

Richalie
Griffith in
Afghanistan
Page 4



Lt. Col.
Stephen
Lefebvre
Promotion
Page 6



Yankee Voices.....	2
Commander's Column.....	3
LDP Graduation.....	3
Circ-Williston Public Hearings.....	8
National Public Lands Day.....	9
EEO Fiesta.....	10
RI Harbor of Refuge.....	11
Dredging Up the Past.....	12



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District

Volume 42, No. 1

Yankee Engineer

October 2007



Contractors remove the dirt plug so that tidal water can flood Town Pond in Rhode Island.

Photo by Dave Larsen

District's environmental project takes major step towards completion

New England District officials joined their environmental restoration partners in Portsmouth, R.I., to mark an important step in the transformation of a dredged material disposal site into a high value salt marsh and salt pond habitat.

When the final 50-foot plug was removed from the new channel at Mount Hope Bay, tidal water began to flow into the basin of the nearly finished Town Pond Restoration Project. It was the first incoming tide the pond had experienced in nearly 60 years.

Flooding Town Pond is one part of the \$4 million restoration project that is scheduled to be completed this fall. "With this first incoming tide, we have begun to restore over 20 acres of estuarine habitat. The restoration will transform this area to one of vastly improved environmental quality and productivity," said Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander.

Over time, the restored Town Pond will resemble its historic condition from the 1930's and will provide habitat for coastal fish and wildlife such as shell-

fish, finfish, herons, egrets and waterfowl, restoring the productivity and ecological value to the area.

Town Pond, which is located next to Mount Hope Bay, was a tidally-influenced salt pond and salt marsh prior to a New England District navigation improvement project that placed dredged material in the area in the 1950s. At the time, Town Pond was considered an acceptable disposal area for dredged material. Filling the pond with dredged material increased its el-

Continued on page 10

Yankee Voices

Heather Sullivan and Barbara Blumeris
at the EEO Fiesta



New England District Combined Federal Campaign 2007

The New England District opened the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign on Oct. 15 and it will run through the end of November.

The CFC provides the opportunity for federal employees to give through payroll deduction or one-time credit card or check donations to their choice of over 3,200 local, national and international charitable organizations.

Contributions are tax deductible and are strictly voluntary. Making a pledge is the easiest way to contribute and help those less fortunate than you.

Your designated office representatives will distribute CFC booklets and forms in the coming weeks. Please consider participating in this worthy cause.

Congratulations

...to **John McCartin**, Cape Cod Canal, and his wife, Lori, on the birth of their first child, daughter **Kennedy Jane**, Aug. 28.

...to **Erik Matthews**, Geotechnical Engineering Section, who has been named as the WE Committee's employee of the month for October. Matthews is recognized for his efforts during the fourth quarter FY 2007, when on relatively short notice, he coordinated the start-up of two major seepage studies, valued around a quarter of a million dollars, and three marine drilling contracts.

...to **the Marine Operations section of the Cape Cod Canal Project Office** for being selected as the WE Committee's Team of the Quarter for Oct-Dec 2007. The team is comprised of highly trained and motivated individuals that provided 24 hour coverage from June to mid-Sept. They handled over 200 assistance cases to include responding to three large commercial assistance cases. The members of the team are: **Dan Bartolome, Robert Blackwell, James Deal, Joseph DeBoer, Christopher DeMello, Donald Fillman, Daniel Guiney, Ryan Jones, Gerald Joyner, William Kane, Paul Lyver, Roger Mathurin, John McCartin, Randal Mello, Joseph Moyer, John Murner, Jack Olsen, and Tyler Spofford.**

Sympathy

...to **Claire Sullivan** on the passing of her sister, **Eleanor Gilbert**, Sept. 8. Mrs. Gilbert had more than 26 years of federal service as a civilian employee of the U. S. Army and the U. S. Air Force.

...to **Bob DeSista**, Regulatory, on the passing of his mother, **Carmella Mary "Lee" (Carcier) DeSista**, Sept. 11.

