



Photo and Story by Bill Knee

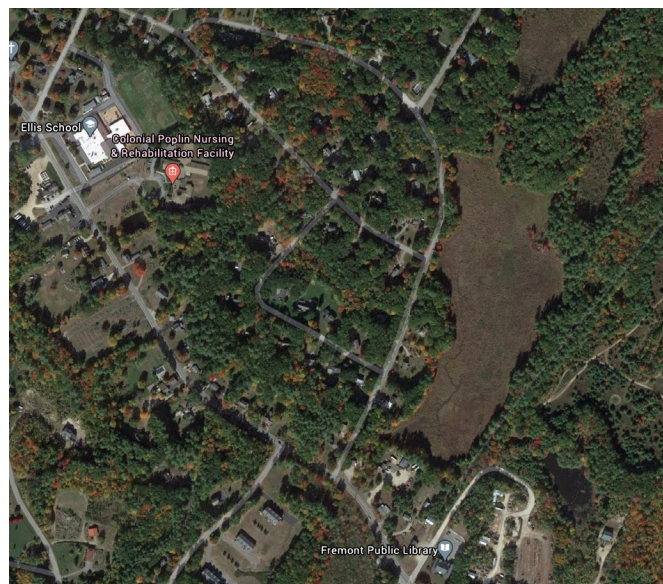
For the Fremont Conservation Commission protecting this scenic Cattail Marsh was more than preserving a wetland and wildlife habitat, it was to help ensure the water quality of the aquifer that lies under it.

Sandwiched between Louise Lane and the Rockingham Recreational Trail with Main Street (Route 107) just to the south is a large cattail marsh overlying one of Fremont's most important aquifers. Nearby are Ellis School, Colonial Poplin Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility, the Fremont Public Library and many homes whose wells are recharged by the aquifer under it.

Fremont *does not* have a large body of water it can rely on to supply its citizens with water, but Fremont *does* have its wetlands and their underlying aquifers. It is important to realize that Fremont's conservation lands protect its wetlands from air and water borne pollutants. Wetlands, acting like sponges, swell and shrink with rain and snow melt slowly releasing water into the soils underneath them and into the streams that flow from them. The saturated soils beneath these wetlands recharge our aquifers as water percolates through soils and cracks in the bedrock. Our wells are recharged from these aquifers. In the end, the land we protect in and around wetlands protects both the amount and quality of the water we rely on.

Over the past couple of years, the Fremont Conservation Commission has been working to acquire the last privately owned part of the marsh and its abutting woodland. Thanks to the willingness of a property owner the last potentially unprotected part of the marsh and aquifer was conveyed on February 1, 2021 to be conserved and protected.

If ever the urge to walk the woods of Fremont moves in you, you might enjoy hiking the trails bordering the marsh. Each Season offers a special and different perspective of the marsh. Winter offers the mystery of tracks in the snow. Spring brings the return of



multitudes of migratory birds to the marsh. Summer might give you views of turtles basking on logs and the darting of dragonflies. Fall offers the vibrant colors of the trees and shrubs of this wetland. Click on the following link for a downloadable map of the trails. [Oak Ridge South Trail Map](#)



Photo by Bill Knee