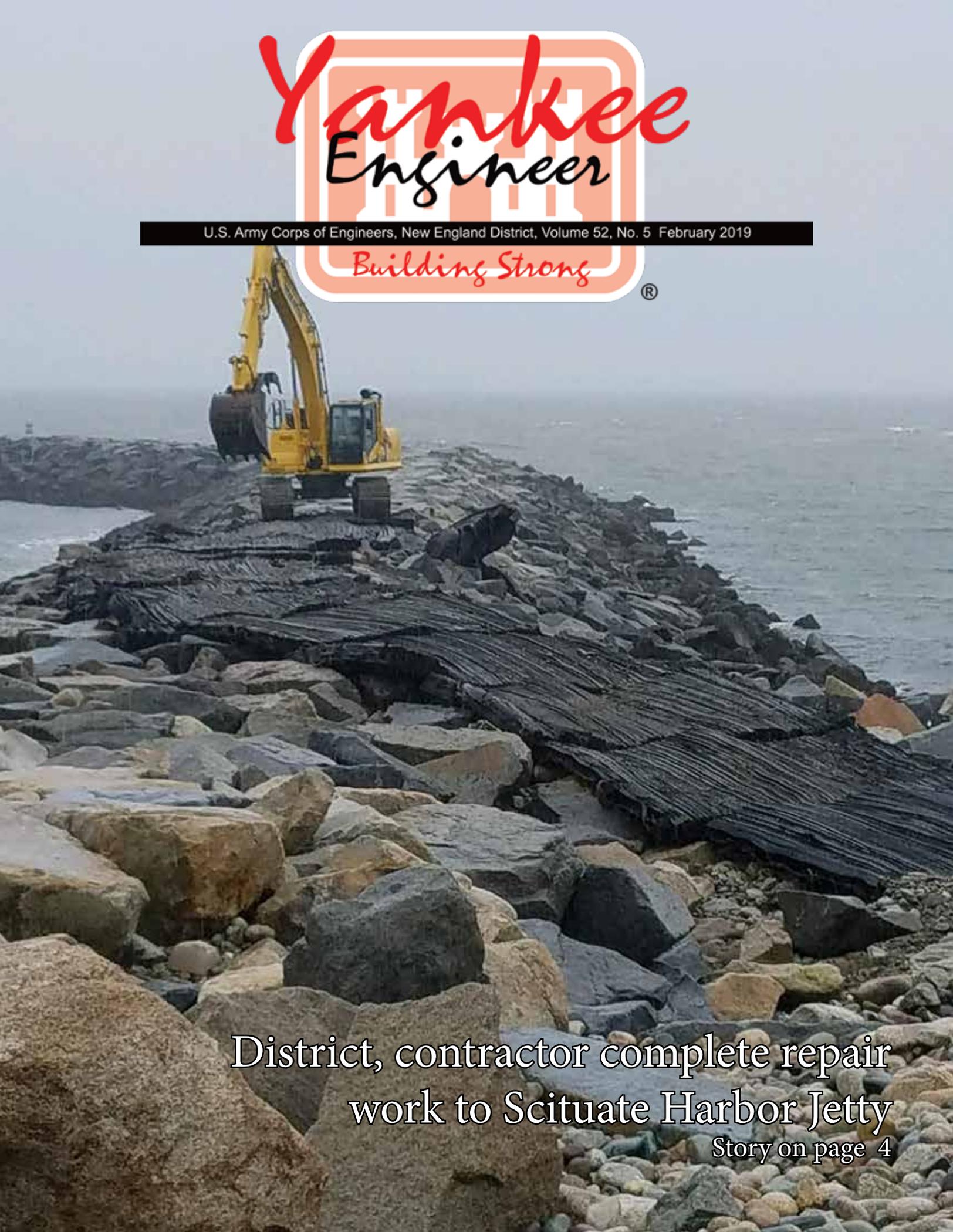


Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 52, No. 5 February 2019

Building Strong

®



District, contractor complete repair
work to Scituate Harbor Jetty
Story on page 4

Yankee Voices



Larry Oliver (left) and Adam Stewart

Edward MacDowell Lake Team to hold public meeting on Master Plan

The team at Edward MacDowell Lake in Peterborough, New Hampshire, is seeking public comments on updates to the project's Master Plan. A public meeting will be held March 20 at the Peterborough Town Hall.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to provide government officials and the public the opportunity to give their input. A draft proposal of the Master Plan can be found at the Edward MacDowell website: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Edward-MacDowell>.

Comments will be accepted until April 19.

Words Worth Repeating

"Eighty percent of success is showing up."