Correction

In the August edition of the Yankee Engineer it was reported that the Minnesota bridge collapse occurred on Aug. 2. The actual date was Aug. 1.

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-1 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Boston, Mass. Circulation 1500. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm>

District CommanderCol. Curtis L. Thalken
Chief, Public AffairsLarry B. Rosenberg



EditorAnn Marie R. Harvie
Media Relations Officer.....Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Specialist.....Sally M. Rigione

Commander's Corner:

Winter is coming -- time to think safety

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken
District Commander



Fall is once again upon us. The leaves are changing and the temperatures grow cooler. All of which remind me that winter will soon arrive; but before the weather really turns I'd like to take the chance to talk about winter safety.

First, please watch your step on the snow and ice. It seems like every year we see accident reports for injuries from slips and falls on the snow and ice. The good news is our newly paved parking lot should help, but I expect we may still have some ice patches. Also, snow and ice are even greater concerns in the field and at home. Sand and salt help, but won't clear

it all.

Second, traffic is a problem even in good weather throughout southern New England and in the winter it's even worse. Increased stopping distance is essential, and consider planning extra time for travel. Also, prudent planning includes warm blankets and supplies. You never know when a snow drift may alter your plans.

Third, pace yourself while you're shoveling or enjoying the snow. Sore muscles are one thing, but strained backs and worse can result from pushing too hard. Also, dehydration and frostbite occur quicker than you might think. So pay attention to your body.

The winter season helps to define New England so please enjoy to the upcoming season, but be aware of the hazards winter brings as well. As always, thanks for everything you do every day to make this district a great place to work.

Essays!

Leadership Development Program holds graduation

A ceremony and reception to celebrate the graduates of the Leadership Development Program took place in the Concord Park Headquarters theatre, Sept. 7. This year, 11 Corps of Engineers employees, to include field personnel and a Headquarters employee, successfully completed the program.

The Leadership Development Program assists in the development of future leaders. Its focus is on developing the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to develop proficiency for meeting the leadership challenges of the future.

In addition to the graduates and their mentors, Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, and Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Commander, attended the ceremony. Col. Thalken served as the keynote speaker. "You have to be the disciples now for what you've learned from this program," he said. "Talk to your friends, your peers and your bosses about it because you've got some shared experiences now."

The colonel cautioned the graduates not to get too tied up in technology that working relationships lose human contact. "Don't lose the interpersonal piece," he said. "Don't be afraid to walk to somebody's office and talk to them rather than send them an e-mail."

Now that they have graduated from the Leadership Development Program, Col. Thalken urged his new emerg-

ing leaders to become mentors themselves. "We have the official mentors who are the senior folks in the organization, but you can still be a mentor to your peers who are beginning the experience that you just completed," he said. "And don't forget people that aren't even in the program. You'll find that the best mentor/mentoree relationships are informal ones. You're going to find people who you respect and who respect you. You're going to give them advice and they'll give you advice. That's the way it works – those are the best relationships."

Col. Thalken concluded his presentation by thanking all of the graduates for taking time from their families and personal lives to complete the program. "You went out of your way using your own time, taking time away from your families to be better leaders," he said. "And that's a testament to what you want to do and we appreciate the time that you've taken. Thanks for the year. Don't stop with your enthusiasm, keep pushing laterally as well as vertically in the organization. Most importantly, don't stop learning."

Dick Carlson, Chief, Construction/Operations and the head of the Leadership Development Program, said looking to the future is a good thing, but so is looking at the past. He referred to a book, entitled "Lincoln on Lead-

Continued on page 11



Photo by Tommy Nasan, USACE

Richalie Griffith kneels by a piece of munitions in Afghanistan in February 2007.

Civil Engineer Richalie Griffith works to build a better Afghanistan

In recent years, many New England District employees have answered the call to travel overseas to support the War Against Terror. Some

go for one tour, but there are others who deploy for multiple tours to the Middle East.

