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## After 24 Years Of Effort, The Construction Of Provincetown's Breakwater Is Completed

Twenty-four years after the United States Congress authorized the construction of a breakwater in the middle of Provincetown Harbor, the project has finally been completed.

The cranes of the Campanella Corporation, which are still cleaning up the new breakwater, will leave the harbor for good at the end of this week.

The final inspections of the construction were made on August 1 and 2 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which was the agency that originally let out the contract.

And so, after decades of talking about it, then a score of years trying to get the federal government to build it, and finally two years of construction, Provincetown now has a mid-harbor breakwater.

On top of all, it was built for less than the cost of the original estimate.

The estimate of the cost of construction, based on soundings of the harbor in the area of the breakwater, was set at \$4.2 millions.

Project Engineer Mike Smith estimated this week that the final project cost less than \$4 million.

He explained that the job was bid by the ton. The original estimate was a little high because the Army Engineers had judged the harbor to be a little deeper than it was in spots.

However, the town of Provincetown is not in a position to expect any refund because it got such a terrific break on the construction costs once the project finally began construction.

The town had been agitating for the breakwater actively since 1948.

In that year, Congress

authorized the construction, but didn't appropriate the funds to do it with.

However, Provincetown's share of the cost was set. The project was estimated to cost a little over \$1.5 million. Provincetown was to pay one quarter of that, which amounted to \$380,000.

The federal government funding didn't come through until 1968 when a revised breakwater was put on the drawing boards for the final beginning of construction. But, despite the rise on the cost of construction, Provincetown's share remained the same.

At a Special Town Meeting on October 27, 1969, the voters of the town appropriated the \$380,000 bond issue to finance the project. The town will be paying it off for years.

What are the Campanella Corporation's cranes still doing around the new construction?

"We have to go around and pick up all the stones that were lost during construction," explained project engineer Mike Smith. "We've gone about three quarters of the way around the breakwater and so far we've removed about 10 armour stones and 6 piles of core and bedding stones."

The armour stones weigh between five and eight tons.

"We had really good weather for two years," he commented. "We never shut down the job until December."

He added that the crew had been forced to not work on only one day in that time. But he also remembered that on last Thanksgiving (which wasn't a working day), one of the company barges blew loose from its mooring in a gale and washed up against the bulkhead of the Red Inn in the West End of town.

He said that the foundation bolts for the lights at either end of the breakwater had been laid in place and approved by the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard will install and maintain its own lights. Finally the Campanella Corporation will install under the southwest corner of Mac-Millan Wharf a bracket to

support a wave gauge.

A measuring device installed on this bracket by the Army Engineers will determine the heights of waves there in heavy southwest winds to gather evidence for the claim of local fishermen that they are left unprotected from strong winds from that direction.