



Wheelabrator SAUGUS News

Vol. 5, No. 2

A PUBLICATION OF WHEELABRATOR TECHNOLOGIES INC.

Fall 2008

National treasure

Wheelabrator Saugus honored for Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary

BY RICH FAHEY

A 207-acre landfill transformed over the last 10 years into a sanctuary for migratory birds and other wildlife has earned a prestigious national award. Wheelabrator Saugus' Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary was awarded the Wildlife Habitat Council's (WHC) Wildlife-at-Work certification at the WHC's 20th annual symposium in Baltimore on Nov. 18.

In a congratulatory letter to Plant Manager John O'Rourke, WHC President Robert Johnson wrote: "This prestigious distinction is awarded to your program as a result of your demonstrated commitment towards

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PHOTO: REBA SALDANHA

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School ties

New superintendent values partnership with Wheelabrator Saugus

BY RICH FAHEY

Saugus Superintendent of Schools Richard Langlois got the news via cell phone just before he began his recent tour of the Wheelabrator Saugus plant.

"The governor's on TV talking about cuts to the budget," he said, shaking his head. "Just what we need."

Area school districts have been experiencing severe financial pressures in recent years, and Saugus is no exception. So Langlois, who just

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Plant manager John O'Rourke, right, leads a tour for new Superintendent of Schools Richard Langlois.

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Plenty of good news to fall back on



JOHN O'ROURKE

As we enjoy the fall season and look forward to winter with the usual level of trepidation felt by those of us who call New England home, there is plenty going on at Wheelabrator Saugus we would like to share with all of you.

We are thrilled to report our Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary has earned the Wildlife Habitat Council's (WHC) Wildlife-at-Work certification. This honor recognizes all the hard work and resources Wheelabrator Saugus, North Shore Community College professor Peter Young and Northeast Wetlands Restoration's Geoff Wilson have put into the sanctuary over the last 10 years. The successful implementation of a comprehensive wildlife habitat management program has allowed Bear Creek to thrive and still has visitors amazed to learn it all sits on top of a capped landfill.

The success of Bear Creek has many contributors: Wilson has coordinated the effort from day one, making the sanctuary a habitat for two dozen bird species labeled as endangered or threatened; beekeeper Jay Falcone operates 12 beehives on the site; and Young has made the sanctuary his classroom for several years.

This edition of Wheelabrator Saugus News is dedicated to our ongoing efforts to be a good neighbor and responsible corporate citizen. For example, you will read about our involvement with Special Olympics Day at World Series Park as well as our sincere thanks to Bob Davis, Steve Agganis and all the volunteers that made the day such an important fundraiser for the organization.

And, on a personal note, I have the privilege to share with you my participation in the Pan-Mass Challenge to raise money for the Jimmy Fund for the past nine years. I know all of us can say we either lost a family member or close friend to cancer, or know people who have. The Jimmy Fund is doing amazing work in the quest to cure cancer and the Pan-Mass Challenge has raised an incredible amount of money in the last 28 years. Once you do the ride, you can't help but keep going back, especially when you consider how great the cause is.

Enjoy the rest of the fall.

John O'Rourke is plant manager at Wheelabrator Saugus.

Madigan Scholarship winner is solid as a Rock

BY AMANDA WEBER

Excelling in and out of the classroom, Triton Regional High School's Peter Rock Jr. is no ordinary teenager. The three-sport captain and an academic standout was recently honored as the 2008 Daniel P. Madigan Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Sponsored by Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., the scholarship is awarded to two students each year – one from Triton and the other from Northbridge High School – who have been accepted into an engineering program at a degree-granting college or university. Each recipient receives \$5,000.

This year marks the 13th annual scholarship, which honors Daniel Patrick Madigan, former New England regional vice president of Wheelabrator, who died in 1995. A pioneer in the waste-to-energy business, Madigan also served as chief engineer and plant manager of Wheelabrator Saugus (then known as RESCO) during the company's early years.

Madigan's son, Cornelius, who serves as site manager at Waste Management's ,recycling facility in Gloucester, presented Rock with the scholarship during the senior awards ceremony at Triton on June 6.

"This is the 13th year Wheelabrator has given this award," said Madigan. "I think it is really great how much it helps give a student from Triton High School a chance to pursue a career in engineering."

Madigan is one of seven children who attended Triton Regional High School; he

currently has four children in the school district.