Richalie Griffith, Engineering/Plan-

ning, is one of those volunteers. After previously spending four months at LCA Anaconda in Iraq, she is currently working as a Project Engineer at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan on the second leg of an extended tour. Griffith's office consists of three other Corps employees and three military personnel. "I signed up for six months, but asked if I could stay for an additional six months," she explained. "My request was approved."

As a project engineer, Griffith is responsible for the enforcement of contract requirements, including the administration and management of construction work. She also has to ensure property quality and quantity of materials and equipment, workmanship, adequacy of contractor's methods and that those methods are carried out in



USACE Photo

Richalie Griffith with an Afghan contractor at a job site in Afghanistan.

accordance with plans and specifications.

In addition to her work as a project engineer, Griffith finds she has various other tasks that keep her days varied. "I am also assisting with developing training material for the field offices and for the Afghan QAs we have," she said. "There is also some training material that is being given to the contractors."

Griffith also fills various jobs when personnel in her small office are not available such as mail clerk, laundry transportation, and travel coordinator.

According to Griffith, there are challenges working overseas. "At every job there is a language barrier," she said. "For example, on the barracks project there are workers from 10 different countries and they speak eight different languages."

Griffith also says that being away from family and friends, especially during the holidays is also difficult at times. However, these challenges are met with interpreters and letters, packages and e-mails from home. Griffith says that the benefits of working in Afghanistan far outweigh the challenges. Meeting new people topped her list of positive experiences. "I love working with the local Afghans and the people in my office," she said. "They are great to work with!"

There is a new challenge every day, says Griffith, and meeting those challenges gives her a sense of accomplishment. Other positives she cites include building hardened barracks for the troops, learning new techniques and construction methods, and the lovely Afghan landscapes. "They let me drive in the Afghan countryside!" she said. "The views are beautiful and the mountains here are just amazing."

According to Griffith, the work in Afghanistan continues to move forward in a positive way. "The work is going great," she says. "You see changes every day. The local Afghan contractors are really trying to do a good job. Most want to learn and ask



Photo by Cathy Anders, USACE

Richalie Griffith gets a visit from some Afghani girls at the base.

lots of questions to make sure they understand what we are looking for."

If given the opportunity, she said she would return to the Middle East. "In a heart beat," she said. "I love working over here. I get to meet new

people, some who are Corps employees and some who are not. The work over here is so fast-paced and challenging, it's something you really don't get to do in the States. You really feel like what you do makes a difference."



USACE Photo

Richalie Griffith (right) and her office mates go on a site visit in Afghanistan.



Photos by Mark McInerney

Col. Curtis Thalken and Shelly Lefebvre pin Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre's new rank on his shoulders during his promotion ceremony.

Lefebvre promoted to Lieutenant Colonel

New England District team members packed the Concord Park theatre to celebrate an important moment in an officer's career.

In front of family members, and a standing room only audience, Maj. Stephen Lefebvre became a Lieutenant Colonel during a promotion ceremony, held on Oct. 10. Col. Curtis Thalken presided over the event. Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, New England District's Deputy Commander, welcomed Lt. Col. Lefebvre's family, friends, and co-workers to the ceremony.

Lt. Col. Nelson gave a brief history of the United States Army, which dates back to June 14, 1775 when colonial soldiers banded together to fight for independence and a democratic way of life. "Freedom is certainly not free," he said. "For 232 years now, Soldiers have followed a warrior ethos and system of values central to all that we do. They symbolize the nobility of selfless service and sacrifice by answering the call to duty and putting their boots on the ground whenever they are needed."

The rank of Lieutenant Colonel was first created during the American Revolutionary War when the position was held by aides to Regimental Colonels, and was sometimes known as "Lieutenant to the Colonel." The 20th Century saw Lieutenant Colonel in its present day status. During World



Tyler Lefebvre removes his father's old rank from his uniform.

War II, Lieutenant Colonel became one of the most commonly held officer ranks in the Army of the United States.

According to Lt. Col. Nelson, the role of Army Engineer officers is two fold. "As leaders, officers are responsible for the welfare of Soldiers, making the most of their team's unique talents by bringing out the best in them in any situation and holding them together when the pressure's on," he said. "Additionally, an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for providing support in a full spectrum of engineering duties."

