environmental and cultural projects and unique experiences. Teams worked together to build skills and connections, while growing understanding of the natural and human ecology of the Gulf of Maine Watershed and having a great time meeting and working with new friends.

After returning from the conference, the team started honing their gardening skills by working several days at Jollene Dubner Park, a park created by the Trust in partnership with the Back Central neighborhood group and the city. Their first visit to Jollene Dubner Park was memorable as they had the opportunity to meet Jollene's teacher Roberta "Bobby" Gordon and her husband (Portland, ME). The Gordons were on their vacation and stopped by for a picnic lunch. We all agreed with Bobby's comment that it was "bashert." (a word meaning fate or destiny in [Yiddish](#).) as the team was there to plant lilacs, a favorite and meaningful tree to Jollene.

In August, the team joined their Newburyport GOMI counterparts to help with the pulling of perennial pepperweed, an invasive species at the Plum Island Wildlife Refuge. During the 2006/2007 school year, Erica, Becky, Maitrik, and Sarah plan on building the group, raising awareness about water quality issues, continuing school and neighborhood clean-ups, and designing & planting a garden on-site at their school.

*The Gulf of Maine watershed encompasses much of Nova Scotia; New Brunswick, Maine; New Hampshire; Massachusetts; and a small portion of Quebec. See <http://www.gulfofmaineinstitute.org>.



Lowell students who took part in GOMI (clockwise from top left): Becky Gordon, Sarah Gordon, Erica Dupras, and Maitrik Desai. See story at right.

Support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust. Become a member or renew today!

The **Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust** relies on membership dues for continuing our **mission** to protect the parks and open spaces of Lowell. If you haven't already, please consider joining the Trust today or renewing your membership.

Yes, I want to support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust!

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$15 \$ _____

Is your membership current?
Please see your address label.

- I've enclosed a **matching gift** form from my/my spouse's employer.
 I'd like to become a **tree free member** and donate \$ ____ monthly through my credit card (see monthly giving below left).
 Please send me the new **Concord River History brochure** (free to members).

Payment method: Check enclosed **Charge my credit card:** Visa MasterCard
Account # _____ **Exp.** _____ **Signature** _____

Name & address: _____

EMAIL: _____

Would you like to make a special donation?

We have established separate funds to support these projects, *above and beyond* membership dues:

- Spalding House Maintenance Fund
 Jollene Dubner Park Maintenance Fund

Please mail to: LP&CT, PO Box 7162, Lowell, MA 01852

✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- Fall 2006 -----

Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
PO Box 7162
Lowell, MA 01852

Address service requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 134
LOWELL, MA 01853

FALL 2006 NEWSLETTER

Printed on recycled paper

Membership Renewal

Monthly giving goes a long way!

When renewing your membership this year, consider the value of giving monthly (\$10 minimum). As Cynthia from Lexington said, "It means more to the Trust and it's less out of my monthly budget." The first five monthly donors responding through this newsletter will receive a signed copy of "*Lowell: The River City*," the Lowell Historical Society's new postcard book, as a thank you for your support!

Monthly giving—no renewal mailings, easier on your budget!

Upcoming Events

LOWELL: THE RIVER CITY

Wedn., September 27, 2006 7 - 8:30 PM

CONCORD RIVER GREENWAY WALK

Thursday, October 5, 2006 7:30 AM

MERRIMACK RIVER HIKE

Saturday, October 21, 8:30 am - 3 pm

AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR NATHANIEL TRIPP

Thursday, October 26, 7:30PM

LP&CT Board of Directors

Dorothy Bickling
Brian Chapman
Christine Cole
Stephen Conant
Matthew C. Donahue, Esq. (Treas.)
Lauris Donovan
Sheila Kirschbaum (Clerk)
Henri Marchand (President)
William Martin, Esq.
Dr. Mark Romanowsky
Rep. Cory Atkins, Advisor

Jane L. Calvin, *Executive Director*
Kristin A. McCauley, *Project Specialist*

www.lowelllandtrust.org