



Gazette Photo/Abbey Ferenczy

Representatives from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Cumberland Valley Township, Cumberland Water Company, Bedford County Planning Commission, Bedford Reinforced Plastics, Bedford County Conservation District, the Fish and Boat Commission and many other organizations were part of the dedication ceremony of Evans Park and the new pier that took place at Lake Koon Thursday morning. Pictured are from the left: front row, Raquel Ketterman, Marcy Ladson, Commissioner Gary Ebersole, Cumberland (Md.) Mayor Brian Grim, Commissioner Mike Herline and Ted Kane with the PA Fish and Boat Commission; second row, Terry Nixon, Guy Winterberg, Bill Lyons, Warren Feaster, Paul Yarnell, Commissioner Steve Howsare and Jennifer Kovacs, manager of the conservation district; and third row, Butch Hendershot, Terry Williams and Don Llewellyn.

Pier, park dedicated at Lake Koon

By Abbey Ferenczy
Gazette Staff Writer

CENTERVILLE — Dave Evans had a vision many years ago of a pier and boat launch at Lake Koon that was handicapped accessible, allowing people with disabilities to enjoy the lake as well.

Thursday, the new pier and kayak launch, featuring a handicapped-accessible paved pathway to the pier and a ramp onto the launch, was dedicated by members of the Evitts Creek Steering Committee and other groups who were involved with making the project possible.

In attendance were the mayor of Cumberland, Md., members of the Bedford County Conservation District, workers with Cumberland Valley Township, members of the Evitts Creek Steering Committee, representatives of Bedford Reinforced Plastics, Inc. and a representative of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

The project took eight years of planning and seeking out funding. Funding for the design came from the DCED with \$10,000 and the City of Cumberland with \$5,000. The construction was funded through grants, one from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for \$54,500 and one from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for \$46,500.

SPECS, in Cumberland, provided the engineering services and design. Oppy Construction in Johnstown was the contractor for the project and Bedford Plastics manufactured the pier. Volunteers from the Bedford Distribution Center of REI planted native trees and other species at the site on Sept. 21.

The conservation district, the City of Cumberland and Cumberland Valley Township were the managers of the project and grants.

Commissioner Mike Herline, member of the steering committee, said during the dedication, "It took a lot of individuals working a long time... to put this all together."

"I'm just glad to see it come to fruition today," he said.

Butch Hendershot, chairman of the

Evitts Creek Steering Committee, said the — **Continued on Page 2** project has taken a long time, but that it is "a good thing. It's a feel good thing."

He spoke of Dave Evans, who inspired the project and pushed for a handicapped accessible pier. "He's a legend here in this township," Hendershot said. "Everybody knows him."

Evans could not be at the ceremony, but had resided in Cumberland Valley Township until last year. An avid outdoorsman, Evans, who is handicapped, brought the need for an area accessible to handicapped anglers and kayakers to the steering committee in 1998.

Both Herline and Hendershot were quick to give praise to Raquel Ketterman, the secretary of the steering committee. "It's people such as you that keep us together, to keep us focused," Herline said to Ketterman.

Hendershot agreed, saying, "This woman has put countless hours into this project. I've used the word legacy in talking about this project and that's what this will be."

Though the pier had not officially opened, Don Llewellyn, township supervisor and member of the conservation district, said the pier has already been used, and Hendershot said that it had already been vandalized as well.

Hendershot wanted to encourage residents to respect the newly dedicated pier and launch and keep it clean. The vandals had lit a fire on the end of the pier and Hendershot was displeased with "the waste of taxpayer money and time" that vandalism brings.

"It's something we need to do better on," he said. He asked that anyone who witnesses mischievous activity on the pier should call the Fish and Boat Commission to report the incident.

Ketterman, who has been working on the project for five years, said the committee is looking for a new project but emphasized that the Lake Koon pier project is not complete yet. "What we need to do is make sure this project is taken care of and appreciated," she said.



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Participants in Thursday's dedication at Lake Koon walked past the boulder designating the park and fishing pier in honor of long-time resident Dave Evans.