Rock, who is majoring in biomedical engineering at Boston University, said he is particularly interested in pursuing a career in medical prosthetics, including making artificial hearts and prosthetic skin.

"My dad has always been interested in engineering and my sister has had medical issues," Rock said. "So, I have had a lot of exposure to both fields. This major combines those two interests."

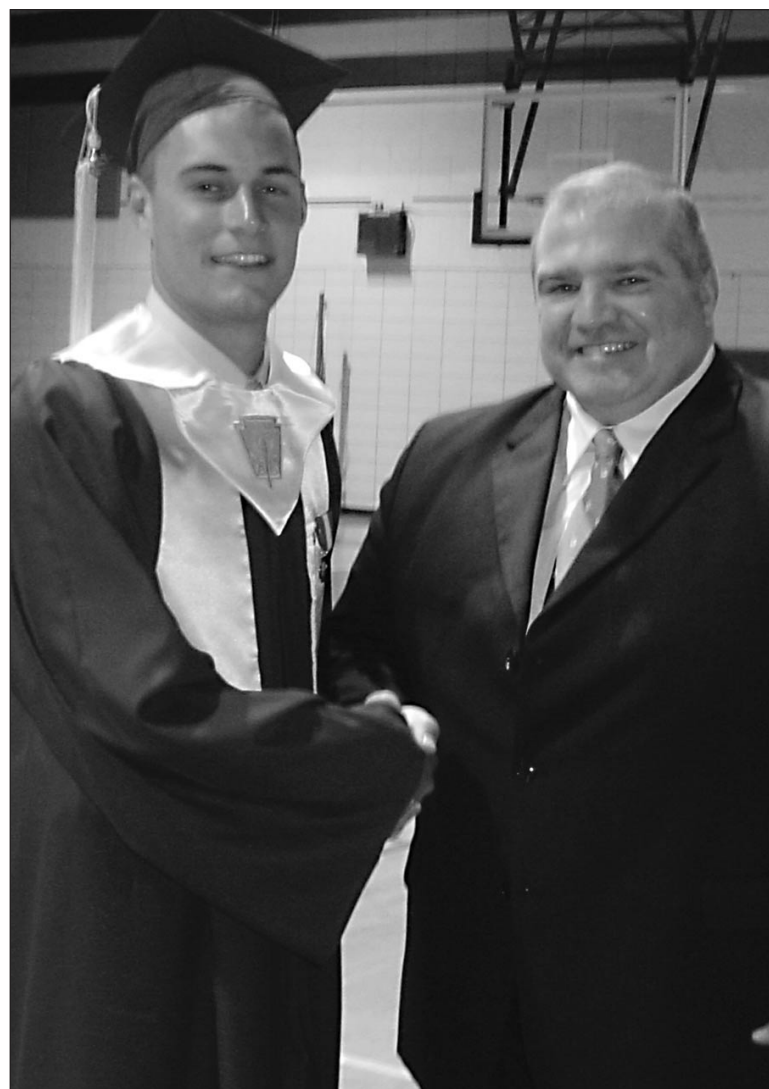
As a recipient of several other awards at the senior awards ceremony, including second highest grade-point average, the AP Calculus Award, AP Chemistry Award and the 2008 Outstanding Scholar-Athlete Award, Rock was honored to add the Madigan Scholarship to his list of achievements.

"I want to thank Wheelabrator very much for this award and I will do my best to put it to good use," he said.

Among his many other accomplishments, Rock served as captain of the Triton Regional Cross Country team during both his junior and senior years and

will be running with the BU team this upcoming fall. He also served as captain of both indoor and outdoor track and made State's in the 400, long jump, high jump and 4x4 relay (outdoor track) and 300 meter (indoor track).

Rock lives in Salisbury with his parents, Peter Sr. and Linda, and sister, Kelsey. He enjoys boating, skiing, Ultimate Frisbee, and flying model planes.



Cornelius Madigan, right, presented the Daniel P. Madigan Memorial Scholarship to Triton Regional High School 2008 graduate Peter Rock Jr.

“
I want to thank
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it to good use.
”
Peter Rock
Madigan Scholarship
recipient, 2008



Controller Steve Pugliese keeps an eye on the bottom line at Wheelabrator Saugus.

Pugliese: financial eyes and ears of Wheelabrator Saugus

BY RICH FAHEY

Steve Pugliese found leaving the food business was a recipe for success.

