Groundwater

Twin Mountain has two sources for its municipal water supply—Cherry Mountain and Little River. Bretton Woods provides water to their residents by the privately owned Rosebrook Water Company.

The highest yielding aquifers in Carroll exist along US Route 3 and Paquette Drive in Twin Mountain, along Route 302 at Old Cherry Mountain Road, and at the ski resort in Bretton Woods. In 2004, Carroll added an Aquifer Protection District in the zoning ordinance. This stratified-drift aquifer is identified on the Carroll Drinking Water Resource Map. The purpose of the ordinance is to preserve, maintain, and protect from contamination existing and potential groundwater supply areas and to protect waters that are fed by groundwater. This protection is accomplished by regulating the land uses which contribute pollutants to designated wells and/or aquifers identified as being needed for present and/or future public water supply.

Water Quality Threats

Nonpoint pollution is defined as pollution that originates from multiple sources and is released over a wide land area and not from a specific location. Common nonpoint sources are runoff from roadways and parking lots, construction sites, excavations, lawns, and golf courses. This runoff, if not managed properly, could contaminate streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater.

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) regulates and monitors all underground storage tanks (UST) that store more than 110 gallons of gasoline, diesel fuel, motor oil, used oil, or other regulated substances. Leaks or spills from these containers can contaminate surface and ground water supplies. In addition, fumes from a leaking tank can collect in areas such as basements, living spaces, and garages and pose a serious threat of explosion, fire, and asphyxiation. The DES OneStop Data site lists 17 property locations in the Town of Carroll that have or had a history of a UST. It also includes information on the status of the UST including removal or remediation projects for known leaking tanks. The data lists 7 UST locations where leaking tanks occurred and have been or are still in the process of remediation. Since its closure, the Old Carroll Landfill located on New Straw Road has been monitored on a yearly basis. These sampling activities are performed in accordance with the DES Groundwater Management permit and will continue until 2030.

Floodplains and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Areas

Floods occur in Carroll periodically depending on storm patterns, snow melt, and ice jams. As recent as 2011, flooding of the Ammonoosuc River was seen as a result of ice jams and Hurricane Irene. The flooding of the Mt. Washington golf course as well as Base Road, and Upper Ammonoosuc Falls and the resulting damages have been pictorially recorded. There is a U.S. Geological Survey gauging station located on the Ammonoosuc River at river mile 35 in Bethlehem Junction. Records for this 87.6 square mile area have been maintained since August 1939.

In 2011, Dr. John Field completed a study on the fluvial geomorphology of the Ammonoosuc River. The results of the geomorphic assessment identified fluvial erosion hazard areas, that is, areas where the river is likely to move through either gradual erosion over time, or suddenly during an extreme storm event, such as by cutting off a meander. Dr. Field's report also discussed potential