

For Immediate Release



*Left to Right: Ralph Kirshner, Chairman, New Hampton Conservation Commission, Pat Bergeron, Chuck Braxton, President, Windy Waters Conservancy  
Don Bergeron, Bill Fitzgerald, Horizon Settlement Services*

## **New Hampton Expands Snake River Conservation Area**

The New Hampton Conservation Commission has acquired another 5 acre parcel on the west side of the Snake River off Winona Road, with approximately 700 feet of river frontage. The property is a gift to the town from Don and Pat Bergeron in memory of Marilyn J. Bergeron.

The Snake River runs between Winona Lake and Lake Waukewan, and contains wetlands and forested buffers that serve to filter the water entering Lake Waukewan, Meredith's water supply. That lake then drains into Lake Winnepesaukee in Meredith. Protecting the water quality also protects property values in the watershed.

Pending approval from their Board of Selectmen, Meredith will hold a conservation easement on the property, as it does on the rest of the area, monitored by the Meredith Conservation Commission. Two other lots on the New Hampton side of the river were acquired by the New Hampton Conservation Commission in 2010 and 2013. Center Harbor has designated the east side of the Snake River as prime wetlands.

The New Hampton Conservation Commission plans to update its Stewardship Plan for the Snake River Conservation Area to include the Bergeron Property. The plan and its appendices are available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/o9juwh9>

The Windy Waters Conservancy ( <http://wwc.waukewan.org/> ) assisted the property transfer by underwriting the survey by Bryan L. Bailey Associates of Gilford, NH. The Conservancy and Horizon Settlement Services donated legal services.

The Snake River Conservation Area now has almost a mile of river frontage that provides diverse habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic species of plants and animals. **(See map on the next page)**

