

# The Flood of 1927



Imagine the Winooski River so high that its waters flowed over the bridge on Main Street. That happened in November 1927. After three straight days of rain, workers crossing the bridge on the morning of November 4 noted that the river was only three feet below the roadway “and coming up fast.” At 9:00 a.m. waves began crashing over

the bridge. Police stopped all pedestrian and automobile traffic. Water coursed through the ground floors of the mill buildings that lined the river. At 3:00 p.m. the bridge collapsed and was swept downriver. The Great Flood of 1927 was the worst in Winooski’s recorded history, destroying bridges, homes and farms up and down the river.



Look across the river, to the area just above the dam. Can you see the stone remains of an old foundation? An old grist mill, which ground wheat into flour, once stood there. It had to be blown up at the time of the flood because it acted as a bottleneck on the river. (Photo courtesy of the Winooski Historical Society.)



With the old bridge gone, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers erected a temporary pontoon bridge to get people across the river. Can you imagine walking across it as it as it bobbed up and down on the water—almost like being on a roller coaster. (This photo and main image of flood courtesy of the Winooski Historical Society.)