

North Castle Conservation Board
The State of the Environment in North Castle - 2001
2002 Education Award

The publication, *The State of the Environment in North Castle - 2001*, reflects the history of the North Castle Conservation Board and identifies its valuable contribution to the protection of natural resources in the Town of North Castle. The 27-page report, which was distributed to the residents of the Town, was entirely created by members of the Conservation Board from concept to layout, including text, photos and graphics. The Conservation Board, under the extraordinary leadership of Elizabeth (Betsy) Sluder, conceived the project in 1999.

The report begins with the origin of land acquisition for valuable park and open space land in the 1960s and goes on to encompass more recent concerns with intensive development and the need to protect our precious surface waters and groundwater aquifers. It describes the creation of the Conservation Advisory Council in 1970 and the establishment of the Conservation Board in 1975, identifies major projects that have been reviewed, and lists the various studies and reports that have been commissioned over the past 25 years. Presently, these studies and reports form the basis for important recommendations.

The report concludes with suggestions to residents regarding the steps that can be taken to protect the Town's natural setting from deterioration and help preserve the quality of life that has drawn people to North Castle.

The total cost for printing 5500 copies and mailing to all residents was \$17,100. The source of the funding was the Conservation Board local municipal budget spread over two years.