Pugliese, 41, spent 10 years working as a chef before deciding to leave the restaurant business for something with better hours. His new career path has taken him to Wheelabrator Saugus, where he is the new plant controller.

"I was married, with a young child and working nights, weekends and holidays," Pugliese said. "I wanted to spend time with my family."

A native of the Capital region of New York State, Pugliese went to college at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I. and embarked on a series of jobs as a chef in Providence, Cape Cod, New Hampshire and Atlanta, cooking mostly international cuisine.

"I learned the importance of teamwork in the restaurant business," said Pugliese. "A kitchen is only as good as the weakest link."

While still working in the restaurant business, he went to school nights and learned the ins and outs of accounting. In 1999, after graduating, Pugliese was hired as a payroll benefits and accounts receivable clerk at Wheelabrator Saugus. Like many of his colleagues, he made the rounds working at different plants and Wheelabrator's Hampton, N.H. headquarters. In 2001, Pugliese

left Saugus for Wheelabrator Hampton and served as an accounting clerk. He then shifted to Wheelabrator North Andover, before once again returning to Hampton. Pugliese hunkered down, climbed the ladder and earned his most recent appointment as plant controller of Wheelabrator Saugus and returned to where it all started.

Now, Pugliese serves as the financial eyes and ears for Plant Manager John O'Rourke.

He constantly monitors revenues and expenses to make sure everything stays stable. If things change — a huge spike in fuel costs, for instance, threatening to cause a budget shortfall — he sounds the alarm.

"The ultimate responsibility for making changes in our budget rests with John O'Rourke," he said. "I give him my opinion and help him to make an informed decision."

For Pugliese, one of the best parts about returning to Saugus is reuniting with many of the same people he started working with in 1999.

Pugliese and his wife, Marybeth, and daughter, Zoe, live in Hampton, N.H.

There's one part of his past he's not really advertising and was a little sheepish about admitting. "I'm still a Yankees fan," he said, as he looked around nervously. "But people are still very nice to me."



Controller Steve Pugliese works with Purchasing Agent Marj Campbell.

Wheelabrator
Saugus
Quick Facts

Wheelabrator Saugus has an electric generating capacity of 40,000 kilowatts — the equivalent of supplying the electrical needs of 35,000 Massachusetts homes.

Caring FOR THE community

Wheelabrator Saugus gets behind good causes

Whether it's supporting a group of Special athletes, trying to help save lives or funding an important summer youth program, Wheelabrator Saugus continues to demonstrate its commitment to the community.

"Wheelabrator has always felt it is important to participate in the community," said Plant Manager John O'Rourke. "We try to contribute not only financially, but by getting involved with projects."

Wheelabrator proudly sponsors Special Olympics Day at World Series Park. The third annual event was held Sept. 13 and raised more than \$12,000 for Special Olympics, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. In three years, Special Olympics Day at World Series Park has raised almost \$27,000.

"Wheelabrator is one of the major sponsors and we greatly appreciate their

support," said Bob Davis, the tireless chairman of the World Series Park Committee, which raised the funds to design and build the ballpark. "John O'Rourke never hesitates when we ask for Wheelabrator's help."

This year's Special Olympics Day included a tournament of four Special Olympics softball games. The Melrose Rotary team took top honors, and all athletes received medals.

The Special Olympians marched onto the field and were joined by Olympic medalists Sandra Whyte Sweeney of Saugus, Nancy Kerrigan of Lynnfield, Dan McCormack of Wakefield and A.J. Mleczo Griswold of Concord. Special Olympics Day is named in honor of Harry Agganis, the legendary athlete from

Lynn Classical, Boston University and the Boston Red Sox. The idea for it was inspired by Steve Agganis, a grand-nephew of Harry Agganis and owner of Agganis Construction, and his family. Steve Agganis was instrumental in building World Series Park. His son, Gerry, threw out the first pitch during the opening ceremonies.

Defibrillator donation will save lives

Wheelabrator Saugus produces enough energy to meet the needs of 30,000 homes. A donation the company made to the town will produce enough energy to save lives.

O'Rourke presented a check for \$2,500 to Saugus Fire Chief James Blanchard and Selectman Chairman Donald Wong. The money will be used to purchase an automatic external defibrillator for the fire department.

"It's terrific that Wheelabrator would step up and do this," Blanchard said. "It's definitely going to save someone's life."

O'Rourke said it was easy to say yes to Blanchard's request.

