



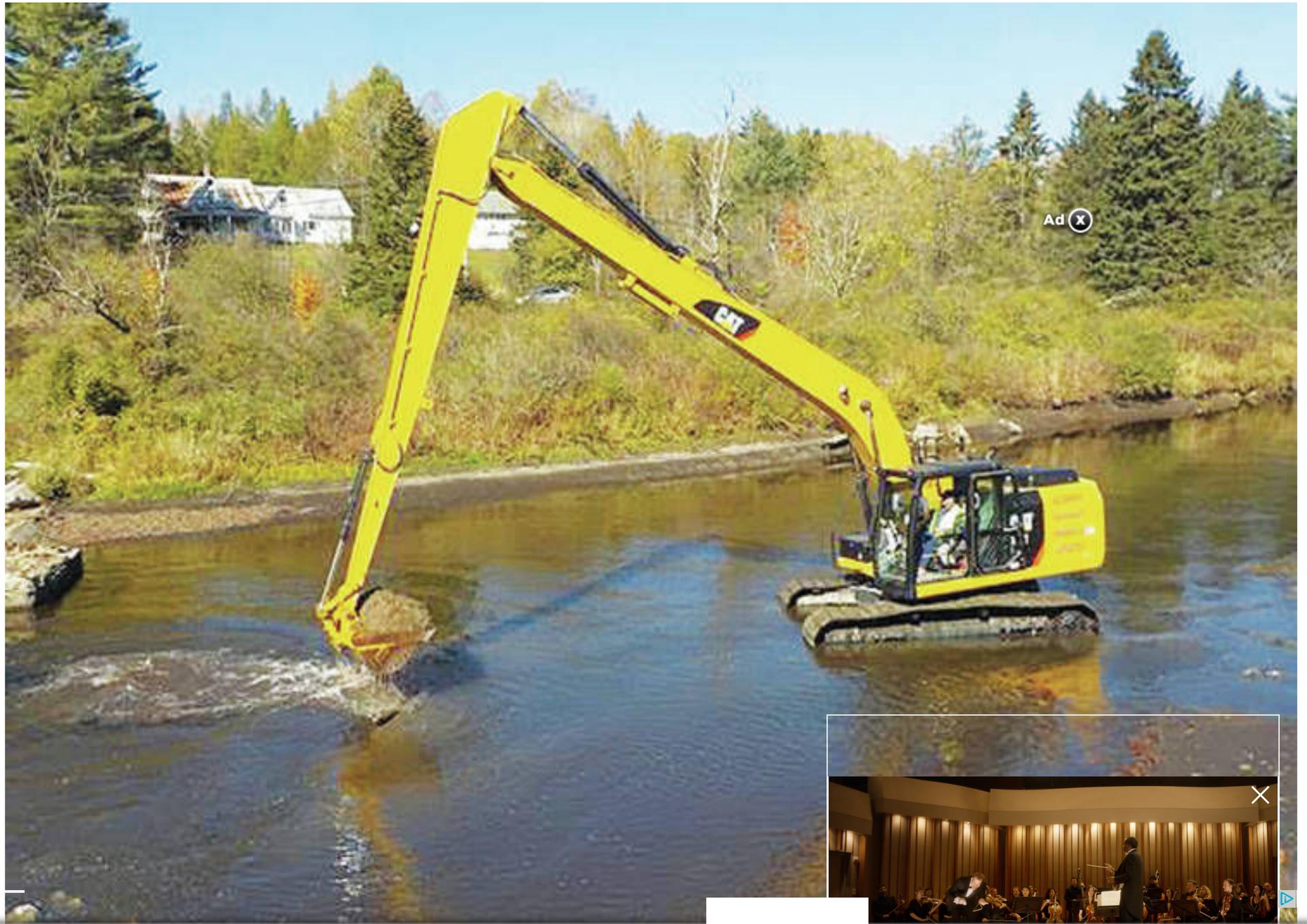
http://www.caledonianrecord.com/news/local/east-burke-dam-removal-to-be-celebrated-saturday/article_90997b21-2e2a-5006-8c1a-b99c06a4782e.html

East Burke Dam Removal To Be Celebrated Saturday

Passumpsic River Flowing Freely

Nov 15, 2017





After many years of preparation, the old mill dam in East Burke has been removed. The Passumpsic Valley Land Trust (PVLT) and the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC), a nonprofit dedicated to preserving and protecting the Connecticut River watershed, to complete the project that was 17 years in the making. CRC recently received a State of Vermont Ecosystem Restoration Grant, augmenting major support from the Upper Connecticut Mitigation and Enhancement Fund, to help finance the \$275,000 removal of the dam on the Passumpsic River East Branch.

This funding, which is part of the state's new Clean Water Initiative Program, will re-establish the natural conditions of the East Branch, serving the dual purpose of protecting Vermont's water quality and supporting the goal to protect and restore the Passumpsic River and its tributaries.

PVLT is working with CRC, the Burke Conservation Commission, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation/Agency of Natural Resources/Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northwoods Stewardship Center, the MadDog chapter of Trout Unlimited, and other project partners. "This grant from the state will help pay for removal of the old dam, opening 99 miles of stream for trout and other aquatic organisms," said Ron Rhodes, the project manager and river steward for CRC. "Removing the old dam also will lower flood elevations in downtown East Burke, improve water quality and sediment transport downstream, and improve recreational access for swimmers, boaters, and fishers."

CRC and PVLT held informational meetings with town officials, local business owners, and residents, gathering input on the proposed project. Several of the suggestions made during these discussions helped shape the final engineering design plans from Milone and MacBroom, Inc. of Waterbury.

The project received additional funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

As of Nov. 9, PVLT is technically no longer a dam owner. Concrete has now been removed to the rock ledges on which the dam sat. For the first



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The snowmobile/mountain bike bridge over Dishmill Brook has been hoisted back onto its new footings, and wood decking and railings were reinstalled. There is more sand and gravel to remove from the temporary access road. Then lots of cleanup, parking lot repair, and seeding/mulch restoration work will take place. If all goes well, the project will be completed before Thanksgiving, with a few minor site restoration details left for next spring.

Join PVLT and CRC in celebrating this community accomplishment on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at the Burke Mountain Club in the East Burke Community Library located at 368 VT Route 114 in East Burke. PVLT will toast the newly opened river and then tour the former dam site. RSVP to Info@PVLT.org or 802.357.2024. For more information, visit PVLT's website at PVLT.org.

