

Press information from:
WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT
DEPARTMENT

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Future WMGLD Station to be named the
William J. Wallace Substation

(Wakefield, MA) – The Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department (WMGLD) recently honored former Manager William J. Wallace during a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony which officially launched the WMGLD's plans to site and build a new substation in Wakefield.

The morning ceremony was attended by several former and current WMGLD employees, members of the WMGLD Board of Light Commissioners, local and state officials, representatives from the public power industry, family members and other invited guests.

Speakers included WMGLD General Manager Pete Dion, longtime WMGLD Commissioner and current Secretary Kenneth Chase, William J. Wallace, Jr., and the honored guest.

Proclamations and citations from the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives were presented by State Representatives Donald Wong and Paul Brodeur, and from the office of State Senator Katherine Clark. The plaque that will be displayed at the William J. Wallace Substation was also presented to retired Manager Wallace by WMGLD Commissioner Michael McCarthy.

During his remarks, General Manager Pete Dion spoke about the big shoes he had to fill following Wallace's retirement in 2007. He talked about his predecessor's involvement in the public power industry and the unblemished reputation he earned as a leader among the municipally-owned utilities in Massachusetts and New England.

Commissioner Chase echoed Dion's sentiments, adding that the retired Manager was not only a leader in the electric utility industry during his 43 years at the WMGLD, he was also active in youth traveling basketball and Little League baseball. He noted that he remains active in Wakefield Little League as a major league coach.

William J. Wallace, Jr. represented the family and spoke about his father as a mentor and as a friend, providing a touching tribute to the retired Manager on behalf of his mother Judy, his brother Shawn, and his two sisters, Wendy and Amy.

The ceremony concluded with remarks from Bill Wallace. He reiterated his philosophy and the belief he always lived by – that you're only as good as the people you work with – and gave accolades to the men and women he worked with during his 43 year career. Bill also noted that while many customers of investor-owned electric utilities were without power for many days after October's snowstorm, the majority of customers of public power utilities like the WMGLD were without power for only a few hours.

“The recent snow storm demonstrated the importance of what the WMGLD does everyday for the community,” he said. “Not just the line crews, but all the men and women of the WMGLD.”

“I am truly honored to be recognized this way and look forward to the day that the substation goes online,” he concluded.

The retired Manager started his career with the WMGLD in May 1964 as the recipient of the department's Cadet Engineer Scholarship when he was an Electrical Engineering student at Northeastern University. Following his graduation from Northeastern, he was named Assistant Engineer in June 1968. He has served the department as an Engineer, Assistant to the Manager, Assistant Manager, and as the 10th Manager in the 113-year history of the WMGLD, in May 1976. He retired in June 2007.