"The Saugus Fire Department does an outstanding job day in and day out," he said. "It's very important that they have the most up-to-date equipment, especially when

you're talking about a machine that can save lives."

"Wheelabrator has been a great neighbor," Blanchard said. "They have helped us out on a number of occasions."

Saugus Youth and Recreation Commission energized by donation

More teens were working in Saugus last summer, thanks to Wheelabrator Saugus.

The waste-to-energy plant made a \$5,000 donation to the Saugus Youth and Recreation Commission. Wheelabrator Saugus Plant Manager John O'Rourke presented the donation to Town Manager Andrew Bisignani, Youth and Recreation Commission Chair Donna Gould and Recreation Director Greg Nickolas.

The money was used to fund summer jobs for Saugus teens, many of whom worked on putting the finishing touches on the new track behind Belmonte Middle School as well as serving as counselors for a summer track camp for about 50 kids.

"This is the latest example of Wheelabrator stepping up to help the town with a critical need," Bisignani said. "We are fortunate to have them as responsible corporate citizen in Saugus."



Above, Saugus Fire Chief James Blanchard, left, Wheelabrator Saugus Plant Manager John O'Rourke and Selectman Chairman Donald Wong get a look at the type of defibrillator the town bought with a donation from Wheelabrator. Below, John O'Rourke, second from left, presents a donation to Donna Gould, chair of the Saugus Youth Commission, and, from left, Chris Tarantino, director of the summer track program, Town Manager Andrew Bisignani and Recreation Director Greg Nickolas.



The Lynn English High School JROTC presented the colors at the opening ceremony at Special Olympics Day.



Nick McLeod, left, and Andrew Goldberg of Saugus, make some noise at World Series Park at the Special Olympics.



Olympic athletes, from left, Sandra Whyte Sweeney, A.J. Mleczo Griswold, Nancy Kerrigan and Daniel McCormick attended Special Olympics Day in Saugus.

National treasure: Bear Creek wins wildlife award



The entrance to the Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary at Wheelabrator Saugus.

BEAR CREEK: from Page 1

long-term wildlife habitat enhancement efforts.” Johnson especially applauded Wheelabrator’s efforts to control the growth of the common reed, support and partner with educational facilities and ongoing relationship with the local Audubon Society.

Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary has blossomed into the habitat for 24 bird species labeled as endangered or threatened, as well as animals such as coyotes, fox, mink, raccoons and snakes.

“This is a tribute to the foresight and efforts of the people who began this process 10 years ago,” said O’Rourke. “Their commitment and follow-through has brought us to the end result today.

The original intentions have been achieved and now it’s up to us to monitor and sustain the habitat by bringing in as many different species of animals native to the habitat.”

Wheelabrator Saugus created Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in 1998 and has spent more than \$2 million in

restoring the capped landfill with native grasslands. Geoff Wilson of Northeast Wetlands Restoration oversaw the project, planting 17,000 trees in the first year and developing nine coastal ecosystems to attract nearly 200 different types of birds.

“What Geoff did in a few years is what nature would have done in 12,000 years of vegetation succession,” said Peter Young, a professor at North Shore Community College, who has used the sanctuary as an outdoor classroom for several years. O’Rourke credited Young with being a driving force behind the development of Bear Creek.

Beekeeper Jay Falcone came on board in 2000, and now operates 12 beehives on the site.

To continually attract new grassland species, Wilson works to introduce varied plant life and wildflowers to the habitat. The sanctuary is also home to snowy geese, turkey and pheasants.

The certification by the WHC is good for two years and must be renewed in 2010.

Superintendent values partnership with Wheelabrator

SUPERINTENDENT: from Page 1

took over the Saugus schools after serving as assistant superintendent in Haverhill, said the relationship between Wheelabrator Technologies (and its parent company, Waste Management) and the schools is playing a vital role in helping him to revitalize technology on all levels in Saugus Public Schools.

It starts with Wheelabrator’s ongoing involvement with the Waybright School, which it has “adopted” as its partner. As a board member of the Saugus Business Education Collaborative (SBEC), Wheelabrator has helped to fund or organize many events in the school district, such as the Taste for Nutrition, the Taste for Education, the Unsung Heroes Awards, and the annual Job Shadow Day.

For the fourth year, Wheelabrator, through the Waste Management Foundation, will make a \$10,000 donation to upgrade technology in the Saugus schools. Last year, the \$10,000 went towards purchasing SMART Boards for every classroom in the Oaklandvale School, and teachers are being trained in their use through the Salem State College Education Collaborative.

