



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF ELLISVILLE MARSH FOR 2008-09

REAL PROGRESS TOWARD RESTORING ELLISVILLE MARSH

PERMITTING MILESTONES ACHIEVED

The first major step in the restoration of Ellisville Marsh – relocation of the blocked tidal inlet to restore tidal flows – has passed several key regulatory hurdles since our 2008 Annual Meeting:

- Issuance of a MEPA certificate with the determination that an Environmental Impact Report is not required (Sep 08).
- Issuance of an Order of Conditions by the Plymouth Conservation Commission (Sep 08).
- Completion of an interagency review process required by MEPA (Jan 09).
- Submission of an application to MassDEP in Lakeville for Chapter 91 Waterways license (June 09).
- Submission of an application to MassDEP in Boston for Section 401 Water Quality Certification (June 09).

Once the abovementioned MassDEP permits are in hand, the project only requires one more step, a discharge permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers. That application will be filed soon.

MEMBERSHIP & FUND RAISING

Friends' membership continues to expand, although at a slower rate than in 2007-08. More than 100 families and individuals have contributed since 2007 and the membership renewal rate has been high. Fully 93% of the money the Friends have raised since 2007 has gone directly to restoration-related work – this overhead ratio is considered very high in non-profit circles.

*Please renew for 2009-10
now! You can download the
renewal form on our web site
at www.EllisvilleMarsh.org*



Vintage Ellisville Harbor photo courtesy of
Friends member David Marsh

TWO MORE GRANT AWARDS

Grants continue to play a vital role in our ability to continue funding the restoration project. A second grant has been received from Entergy Corporation, this one worth \$5,000. The project received this 2009 grant from Entergy's Open Grant program. Very recently, we were also informed by the New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) that we are to be awarded a \$1,000 grant to produce an educational brochure describing the restoration project. This will enable us to broaden our outreach for new members and extend the project's visibility. Sincere thanks to Entergy and the NEGEF for their generous support!

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

We know that the DEP permits to be issued will come with strings attached. That is, the Friends will need to make a commitment to continue, and in some cases initiate, environmental monitoring programs that over time will enhance our understanding of the complex processes at work in and around Ellisville Marsh. We believe that the programs under consideration can be implemented and maintained with volunteers and will not require us to hire outside consultants. Moreover, the Town's Environmental Management department has graciously offered to assist us with their technical expertise and equipment loans.