



The dam at Maxwell Pond might be removed. Photos by John Fladd

## Dam removal considered

Maxwell Pond's days may be numbered.

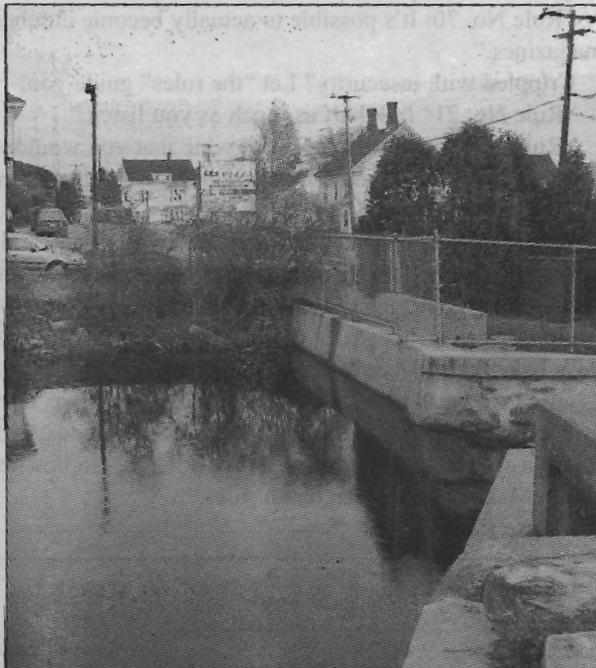
On Thursday, May 22, a public hearing will be held to discuss the proposed removal of the Maxwell Pond dam, in order to restore habitat and improve the water quality of Black Brook.

The removal of the dam, however, would also eliminate the pond, located on Front Street, just south of Dunbarton Road.

Planning Department director Bob MacKenzie said that dam removal is being considered for several reasons, including helping fish migration and because the pond is clogged with silt. Still, MacKenzie said that the reason for the meeting is to hear comments from the community about the proposal.

The pond is not natural. It was created in 1900 with the installation of the dam for ice harvesting. Until the late 1950s, Maxwell Pond was a popular swimming and fishing hole, but the combination of the dam and the activities of a cement company located upstream began clogging the pond and streambed with sediment. Today, the pond, which had a maximum depth of eight feet in the 1950s, has a maximum depth of four feet. Recreation uses of the pond are limited.

Officials from the city's Urban Ponds Restoration Program and the Parks and Recreation Department and the state Department of Environmental Services will be on hand for the public hearing. The hearing will take place on Thursday





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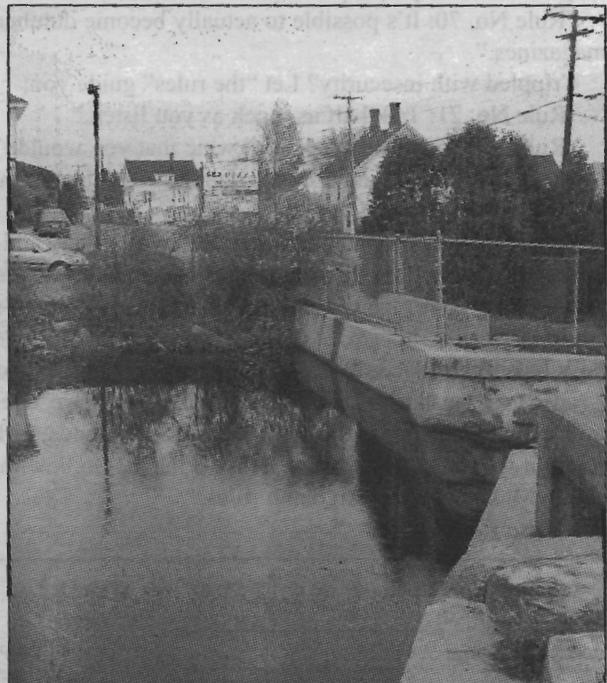
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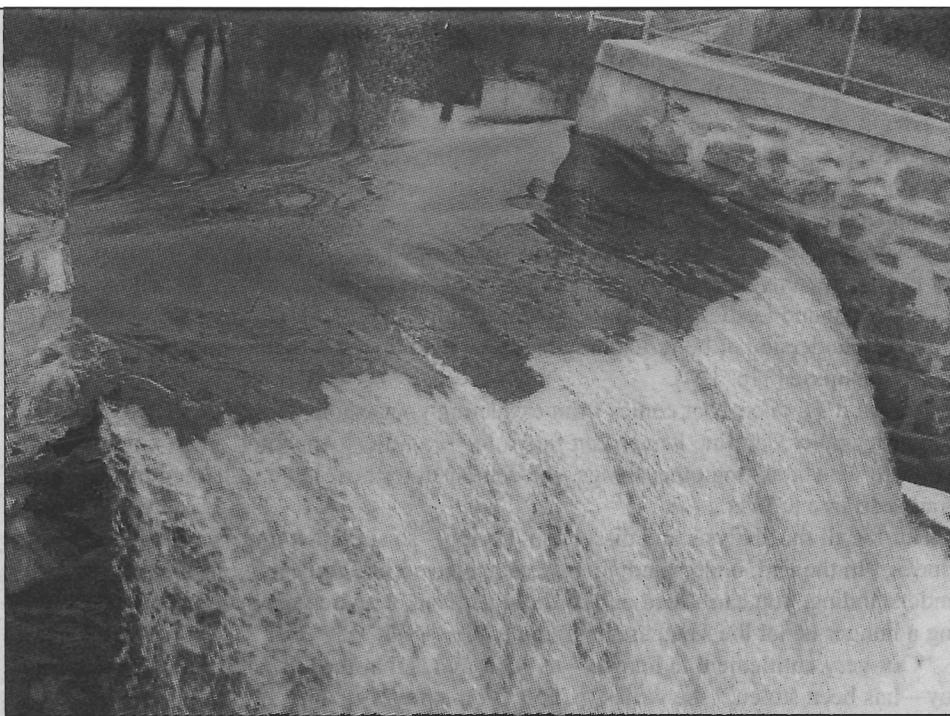
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Officials from the city's Urban Ponds Restoration Program and the Parks and Recreation Department and the state Department of Environmental Services will be on hand for the public hearing. The hearing will take place on Thursday, May 22 at 7 p.m. at the Northwest Elementary School, 300 Youville St.

—Dan J. Szczesny

