



CREDIT: COURTESY OF BGWT

A drill rig is set up along Charles Street to install a groundwater observation well for the Boston Groundwater Trust. The drill casing is being driven to maintain an open hole and advance the drill to the appropriate depth where the observation well is then set, which is typically to a depth of 15- to 25-feet below the ground surface, according to Christian Simonelli, executive director of the Boston Groundwater Water Trust.

Charles St. groundwater observation well installed

By Dan Murphy

The Boston Groundwater Trust (BGwT) recently installed a new groundwater-observation well along Charles Street near Tatte Bakery & Café (70 Charles St.).

This was one of new 21 new observation wells included in the latest round of installations city-wide, which brings the total number to around to 800, said

Christian Simonelli, executive director of the BGwT.

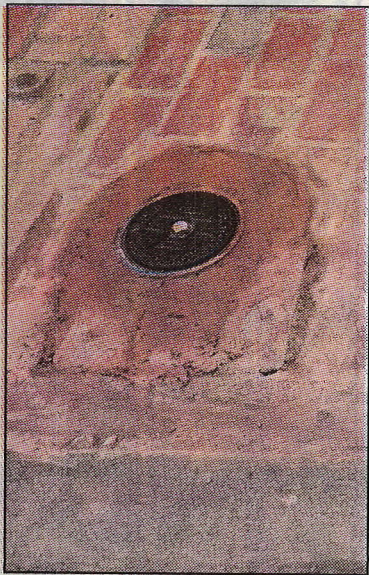
The new well on Charles Street brings the total number throughout the Flat (land-filled area) of Beacon Hill to 42, said Simonelli, and is intended to “fill in the gaps on Charles Street and lower Beacon Hill, which are sort of a missing tooth, so to speak.”

The BGwT had originally planned on installing two new wells on Charles Street, said Simonelli, but “dig-safe markings indicated utility interference for the second location.”

Of Beacon Hill, Simonelli said, “We have adequate coverage and are trying fill in the remaining gaps where we can.”

Rob Whitney, co-chair of the Boston Groundwater Trust, as well as chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association board, wrote: “It is great news that new groundwater monitoring wells are being

installed on Charles Street. It is vitally important that the groundwater levels below Charles Street and other low-lying areas of Beacon Hill remain high so that the timber pilings below many of our residential and commercial buildings remain strong and do not rot and become unstable. These new observation wells will help us to better monitor the groundwater levels throughout the neighborhood to keep our buildings and our residents safe.”



The finished product, with a road-way box protecting the BGwT observation well.