Col. Thalken said that promotions like Lt. Col. Lefebvre's are rare, not only at the Corps of Engineers, but in the U.S. Army and it is well-deserved. To illustrate his point, he summarized Lt. Col. Lefebvre's distinguished and varied career in the Army thus far. "If you take a look at his career, he's done a little bit of everything you would expect an Army Engineer Officer to do," he said. "Steve's done it all and in recognition of that, we're going to put some more on his shoulders and promote him and give him more responsibility."

The District Commander gave much credit to Lt. Col. Lefebvre's family for helping him get so far in his career. "It doesn't work well in the Army if you don't have a great team," he said. "The life of an Army family is not the easiest thing, but in my experiences, it makes them very strong because you have each other."

The Colonel thanked Lt. Col. Lefebvre's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lefebvre, for instilling values in him during his childhood. "The Army expects people to have certain values, but they don't come to us as moldable clay," he said. "They already come as fully grown adults. Steve is the officer he is because of the way you raised him."

After Col. Thalken's remarks, Lt. Col. Lefebvre went to the front of the room so that his son Tyler could remove his old rank. Col. Thalken and Lt. Col. Lefebvre's wife, Shelly, then pinned on his new rank as Lt. Col. Nelson read the orders in front of the standing audience. Lt. Col. Lefebvre then renewed his oath of office as is tradition during promotion ceremonies.

Lt. Col. Lefebvre said that prior to the promotion ceremony, Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, called to congratulate him on his promotion and the two talked about Army values. "People have a hard time transitioning into those values," said Lt. Col. Lefebvre. "My parents raised five kids and raised us very well. It was very



Col. Curtis Thalken re-administers the oath of office to Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre.

easy for me to adopt those Army Values because I got them at home."

The newly promoted officer thanked his wife and son for supporting him throughout his career. "It's not easy, but it makes it less difficult when you have a great family," he said.

Lt. Col. Lefebvre also credited the people, both civilian and military, that he has worked with over the years for helping him advance in his career. "You don't get to this rank on your own," he said. "I've had great people that have supported me along the way."

Lt. Col. Lefebvre said that he was thrilled that his family could attend his promotion. Due to various circumstances, this was the second promotion ceremony that his parents have attended and the first for his wife and son. "This is just fantastic to be able to share this experience with my family," he said. "My parents haven't seen one of these since the day they pinned my Second Lieutenant rank on me."

Before concluding the promotion ceremony and inviting the audience to an after event reception, Lt. Col. Lefebvre thanked everyone for coming and reflected on the significance of his new rank. "Lieutenant Colonel is only two ranks lower than a general," he said. "It's pretty awesome to look back from when I was in ROTC and not really knowing where this was all going to go to now. I've had a great experience so far and I look forward to a lot of other great experiences. I've had a good experience here. You're a great group of folks to work for and I wouldn't want to be working anywhere else right now. This is a super team and I really do appreciate everyone coming here to help celebrate."

In addition to his wife, son, and parents, Lt. Col. Lefebvre's sister, Elizabeth, and Great Aunt, Gladys Maguire, attended the ceremony.

Joint public hearings held in Williston, Essex Junction, Vermont on Circ-Williston highway improvement proposal

Story and photos by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs Office

Joint public hearings were held on Oct. 4 in Essex Junction and Williston, Vermont, on the proposed Circ-Williston highway improvement project.

The Circ-Williston project involves transportation improvements in the area between I-93 and the towns of Williston, Essex, and Essex Junction. The purpose of the project is to improve access to, from, and within the project area and remedy existing and projected deficiencies including congestion, safety and mobility issues – including the movement of both people and goods – in the Circ-Williston corridor.

