

DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Calendar year 2008 was a year of continuing economic turmoil and a declining housing industry. Hopefully, the housing industry will bounce back in March to late spring of 2009 so we can start the recovery. Fortunately, the smaller projects have helped keep us busy. The Department performed 2607 inspections in 2008, including zoning-related issues. The Building permits and Certificates of Inspection totaled 882, while Plumbing, Gas & Electrical permits totaled 857 for a total of 1739 permits; only 79 less than in 2007. This includes 21 fewer new dwelling permits.

There are some bright signs ahead on the horizon. MMWEC will be building a new power plant. HAP will be rehabbing the Stevens Memorial Building and WestMass will be undertaking a very large multi-faceted project at the old mill site property. These projects plus an eventual economic upswing will all be welcomed.

The new Pride Station is up and running. By the end of 2007, Keystone Commons was a great success and a large condominium project on Fuller Street call Southview Estates has started. Daisy & Focosi Lanes Sub-division is off the ground with four houses at various stages of construction.

The Multi-Family Certificate of Inspection program has been started and is proceeding as expected. It is a slow, careful and never-ending process of updating and increasing the safety of the multi-family apartments and tenants. We welcome Justin Larivee as our new part-time Local Building Inspector, who is running this program. He is a state-certified local inspector working and studying to become a Certified Inspector of Buildings/Building Commissioner.

The following is a breakdown of the permit activity for the calendar year 2008, including public safety certificates.

# OF PERMITS	TYPE OF PERMIT	ESTIMATED VALUE
20	SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS	6,119,800
5	CONDOMINIUM DWELLINGS.....	759,000
29	DWELLING, ADDITIONS	1,414,134
50	DWELLING, ALTERATIONS	829,797
7	COMMERICAL-NEW CONSTRUCTION	815,000
13	COMMERCIAL RENOVATIONS/ADDITIONS	1,052,700
7	NEW ROOF—COMMERCIAL	146,200
2	REPAIR OF FIRE-DAMAGED STRUCTURES	92,000
8	SUNROOM ADDITIONS	177,999
12	KITCHEN REMODEL	192,447
12	PORCHES	46,320
30	DECKS.....	100,710
42	SWIMMING POOLS.....	496,221
62	FENCES	165,825
126	RESHINGLE.....	798,002
51	SIDING	440,500
79	WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT	814,467
8	RETAINING WALLS	34,795
7	DETACHED GARAGES/CARPORTS	73,450

5	BARNS	138,700
50	STORAGE SHEDS.....	278,035
1	GAZEBOS	10,000
12	TEMPORARY STRUCTURES.....	6,075
36	CHIMNEYS, WOOD-BURNING, COAL STOVES, ETC.....	80,548
47	PELLET STOVES, FURNACES	134,453
25	SIGNS	22,596
3	HANDICAP RAMPS.....	9,100
20	MISCELLANEOUS.....	38,700
16	PERMITS TO DEMOLISH	0
58	CERTIFICATES OF INSPECTION.....	0
39	CERTIFICATES OF INSPECTION – MULTI-FAMILY.....	0

882	PERMITS ISSUED at an estimated value of	\$15,287,574
	FEES COLLECTED.....	\$113,607

The following is a listing of **ELECTRICAL PERMITS** issued.

SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS	38
ADDITIONS TO DWELLINGS.....	28
ALTERATIONS TO DWELLINGS.....	86
ANNUAL PERMITS	1
BUSINESS/INDUSTRIAL, NEW	2
ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS TO BUSINESS BLDGS.....	27
REPAIRS TO FIRE DAMAGED STRUCTURES.....	2
GARAGES.....	3
CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING	16
PORCHES.....	1
SECURITY SYSTEMS	47
BOILERS/FURNACES/WATER HEATERS	31
HOT TUBS	1
BARNs	2
SHEDS	1
SIGNS	2
LOW VOLTAGE SYSTEMS	7
SWIMMING POOLS.....	27
SERVICE	144
MISCELLANEOUS.....	12
Total Number of ELECTRICAL Permits Issued:.....	478
FEES COLLECTED.....	\$31,276

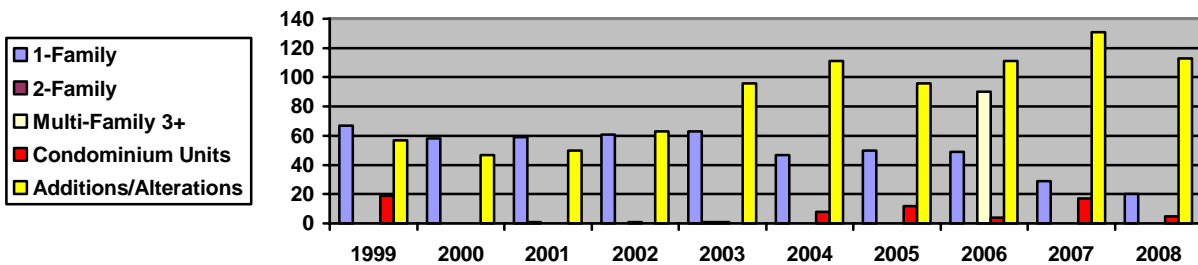
The following is a listing of **PLUMBING & GAS-FITTING PERMITS** issued.

SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS	29
SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING, GAS.....	22
MULTI FAMILY DWELLINGS, GAS.....	1

NEW CONSTRUCTION, COMMERCIAL	3
NEW CONSTRUCTION, COMMERCIAL, GAS	1
ADDITIONS DWELLINGS	14
ADDITIONS DWELLINGS, GAS	5
ADDITIONS, COMMERCIAL	1
ADDITIONS, COMMERCIAL-GAS	3
ALTERATIONS TO DWELLING	67
ALTERATIONS TO DWELLING, GAS	31
ALTERATIONS TO COMMERCIAL	11
ALTERATIONS TO COMMERCIAL, GAS	6
REPAIRS TO FIRE DAMAGED STRUCTURES	1
REPAIRS TO FIRE DAMAGED STRUCTURES, GAS	1
HOT WATER TANKS	49
FURNACES, GAS	27
GAS FIREPLACES/LOGS	8
BOILERS	37
BACKFLOW PREVENTERS	20
MISCELLANEOUS GAS	18
MISCELLANEOUS PLUMBING	19
SWIMMING POOL HEATERS, GAS	1
COOKING RANGE, GAS	4
Total Number of PLUMBING & GAS-FITTING Permits Issued:	379
FEES COLLECTED	\$20,555

TOTAL FEES COLLECTED FOR 2008.....\$165438

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1-Family	67	58	59	61	63	47	50	49	29	20
2-Family	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-Family 3+	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	90	0	0
Condominium Units	19	0	0	0	0	8	12	4	17	5
Additions/Alterations	57	47	50	63	96	111	96	111	131	113



I want to thank my staff, Mr. Antonio Portelada, Inspector of Wires, Mr. Joseph Kozicki, Plumbing/Gas Inspector, Mr. Justin Larivee, Local Building Inspector and Mrs. Lorraine Czapienski, Office Assistant, for all their hard work and dedication. I would also like to extend a thank you to the on-call inspectors, Donald Demers, Assistant Building Inspector, Kevin Douville, Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector, and Stephen Trembley, Interim Assistant of Wires.

Respectfully submitted,
Brien E. Laporte, C.B.O.
Building Commissioner