

York group sets sights on cleaner town

9 residents tidy Goodrich Park

By KIANA MINKLE
STAFF WRITER

YORK — An old canoe, glass bottles, a TV antennae, paper and soda cans — these were among the times found during the cleanup yesterday at Goodrich Park in York by members of the town's Conservation Commission.

The 10 a.m. cleanup had a small turnout of nine people, but that was enough to track down the trash and junk that had littered the park and collect it for disposal.

The Conservation Commission first decided to clean up the park as a project for Earth Day and also as a way to get more community members involved in the park's welfare, said Michelle Moody, who is in charge of the cleanup project for the commission.

"I finally decided I wanted to do something positive," she said.

Moody and her husband, Stan, have been members of the Conservation Commission since the early 1980s.

Valerie Doran, also a member of the Conservation Commission, said she hopes the community will become more aware of the ways Earth Day can become an everyday occurrence to benefit all in the community.

Goodrich Park was first donated to the town in 1972. It was a present to the town of York. According to Stan Moody, the donor didn't want it to become a rest stop for traffic along Route 1, which runs alongside the park. But the trash and debris throughout the park illustrates that's exactly what has happened.

"We shouldn't be doing this on Earth Day. Every day should be Earth Day," Stan said. "Everything that affects the Earth affects us. If you do a favor for the Earth, you're doing a favor for yourself. If you steal from the Earth, you're stealing from yourself."

Barbara Dugan and her granddaughter Cassie Jendzejec, both of

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York, volunteered their time yesterday after reading about the cleanup in the newspaper.

"It's gross how much stuff there is back here," said Jendzejec.

As volunteers wore gloves and walked with trash bags, their eyes open to the litter that lay just under the leaves on the ground, many bags of trash were continually filled and gathered for dumping.

When the park was first given to the town, it was under the care of the Conservation Commission. Then it became the responsibility of the Goodrich Park Committee and is now overseen by the Goodrich Park Recreation Department. The philosophy on the park's use has changed as different groups were charged with overseeing it, according to Michelle Moody.

Other volunteers included Peter Biegle; his wife, Carolyn; and daughter, Carly; and Dick Balkite.

"York is an astonishingly beautiful community. We all have to work to keep it that way," said Balkite, a volunteer and Conservation Commission member.

Michelle Moody said she hopes the park cleanup will make more people aware of what they can do to make a difference in York.

"Hopefully," she said, "this makes people reflect on what Earth Day means."