



Mayor: Greg Schenker

Municipal Clerk: Patricia M. Gatto

Phone: 609-561-3178

Fax: 609-561-5821

Brief History of Collings Lakes

The earliest inhabitants of this area were the Lenni-Lenape Indians, one of the tribes of the Algonquin Family, later known as the Delawares. Lenni means pure or original and Lenape means people.

First to come to this area were woodcutters. There was an abundant supply of pine, oak, and cedar. After a period of devastation, Ben Franklin, in 1749, advocated conservation and sustainable forestry to put an end to reckless cutting of forests.

Samuel Richards (1769-1842) owned land in Folsom which was then part of the Weymouth Tract, a sprawling 125,000 acres. After his death, his heirs and executors of the estate, plotted out 25 acre lots to be sold for \$1.00 per acre. People of German descent purchased a 2 mile piece of land on Old Stagecoach Road, today known as Mays Landing Road. They settled a town called "New Germany" between 1845 and 1850. The town needed a Post Office so was renamed Folsom, in honor of Ms. Frances Folsom, the bride of President Grover Cleveland.

The marsh areas along the streams in Folsom were excellent for growing cranberry. In 1879, Mr. Edward Collings developed the swamps into bogs which were profitable until the 1930's. But it wasn't until the 1950's when Mr. Collings sold the bog to a developer, David Miller who selected Earl Rehman to plan a development. The bogs were flooded to form a chain of lakes after Charlotte Cushman and Elwood Braddock. Later, lake Jay, Robin, George, and Albert were named. Years later, the area became known as Collings Lakes. 350 acres fall within Folsom Borough and the remainder lie in Buena Vista and Monroe Township.

Braddock Lake has a Class III Dam – it needs to pass the runoff of a 100 year event which is 8.8 inches in a 24 hr period. The 100 year flow is around 200 million gallons/minute. The 100 yr. storm elevation of Braddock Lake is 73.98 and the design elevation is 75.10, however, these elevations vary. A sluice gate has been installed to lower the Lake during emergency events.

You might find around the Lakes: Eastern mud and box turtles, Painted turtle, Musk turtle, Black Rat snake, Northern Pine snake, Salamanders, Green frog, and Northern Spring peepers.

The Fish list includes: Chain Pickerel, Mudminnow, Brown Bullhead catfish, Banded Sunfish, Northern Pike, White sucker

Much of this information can be found in a book titled "The History of Folsom"