- Woody Allen

District proposes maintenance dredging of Annisquam River Federal navigation project in Gloucester

By Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing to perform maintenance dredging of the Annisquam River federal navigation project (FNP) in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The city of Gloucester is the local sponsor and requested this dredging.

The proposed work involves maintenance dredging of portions of the 8-foot-deep Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) channel and anchorage, plus authorized overdepth dredging in the Annisquam River FNP.

"Natural shoaling processes have reduced available depths to as little as 1.0 foot in portions of the 8-foot MLLW channel and anchorage making navigation hazardous or impossible at lower stages of the tide," said Project Manager Erika Mark, Programs/Project Management Division. "Maintenance dredging of approximately 140,000 cubic yards of sand and some gravel from approximately 20 acres of the authorized project area will restore the FNP to authorized dimensions."

A private contractor, under contract by the government, will use a mechanical dredge and scows to remove the material and then transport it for placement at the Ipswich Bay Nearshore Disposal Site (IBNDS) and the Gloucester Historic Disposal Site (GHDS). Approximately 132,500 cubic yards of sandy material will be placed at the IBNDS and the remaining 7,500 cubic yards of sand and gravel material will go to the GHDS. Construction is expected to take between 3-4 months between Oct. 1, 2019 and March 15, 2020.

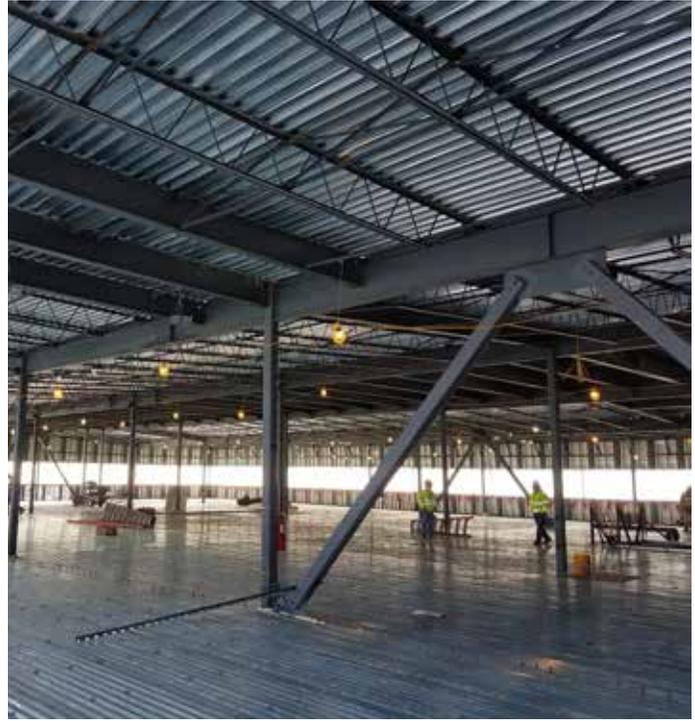
An Environmental Assessment is being prepared.

The public notice, with more detailed information, is available for review on the Corps' website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Public-Notices/>. Public comments on this proposed dredging should be forwarded no later than March 6, to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Programs/Project Management Division (ATTN: Erika Mark), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751 or by email to nae-pn-nav@usace.army.mil.





The exterior of the System Management Engineering Facility.



The interior of the facility.

Photos provided by John Shannon

System Management Engineering Facility Project progressing at Hanscom Air Force Base

by Sheila Bergeron
Project Management

Construction of the System Management Engineering Facility (SMEF), the 40,000 square foot, 2-story addition, is well underway and progressing rapidly. The construction went vertical late last fall with the installation of the steel superstructure, completed in January and is on schedule. The building shell is scheduled to be completed in early July, then construction moves inside until January 2020, the scheduled completion date. This is one of many projects that New England District is doing for Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts.

Work began on this \$17 million design-build contract in January 2018. The contract was awarded to J&J/BBIX Joint Venture of North Billerica, Massachusetts. Besides the addition, it includes the associated site work – parking lots, utilities, abatement and demolition of three existing buildings, as well as other site improvements. As this is a large undertaking for a relatively short amount of time, the team agreed to facilitate the effort by packaging the design/construction effort in three distinct phases, demolition and abatement, site work and the addition.

“By executing the contract in three distinct phases, we were able to fast track the construction effort, starting the site work and demolition work while the interior design of the addition was being completed,” said Sheila

Bergeron, District Project Manager. “With this process, the contractor was able to mobilize and begin the abatement and demolition work in April 2018 and site work in June 2018. By doing this, work started four months earlier than if we needed to wait for all the design to be completed.”

This project is an addition to Building 1604, which also was constructed in 2010. “The end product for this project is to have a single uniform building providing a consistent look and feel you would not be aware of when you transition from the original building into the addition.” said Jim Conway, Hanscom Resident Office, Resident Engineer. “We have the advantage of having the contractor from the original project on board again, which helps maintain this uniformity.”

