

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

During 2007 the building department issued 824 building permits (the most since 2000). The department as a whole (including plumbing, electrical and gas) took in \$731,569. This amount is \$196,612 more than in 2006. I attribute the increase not only to the number of building permits, but also to the commercial projects that have come in such as Avalon Bay, and to the two commercial buildings – 7 Lyberty Way and 314 Littleton Road. The following permits were issued by this department in 2007:

Matthew Hakala
Building Commissioner

Building	824
Electrical	627
Plumbing	446
Gas	460
Total	2357

Some of the projects that were started or continued in 2007 are:

- Avalon Bay Apartments
- 7 Lyberty Way – industrial building
- 314 Littleton Road – Red Hat building
- Senior Housing at Mystery Spring (Tadmuck Road)
- Summer Village – ongoing seasonal cottages

This year, the building department has seen the start of online permitting, the closing of Town Hall due to structural issues, assisting with the gathering of information on East Boston Camps, and the start of microfilm and scanning plans for storage and ease of access. The building department was highlighted on Westford Cable, where I explained some of the department's functions. I look forward to more of these sessions to assist the public in better understanding the building department's role in the community.

In looking back at what was a very busy year for the department, I must give credit to all of my department's staff. Every day this dedicated group of employees dealt with the volume of permits and issues that arose as if it was just another day.

I look forward to working with everyone in dealing with new building codes and the full implementation of the online permitting in town.