

York Water District photo brings in money for conservation



This photo, taken by Gary Stevens of the York Water District, has not only won an award, but has been used as part of a successful fund-raising campaign to help with local preservation efforts.

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YORK — In June of 2006, Gary Stevens of the York Water District snapped a photograph of a young fawn crossing a local body of water. The photo went on to win a competition in February, sparking a dynamic fund-raising idea: The Mount Agamenticus Steering Committee began selling 5 x 7 prints of the photo for \$30, and matted and framed prints for \$40.

Earlier this month, the committee reached its goal of raising \$1,000.

On Wednesday, Dec. 19, the group met for a monthly meeting at the Grant House, where a check was presented to Robin Stanley, the Mount Agamenticus conservation coordinator.

"We really appreciate the family Gary and Robin have made with the mountain; they really enjoy being out there, and encouraging people to do all that they can," said Paul Schumacher of the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission.

Efforts to protect water and wildlife in the Mount Agamenticus watershed have been astounding in 2007. The volunteer program at the mountain has been greatly expanded, with 40 new recruits and more than 740 hours of volunteer labor.

The remediation of 25 miles of trails, construction of a sturdy, multiple-use bridge over Chicks Brook, and removal of 75 garbage bags full of invasive plant species, are just a few of the ways the Committee is making the mountain a more pleasant place for recreation.

Conservation efforts also included the organization, leading of, or participation in 22 educational programs, lectures and guided hikes.

A collection of 24 "Watershed Moments," local environmental and wildlife photographs, are still available through the York Water District.

At the December meeting, steering committee members talked about a calendar consisting of the wildlife photos, to be sold in addition to the single photos. Questions regarding the photos and or the upcoming calendar can be answered by the York Water District at 363-2265.

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