Conway said the addition will include energy efficient items and comply with current codes which differs from the construction in 2010 of the original building.

Once completed, this addition will provide workspace for approximately 150 people. “These people will be relocated from a deteriorated building built in the 1950s and beyond its economic life,” said Bergeron. “I’ve worked in a deteriorated building and am well aware of the impacts all the maintenance issues have on productivity of the tenants and operating costs.”

The design-build construction project is managed by the District. District team members working on the project include: Jim Conway, Michelle Jellison, Ken Paton, Joanne Burnham, John Shannon, Erin Bradley and Sheila Bergeron.



Construction on the Scituate Harbor Jetty shown in progress with Scituate Lighthouse in the background.

Photos by Eric Crockett.

District, contractor complete repair work to Scituate Harbor Jetty

After sustaining damage during Winter Storm Juno in 2015, the Scituate Harbor North Jetty in Scituate, Massachusetts has been successfully repaired.

The New England District team and its contractor, Classic Site Solutions of Springfield, Massachusetts, completed the \$1.24 million project, Jan. 16.

“The North Jetty at Scituate Harbor extends from Cedar Point on the north side of the entrance channel to the harbor and is an interlocked stone structure approximately 850-foot long,” said Project Engineer Eric Crockett. “The jetty provides protection to the navigational channel and Scituate Harbor.”

Crockett said that the jetty

experiencesomeofthemostsignificant storm surges in Massachusetts and the integrity of the structure is pivotal to the thriving fishing and boating industries in the area.

Repair work on the jetty consisted of removing and replacing significant volumes of existing stone as well as installing 1,500 tons of new armor stone. The stones ranged in weight from four to eight tons. The Scituate Harbor Project Deliver Team identified critical areas of the jetty to be repaired, which resulted in the most reuse of the existing stones.

Repairing a jetty of such importance comes with its challenges. Not only is the structure an important protection to the federal channel and the harbor, it is also home to the

historic, and heavily-visited, Scituate Lighthouse. It was for that reason that the start date for construction was held until September 2018.

However, strong winds and waves during that time of year made working conditions difficult.

“It is a frequently visited area, so the construction window was scheduled primarily by the contractor to be during the winter months so the area could be closed off,” said Project Manager Bill Kavanaugh. “Access was still available to the lighthouse. It was good for recreational avoidance, but not that great for construction.”

Environmental considerations had to be made during construction as well. “The harbor provides for an



Jetty repairs complete.

abundance of aquatic ecosystems, and the area directly surrounding the jetty needed to be avoided due to the presence of eelgrass,” said Crockett.

Every effort was made to protect the precious aquatic plants. “Due to extensive eelgrass concerns adjacent to the structure, all of the

stones used for the construction had to be barged in, placed on the beach and then transported along the top of the jetty to the end where the primary repair area was and all of the actual stone placement into the jetty had to be done from the top of the structure,” said Kavanaugh.

The stone for the project arrived at the site in October 2018. Construction of the jetty began in November and took about 60 days to complete. The New Bedford Resident office oversaw the construction. Team members included Kavanaugh, Crockett, Brendan Sprague and Michael DeGrazia.



High winds and strong waves made winter construction difficult.

West Hill Dam team, bird watchers participate in bird counting event

Local bird watchers descended upon West Hill Dam armed with pen, paper and a few binoculars to participate in West Hill Dam's annual Backyard Bird Count. The event took place Feb. 17 and was co-hosted by the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology. The organization has been hosting the count at District project for 20 years.

"The annual Backyard Bird Count is a nationwide program held every February," said Park Ranger and event organizer Viola Bramel. "Worldwide hikers, visitors and even seniors at home by their own feeders share their observations."

Bramel said that the Cornell Lab plots the observations on global maps to show migration, population trends and environmental factors that impact birds. Cornell Lab says that scientists use information from the Great Backyard Bird Count, along with observations from other citizen-science projects to get the "big picture" about what is happening to bird populations.

This year, 20 participants kept a sharp eye out for West Hill's feathered residents during a 1.5-mile hike. Volunteers included Scouts, Advanced Rangers and adult bird enthusiasts. The group hiked to observe four habitats at West Hill – riparian-river, wetlands, grassland and open field with a forested edge. "We followed protocol from Cornell, observing each habitat for 15 minutes," said Bramel.

Patience paid off for the bird lovers – the group saw a flock of hooded Mergansers, a black-eyed Junco, an Eastern Bluebird, three ducks, a Blue Jay, a flock of Chickadees, three Canadian Geese and two Bald Eagles.