Agency representatives at the joint public hearings included Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, the Corps' New England District deputy commander; Kenneth Sikora, of the Federal Highway Administration; and Kenneth Robie, of the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Marty Lefebvre, of the Corps' Vermont Project Office in Essex Junction, Vermont, is the Corps' Permit Project Manager. Corps Regulatory Division Branch Manager Frank Delgiudice has oversight over the Corps permit review. They both attended the hearings.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is seeking a Corps permit to conduct work in waters of the United States in conjunction with the proposed work.

An afternoon joint public hearing was held in Essex Junction and had a good turnout, lasting almost three hours.

"The project is the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement being prepared by the Federal Highway Administration and the Vermont Agency of Transportation, with the Corps of Engineers as a cooperating agency," said Lt. Col. Nelson during his remarks. "We are here because an Army Corps of Engineers permit will be required to fill an undetermined amount of wetlands in conjunction with the building of the transportation improvements. Wetland impacts range

from 1.92 acres to 47.01 acres in the various alternatives that are being considered in the EIS."

Lt. Col. Nelson provided an overview of the Section 404 Permit Process and Corps jurisdiction.

After introductory remarks by the agency representatives and a short summary of the project alternatives, the public had an opportunity to voice their concerns.



Lt. Col. Nelson gets a briefing from Michael Adams of New England District's Vermont Project Office before the Public Hearing. The Vermont Agency of Transportation is seeking a Corps permit for work on the Circ-Williston highway improvement project.

One person commented that the Draft EIS report and its tables were difficult to read and understand. Another person had concerns about safety with the high volume of traffic and questioned how emergency vehicles could get through and that safety issues had received very little coverage in the study. One person said the study did not include all the nearby communities.

One person said the highway proposal is a relic of old and will harm the environment and natural resources and destroy farmland. The person said the project would harm the

economy, increase traffic and encourage urban sprawl. Another person asked if anyone had heard of global warming and suggested public transportation as a solution rather than expanding the highway system for more automobile traffic. Many people were in favor of an alternative that would reduce traffic congestion, but almost all were opposed to any alternative with a proposed rotary at the five corners intersection. Other people said the original proposal dates back 40 years and the highway improvement has taken too long to resolve.

Many people said they are a community of walkers and don't support any plan that would limit their ability to walk and their children's ability to walk to school.

An evening hearing was held in Williston and had a fair turnout, lasting just less than three hours. Residents had similar concerns as those voiced in the afternoon hearing. One person said the EIS process is flawed and the process is taking too long. One woman said the EIS is costing too much money and that money should be used on highway

improvements. Another person said the proposal will take away people's homes.

Several people suggested that the original Circ-Williston proposal from 40 years ago should be the preferred plan. Many people commented that the backed up traffic and idling cars was a pollution concern. One person suggested hybrid cars could help reduce pollution problems. Another person suggested using more buses and fewer single passenger cars. One person detailed how rotaries are inefficient and should not be used.

The majority of people expressed frustration with the traffic congestion with the current configuration and wanted officials to move forward with a plan to remedy that situation.

The Draft EIS was published on Aug. 10, 2007 and is available for review at <http://www.circEIS.org> and at area libraries and agency offices in Vermont.

Written comments on the Draft EIS were accepted through Nov. 8, by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The Corps will be provided copies of the public hearing transcripts and all submitted comments. A full transcript of public comments will appear in the Final EIS.

Alternatives being considered include: no-build alternative; existing roadway alternatives (improvements to VT Route 2A from I-89 to Five Corners in Essex Junction – with a wetland impact ranging from 1.92 to 2.39 acres); new roadway alternatives (Circ Highway Segments A/B from I-89 to VT-289 – with a wetland impact ranging from 33.14 to 47.01 acres); and the hybrid alternatives (improvements to VT Route 2A from I-89 to Five Corners in Essex Junction with a new roadway from I-89 to Mountain View Road along the Circ A alignment – with a wetland impact ranging from 28.93 to 29.4 acres).

The Corps public notice on its permit review can be seen online at the Corps website <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting and search by file number or state.

Hundreds gather at three District sites for National Public Lands Day

Hundreds of volunteers gathered at three New England District recreational facilities ready to get their hands dirty and to donate thousands of dollars in labor.

