

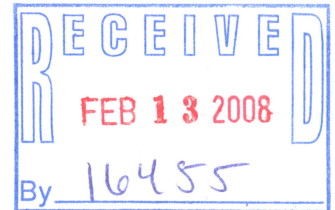
## Matthew J. Curtis

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**From:** Ted [tedeleazer@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 10:39 PM  
**To:** planning@highland.gov.uk; Highlands; Jack Schrier  
**Cc:** Barbara Gardner; David Stasse; Dom LaRosa; Franz Vintschger; Laurence Vitale; Lee Wallace; Louise S. Jensen; Mathew Walter Byrne; ted Largman  
**Subject:** If Highlands Council follows NYC example---  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.gif; image004.gif; image005.gif; image006.gif; image007.gif; image008.gif; image009.gif; image010.gif; image011.gif; image012.gif

If public officials take proper action they can insure that Morris County gets pristine water. Read below and see how NYC gets the best water and compare that with Orange County CA.

Ted



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## History

New York City turned to the Catskills for water in the early 20th century after discovering a group of speculators calling itself the Ramapo Water Company had bought up riparian rights to many water sources further south in Rockland, Orange and Ulster counties. The Catskills were more desirable as state-owned Forest Preserve land in the region could not, under the state constitution, be sold to any other party. A recent amendment to that section of the state constitution also allowed up to 3% of the total Forest Preserve land to be flooded for reservoirs.

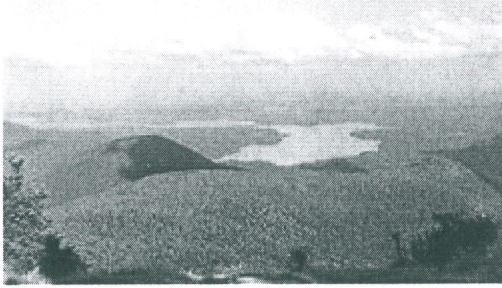
Residents of the area to be flooded did not take kindly to the idea, and fought eminent domain proceedings bitterly. They were aided by local lawyers familiar with the checkered history of Catskill land claims. It would be 1940 until the last were settled

Local opponents of the reservoir also cast doubt on its soundness, saying it could never hold enough water (it would be the largest reservoir in the world at the time), but when it was filled from 1912 to 1914, they were silenced. It covered several communities located in a valley where farming, logging, and quarrying prevailed. Approximately one thousand residents along with roads, homes, shops, farms, churches, and mills were either moved or abandoned, but most of them were torn down. Several of these communities were re-established in nearby locations. 12.45 miles (20 km) of a local railroad line (the Ulster and Delaware Railroad) was moved and cemeteries were relocated.

The dam was constructed mainly by African-American labourers and Italian immigrants, who also did the job of destroying most of the trees and buildings in the area. Fights would often break out in the labor camps where the crew would eat and sleep, so a police force, which would later become the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Police, was installed to keep peace in the camps. The dam was

constructed with Rosendale cement, which at the time was the world's strongest cement. When the dam was completed, giant steam whistles blew for one hour, signaling to people in the valley to evacuate immediately.

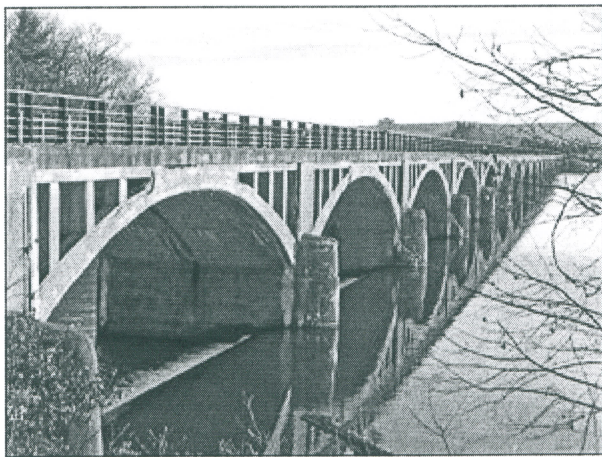
Some relocated communities survive along the reservoir's banks, such as West Shokan, Olivebridge, Ashokan and Shokan. Most, however, such as Brown's Station, are remembered in historical markers along routes 28 and 28A.



The reservoir seen from the summit of Wittenberg Mountain. Samuel's Point is in the foreground.

## Statistics

The resulting body of water is the oldest New York City-owned reservoir in the Catskill Mountains, being placed into service as long ago as 1915. It is located at the eastern end of Ulster County, being about 13 miles (20.8 kilometres) west of Kingston, New York, and approximately 93 miles (136.8 km) north of New York City. The reservoir is one of NYC's largest according to its surface area and volume. At full capacity, the reservoir can hold 122.9 billion gallons (465.2 million m<sup>3</sup>) of water, has a 255-square-mile (408 km<sup>2</sup>) drainage basin, and is over 180 feet (54.9 m) deep at its deepest point, making it the city's deepest reservoir.



Bridge at dividing line between basins.

The reservoir is encircled by Routes 28 and 28A, along with many relocated villages. It is separated into two basins by Reservoir Rd., which has a causeway that runs over the middle of it. Water does not pass freely between the two basins, and the western basin, which borders the relocated villages of Ashokan, Glenford, and West Hurley, along with the non-relocated village of Stony Hollow, is seven inches higher than the eastern basin. The western basin borders the relocated villages of Boiceville, Brodhead, Olive, Olivebridge, Shokan,

and West Shokan. There is also an abandoned road that runs along the spillway of the reservoir, where water runs back into the Esopus Creek by Olivebridge.

Some of this water comes from the Schoharie Reservoir via the 16 mile (25.6 kilometre) Shandaken Tunnel, which empties into the Esopus Creek. It also gets water from said creek and its many tributaries. It flows another 11 miles (17.6 kilometres) to the Ashokan Reservoir. The water then flows into Olivebridge, New York to enter the 92 mile (147.2 km) Catskill Aqueduct. It flows into the Kensico Reservoir, just north of The Bronx, to mix with water from the Delaware Aqueduct. The water flows a few more miles into the Hillview Reservoir in Yonkers, the main collecting point for the water.

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The New York Times



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Thirty years ago -----would the elected officials acted the way they did-if they knew it would come to this? Ted Largman

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