Langlois credited Wheelabrator with working in tandem with the district towards reaching the 100 percent benchmark in the number of certified teachers in the Saugus

schools, a requirement under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

“I think there’s great value in forming partnerships with the industries and that they stand behind the schools and help us produce students who meet the highest standards because

inevitably they’re going to hire those kids,” Langlois said. “So it’s a good investment to support the schools in these difficult financial times. I think it’s great Wheelabrator has the ability to supplement what we need to accomplish to provide those kinds of students who are going to be our

future.”

Langlois said there’s no longer room in the economy for the unskilled worker, and that means a big investment in technology.

“The older generation like myself didn’t have technology growing up and we did OK, but the world has changed and you need to have the

base in technology,” Langlois said.

Plant manager John O’Rourke said Wheelabrator’s involvement with the Saugus schools is “very important. It’s part of good business. It’s also one of the core values that as a company both Wheelabrator and Waste Management feel is an integral part of doing business. You participate in the community. We do a lot of things not only just by contributions, but working in the community. It’s really all about putting a face to the facility.”

Also participating in the tour of the plant was Saugus High School math teacher Laurie Golan, who works with Wheelabrator Saugus to organize an annual Job Shadow Day, an important part of the schools’ career-education program.

“We have a new Saugus police officer and a member of the Fire Department and they would never have done it if they hadn’t first tried it as part of Job Shadow Day,” she said.

This year, Wheelabrator handed out organizers to teachers at a recognition breakfast at the beginning of the school year.

“We have veteran teachers who said they had never been recognized like that,” said Langlois.

Langlois said he had but one request for Wheelabrator when it comes to its relationship with the Saugus schools.

“Stay focused on the kids,” he said. “You’re doing a great job.”



Plant manager John O'Rourke leads a tour which included Saugus High math teacher Laurie Golan, left, and Superintendent of Schools Richard Langlois.



BEAR FACTS

Wheelabrator Saugus has received the prestigious *Wildlife at Work* certification award from the Wildlife Habitat Council for the plant's demonstrated commitment to long-term wildlife habitat enhancement efforts, as evidenced by Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.



PEDAL POWER

O'Rourke rides to raise money for Jimmy Fund

By RICH FAHEY

When he's not running the Wheelabrator Saugus plant, you can find Plant Manager John O'Rourke out cycling on the highways and byways of the North Shore.

It's his "quiet time," a release from the stresses of the workday.

But his exercise also has a serious side. For the past nine years, O'Rourke has also participated in the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), raising \$88,000 in the battle against cancer.

The Pan-Mass Challenge is one of the largest fund-raising efforts in the country and has raised more than \$200 million for the Jimmy Fund since 1980. The 2007 event alone raised more than \$33 million, with an amazing 99 percent of all funds raised by riders going directly to the Jimmy Fund. As of November 6, this year's ride had already raised \$35 million.

O'Rourke rides with brother-in-law Dave Hardin, who has done 24 Pan-Mass events.

Over the first weekend in August, they completed the Wellesley-to-Provincetown route, which required them to ride 163 miles in two days. After many years of completing the original 192-mile Sturbridge-to-Provincetown route, the pair

opted for the shorter route this year due to Hardin's recent hip-replacement procedures.

O'Rourke trains at night during the spring and summer and during the weekends whenever he can.

"My biggest fear going into it every year is not knowing if I've had enough training rides to finish," said O'Rourke, 47, a Woburn native who still lives in the city.

He sends out about a hundred letters to family and friends each spring announcing his intention to ride and asking for pledges, and about 75-80 percent respond, with donations ranging from \$20 to \$200.

Every one of the thousands of riders in the Pan-Mass has a story to tell about why they compete, and O'Rourke is no different. He has lost a close friend, and the mother and brother of another close friend to cancer. He also rides in honor of several dear friends who have bravely fought and defeated this disease.

The feeling of camaraderie and fellowship that



John O'Rourke rode in the Pan-Mass Challenge for the ninth time.

developed both during the training rides and the event itself is one of the reasons he keeps coming back. "They're all good friends you happen to see once a year," O'Rourke said about his fellow riders.