Over 400 nature lovers gathered at Westville Lake, Buffumville Lake, and West Hill Dam to celebrate National Public Lands Day by working on projects and making improvements to the areas. Westville and Buffumville held their celebrations on Sept. 29. West Hill celebrated on Sept. 22.

Westville Lake originally had five projects for their 65 volunteers to perform, but the work went so well, two additional projects were added to the work roster. Work ranged from installing two benches that were compliant with the American Disabilities Act to removing trash and invasive plants.

West Hill Dam had 115 volunteers work on 10 improvement projects this year to include planting a butterfly garden and picking up litter around the dam. A new group of volunteers at West Hill -- You, Inc., a youth high school GED Drop-in program -- performed trail maintenance and worked on a service trail to Scout and wetland service areas.

Buffumville's 225 volunteers completed a whopping 19 projects at the site that ranged from trash clean up to bridge repairs to building stairs between Terraces 1 and 2 at Buffumville Lake Park.

The volunteers' donated labor to improve the Corps projects added up to almost \$27,000 in savings to the federal government. Local residents and businesses also donated materials and other items such as food for the volunteers, saving the government thousands more.

After a hard day's work, volunteers at Westville and Buffumville were treated to pizza and West Hill volunteers received an old fashioned barbecue lunch. All volunteers received National Public Lands Day passes for free admittance to a federal park of their choice. At West Hill, an additional ceremony was held for the 10 Junior Rangers – Level 2 – who earned their Wildlife or Parks and Recreation patches for volunteering.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. Last year, 100,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants.



Photo courtesy of West Hill Dam.

A group of volunteers gather at West Hill Dam for their duty assignments during National Public Lands Day.

Town Pond takes major step towards completion

Continued from page 1

evation above that of regular tidal flooding and degraded it to a lower value, non-tidal habitat dominated by the reed species *Phragmites australis*.

The project partners recognized the potential environmental importance of the site and decided to restore it under Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, a Corps Program to modify projects to improve the environment.

Northern Construction Services, LLC, of Weymouth, Mass., is the contractor for the project. The project restored intertidal elevations within the pond and provided a new channel connecting Town Pond to Mount Hope Bay. In addition to restoring flooding to Town Pond, work on the project included excavating approximately 126,000 cubic yards of dredged material and removing approximately 18 acres of *Phragmites* to restore salt marsh and salt pond estuarine habitats; constructing a concrete culvert to replace an older, smaller one; constructing a concrete weir to regu-



Aerial view of Town Pond circa 1939. View of the project taken in 1990.

late a permanent pool where the entrance channel meets the interior marsh; and constructing a water control berm to prevent flooding of nearby freshwater resources.

“An open water and salt marsh alternative was selected as the best overall plan for habitat restoration, aesthetic acceptability and affordability,” said Project Manager Dave Larsen.

Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, New England District Deputy Commander, represented the agency at the event.

John Kennelly, Dave Larsen and Larry Oliver of Engineering/Planning and Christopher Turek of Construction/Operations also attended on behalf of the District.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is the project's non-federal sponsor. Other partners included the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, the Aquidneck Land Trust, the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Ducks Unlimited, National Grid, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and the town of Portsmouth.

District celebrates Hispanic Heritage with fiesta

The Hispanic Employment Program (HEP), in partnership with the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, held a fiesta in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The fiesta was held Sept. 19 in the Concord Park Courtyard. This year's theme was “Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society.”

The HEP wanted to do an activity other than the usual speaker format this year, according to Barbara Blumeris, Program Manager. “We thought it would be fun and educational to have an event to honor and celebrate Hispanic Americans that had the potential to involve a lot of the employees at the District,” she said.

Balloons, a piñata, a colorful display of cultural items, and traditional Hispanic music helped to create a light, celebratory atmosphere. The beautiful September day and the scents of various Hispanic dishes wafting through the open courtyard completed the mood.

Crowds of New England District employees and members of the Community Based Health Case organization lined up to taste food items such as rice, beans, chili with corn bread, nachos, mini tacos, enchiladas, three bean salad, taco dip, chips, salsa and dessert made by New England District employees.



