



Construction NEWS



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From left, Town Supervisor Michael Rights of Southeast, NY, Congressman John Hall and Arben Group Managing Member Phil Benza accepting a portion of the grant monies received for the \$24-million sewer project.



Dozens of officials and homeowners rallied to mark the start of the pollution-control program to protect Peach Lake.

Federal Funding Helps Resolve Peach Lake Septic Pollution Woes

NORTH SALEM, NY — Armed with newly minted silver ceremonial shovels, about 150 members and supporters of the Peach Lake Coalition who reside in this leafy community in Northern Westchester last month stood shoulder-to-shoulder to recognize the culmination of their 38-year campaign to bring sewer service to 500 homes here. Thanks to almost \$7 million of federal monies, everything should now go down the drain according to plan.

Using the porch of the Vails Grove Pavilion at the lake as a backdrop, speakers reminisced about the seemingly endless effort to rid the lake of pollution.

Total funding for the project is expected to reach \$24 million, with much of the work being performed by The Arben Group LLC of Pleasantville, NY. Construction of new headworks and filtration buildings along with other improvements are designed to replace failing septic systems and keep sewage out of the lake that straddles the Westchester-Putnam border. Because many of the homes were built as summer cottages,

typically on small lots, many have failing or inadequate septic systems to meet the needs of houses that now serve as year-round residences.

U.S. Rep. John Hall of Dover Plains, NY presented a \$5-million check to North Salem and a \$1.9-million check to Southeast. The amounts included federal stimulus money and other federal grants, Rep. Hall said. The Peach Lake project is expected to create about 30 construction jobs.

Construction is expected to start January 2010, according to Arben Managing Member Philip Benza who attended the ceremony.

The ceremonial groundbreaking marked the completion of a 38-year campaign to bring public sewer service to some 500 homes that impact Peach Lake in Northern Westchester. With a combination of local, county, state and federal funds, more than \$24 million is earmarked for the sewer construction project, which is scheduled to start up next month.

