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## Student volunteers clear brush in Belmont

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**BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND AMERICAN LEGION 58 POST MEMBERS** in front of the old wooden covered bridge near the Belmont Mill on Friday afternoon. The students cut brush and cleared away debris near the bridge as part of a community service project. Principal Dan Clary is shown at left holding a chain saw. (JIM CLARK/CITIZEN)



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BELMONT — The weather was warm and very pleasant Friday afternoon — a perfect excuse for Belmont High School students to relax after finishing a week of classes. However, about a

dozen of them spent more than two hours doing physical labor as part of a school community service project.

Under the direction of members of the Belmont American Legion Post 58, the students cleared brush, cut tree branches and removed debris in the vicinity of the wooden covered bridge along the Tioga River in back of the Belmont Mill.

The students donned insect repellent and work gloves, and used shears and hand saws as they cut branches and brush in an effort to make the Tioga River area next to the bridge more attractive.

Doing his part was Belmont High School Principal Dan Clary, who worked a chain saw in cutting down some of the old dead trees.

Many of the students were seniors who will be taking their final exams next week as they prepare to graduate on June 12.

One of those who showed up was Charlie Witham, a gifted artist whose work appears on the Belmont High School website. Witham is the recent winner of the prestigious Congressional Art Award for District 1. In the fall, Witham is bound for the Maine College of Art in Portland, where he will study painting.

Another student helping out was Carol Lipshultz, will be attending Colby College in Waterville, Maine, where she will major either in biochemistry or neuroscience. Lipshultz is the Class of 2016 valedictorian, the top academic student in the senior class. She will deliver remarks at the June 12 commencement ceremony.

Other seniors participated in the community service project as well. Courtney Clairmont will be attending the University of New Hampshire in the fall, and plans to major in family studies. Melanie Nix is headed far away and will be attending Full Sail University in Winter Park, Fla., near Orlando. She plans to major in film production there.

The Belmont American Legion Post members who also cut brush and supervised the students included local Cmdr. Rich Stanley, District Cmdr. Bill Firth, Adjutant and Finance Officer Woody Fogg and Russ Fabian. Woody's wife, Christine, also showed up to lend a hand.

The Belmont High School community service project at the conclusion of the school year is an annual event.

American Legion Post 58 not only includes members from Belmont, but also those from Sanbornton, Gilford, Canterbury and Loudon.

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