People line up to taste Hispanic cuisine during the Fiesta. Photo by Brian Murphy

Stabilization of the East Bulkhead of Block Island Harbor of Refuge proposed

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing plans to perform repairs to the East Bulkhead portion of the federal navigation project at the Block Island Harbor of Refuge in Block Island, Rhode Island.

The proposed work involves stabilization of the 257-foot-long bulkhead, running along the east side of the boat basin in the Harbor of Refuge on Block Island.

"The steel sheet pile bulkhead on the east side of the boat basin is failing and is creating a safety hazard to pedestrians and workers in the area adjacent to the east dock," said Project Manager Michael Walsh, of the Corps' New England District, Programs/Project Management Division. "The Corps plans to stabilize the bulkhead with a stone revetment. The extent of the revetment will remain beneath the footprint of the existing east dock."

To perform the work the decking of the existing dock will need to be removed and replaced. The work will take place over a three-month period in the years in which funds become available.

It is the Corps' preliminary determination that no significant adverse environmental impacts will occur as a result of this project. Also, the Corps has determined that no threatened or endangered species occur in the project area. However, several threatened or endangered species have the potential to occur in the general vicinity of the project area. The Corps will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure the proposed activity will not significantly affect any species or critical habitat designed as endangered or threatened.

There is no dredging associated

with the proposed project. The town of New Shoreham is the local sponsor for the proposed work.

The east bulkhead of the boat basin at Block Island Harbor of Refuge was originally constructed in 1940 to protect a failing stone bulkhead wall, and was subsequently repaired in 1970 when the east dock was added in front of the bulkhead.

The proposed work involves only those areas previously impacted by earlier bulkhead and dock construction, and will not affect any cultural or archaeological features or resources. The stabilization revetment will remain beneath the footprint of the existing dock and the previously constructed stone toe of the existing bulkhead.

The Corps has determined that the proposed maintenance work may have a temporary adverse effect on Essential Fish Habitat. However, the Corps has determined that there will be no significant impacts on the designated fisheries resources. The Corps will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any potential impacts will be minimized.

The proposed stabilization project is being coordinated with the following federal, state and local agencies: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, the Rhode Island Historical Commission, and the town of New Shoreham, Block Island, Harbormaster.

The public notice is available for review on the Corps website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select "public service,s" then "navigation," and then "public notices."

Public comments on this proposed bulkhead stabilization project were received through Aug. 27.

Leadership Development Program graduation

Continued from page 3

ership," written by Donald Phillips. Carlson said that the four chapters in the book mirror the Corps' People, Process and Communications. Carlson also talked about the book and what it had in common with Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp's recent information about the Corps going from "Good to Great."

"Certainly Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp has a lot in front of him as he helps the Corps help the Army do what it's doing all over the world," said Carlson "All successful leaders had similar challenges. It all goes to being on the right bus with the right people, doing the right things."

After the presentations, graduates received completion certificates. The 2007 graduates are Alex Garneau, Charles Farris, Christopher Way, John Kedzierski, Mark Anderson, Raushanah Muhammad, Saji Varghese, Stephen Dunbar, Steven Patchkofsky, Thomas Davidson, and Michael Russo.

The Leadership Development Program is open to all and runs for 12 months. Each participant is required to select and work with a mentor, to complete 60 hours of self-study, attend two eight-hour sessions on leadership presented from outside sources, complete a team project and make an oral presentation at the end of the program.

For more information on the program, contact Dick Carlson or Santos Lara, Sr.

Dredging up the past . . .



Photo by C.J. Allen

Park Ranger and Junior Rangers dress up as ghouls during Buffumville Lake's Haunted Dam Tour in this Oct. 28, 2000 photo. Guests were treated to a tour of the dam as well as a few scares from the spooks hiding in the corners.

Public Affairs Office
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751
Meter Code 40

First Class
U.S. Postage
Paid
Concord, MA
Permit No. 494