After a successful bird count, the Scouts and Advanced Junior Rangers put their campfire skills to good use and built a fire. Volunteers and Bramel provided hot chocolate and marshmallows for the adventurers to enjoy by the fire. "We reviewed



Park Ranger Viola Bramel talks with bird watchers before their 1.5 mile hike.

our observations while enjoying the campfire," said Bramel. "It was so nice to have so many people just spending a great day outside in the park and away from electronics."

Long-time volunteer Linda Letha assisted Bramel in running the event.

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time.

According to their website, more than 160,000 people of all ages worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance

of birds. In 2018, Great Backyard Bird Count participants in more than 100 countries counted more than 6,400 species of birds on more than 180,000 checklists. Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document and understand the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time.

The Backyard Bird Count is only one of many events West Hill Dam hosts. For more information on upcoming events, visit their website at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/West-Hill-Dam/>



About 20 people participated in West Hill Dam's Backyard Bird Count.

Photos provided by West Hill Dam.

Chief of Navigation Branch Ed O'Donnell retires after 35 years of service

It was only supposed to be temporary.

When Ed O'Donnell walked into the Corps in New England's Waltham offices, he did so as a temporary GS-04 in the Engineering Division's Design Branch. That was 35 years ago, and with talent and dedication, that temporary GS-04 developed into the New England District's Navigation Section Chief. When O'Donnell made the decision to retire, he was honored with an official awards ceremony in the Gridley Room, Jan. 30.

About 25 work friends and co-workers attended the event. Scott Acone, Deputy Division Engineer for Programs/Project Management, hosted the ceremony. George Nieves, Chief of O&M and Regulatory at the North Atlantic Division traveled from Fort Hamilton, New York to present O'Donnell with a Commander's Coin from Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Milhorn, Division Commander, in appreciation of his dedicated service. Doug Stamper from NAD (O&M Program Manager) was also in attendance.

After Nieves' presentation, Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, presented O'Donnell with a Superior Civilian Service Award to honor his three and half decades of faithful service and an exceptional career. "Mr. O'Donnell's superior leadership and expertise significantly contributed to the success of numerous Army Corps of Engineers projects throughout the nation," read Acone.

The citation marked his vast knowledge of navigation, coastal structures and processes as well as his commitment to his team and execution of the program as well as being instrumental to the success of the New England District and North Atlantic Division.

Col. Conde presented O'Donnell with a District coin and his retirement certificate, making his retirement from the District official. Accolades from the Corps of Engineers were not the only honors O'Donnell received. During a private retirement celebration with family, friends, and co-workers, O'Donnell listened while co-workers recounted heartfelt stories and memories of working with him over



George Nieves, NAD Chief of O&M and Regulatory makes a presentation during O'Donnell's retirement ceremony.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Ed O'Donnell receives the Superior Civilian Service award from Col. William Conde.

the years. O'Donnell received certificates of appreciation from U.S. Senator Angus S. King, Jr., Massachusetts State Senator Bruce Tarr, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, the city of Milford, Connecticut, the Harbor Master and the Town Manager from Wells, Maine, which were all presented during the celebration. Greenwich Harbor Management Commission, Norwalk Harbor Management Commission, Stamford Harbor Management Commission, Connecticut Harbor Management Association, Stratford Waterfront and Harbor Management Commission and the Fairfield Harbor Management Commission also sent in certificates of appreciation. During the celebration, Tony Mobilia from the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission and Geoff Steadman, a consultant representing several Connecticut towns and the Harbor Management Association, read and then presented O'Donnell with a letter of appreciation signed by Association President, Dr. John Thomas Pinto.

"Since joining the Corps of Engineers' Navigation Section and your 2002 promotion as Chief, you have wisely directed us through the complex process of dredging Connecticut's ports and harbors," read Steadman. "The CHMA wishes you 'fair winds and following seas' in future endeavors and sincerely thanks you for the guidance you have provided over the past many years."

As the Navigation Chief, O'Donnell was responsible for the maintenance of 170 federally authorized navigation projects within the New England District. These projects along 6,100 miles of coastline include 15 deep draft waterways, 158 breakwaters or jetties and numerous small harbors. The projects under O'Donnell's area of responsibility serve the nation, most especially the 14.8 million people that reside in the New England District Area.

Sadly, O'Donnell will be missed in the office. However, he coached, mentored and developed the team over the years that will ensure consistent quality and service to the public for many years to come.

O'Donnell plans to spend quality time with family and friends during his retirement.

Dredging up the past



Park Rangers Viola Bramel and Deila Vogel display animal mounts during a Lewis and Clark presentation at the Killam School in Reading, Massachusetts in this January 23, 2009 photo.

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