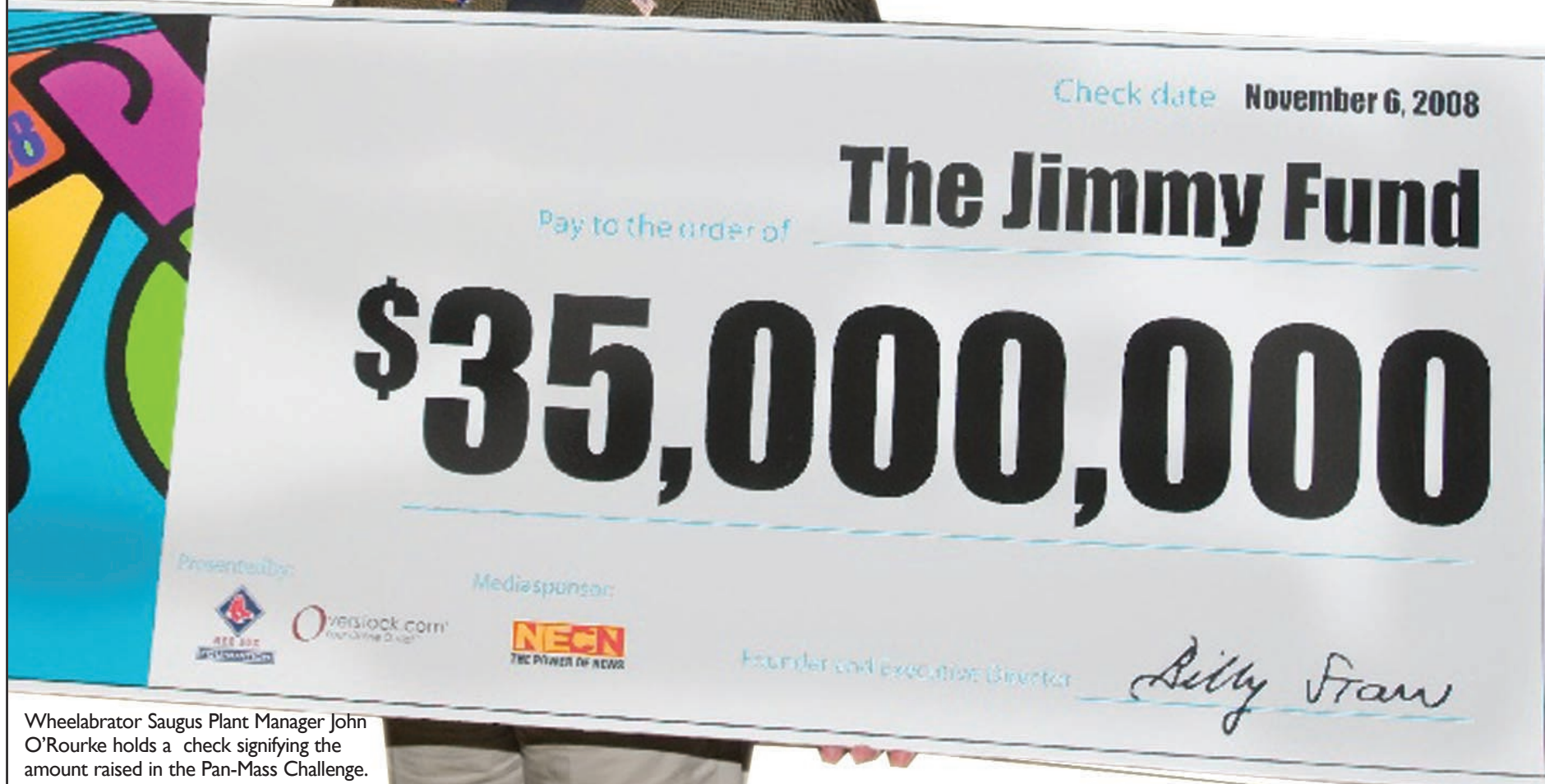
The PMC is an event where everyone is in it together with just two goals in mind: finishing and raising as much money

as they can.

"We're just trying to get through it together," O'Rourke said. "If you get a flat tire, people come and help to make sure you have the equipment you need. When someone is struggling, you see people stay back with them to help them along."

He knows all the training, stiffness and soreness that comes with the two-day ride is worth it when he sees the signs young cancer survivors are holding at the side of the road as they cheer on the riders.

"The signs say, 'I'm five because of you,'" O'Rourke said, then he paused and added, "You can see where they crossed out the four."



Wheelabrator Saugus Plant Manager John O'Rourke holds a check signifying the amount raised in the Pan-Mass Challenge.