

# THE CORAM POND

**Coram Pond** in earlier times was called *Cornucopia Lake*. It was formed by a glacier and is commonly referred to as a kettle hole. Its bottom was 96 feet, which brought it to sea level. It had a thick clay deposit at the bottom. This clay line ran for about a mile in and was used in the making of bricks in the mid-nineteenth century. Coram Pond was filled by a swamp that drained south by Winfield Davis Drive, across Middle Country Road; then it ran through the Coram shopping center, across Mill Road and Rte. 112. It went north thru the present Wincoram Commons apartment complex (old UA Theater), then over Middle Country Road where the Coram Pond diner stands and north across Rte. 112 down into Coram Pond.



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## **Where the Coram Pond is...**



The **Coram Pond** is located on the northeast corner of Rtes. 25 & 112 behind a 7/11 and the small strip center on Rte. 112 and **Kelly Brothers Landscaping** (see yellow circle on picture).



**Coram Pond** was a place where stagecoaches carrying mail and passengers could stop and water their horses. The road ran on the north side of the pond. It was also a place where local children would go sleigh-riding from Mt. Tabor, which overlooked the pond. Mt. Tabor was once the site of religious revivals at the turn of the century. In later years it was a popular fishing and ice skating area.

Many area residents have fond memories of the pond. Mr. Edward Hawkins remembers coming down mount Tabor on moonlit nights with his sled and sliding across the pond. In her 1932 autobiography, Minnie Davis talked of skating on the frozen pond.



The local kids would go sleigh riding down the hill in the rear. At the triangle, a fire in a can was the perfect place to bake a potato. Edwin Hawkins (*of Coram Rug Works fame*) said the sleigh riding was best on a moonlit night. If you hit the pond just right you could slingshot across 112 and right up to the fire can on Middle Country Road.

**The view today...**



*...the pond is behind the shopping center.*

**Entrance to Coram Pond overlook (*Kelly Bros*)...**



*...looking from overlook west toward Friendly's; this is the entrance to Kelly Bros Landscaping & Modern Comfort Pools*

## Archway to Coram Pond overlook...



This beautiful archway and paved brick overlook area was designed by the son of Bill Kelly and built entirely by **Kelly Brothers Landscaping**.

**The Overlook**, a nice place to enjoy a quiet visit. *Even better with an eggplant parm hero.*



## How the pond was destroyed...

The Department of Public works had a problem with flooding. They needed a big sump that would drain the storm water underground and when they took a look at Coram Pond it seemed like a perfect spot. The DPW scooped the clay out of the pond's bottom, clearing trees and widening the hole more than twice the pond's original size. The Department of Public Works chief engineer for Long Island, Austin Saar, said; "They certainly would have drawn back had someone said that the pond had prime natural value." Saar also said, "We could have found an alternate drain point even though the pond was the most economical solution to our problem." Unfortunately by the time naturalists learned of the plan, it had already been completed.

So in the hole where Coram Pond once was located, dirt and garbage soon gathered. While at one time it was a place where you could follow the old tracks worn by stagecoaches or hear the sounds of laughing children and enjoy a sunset or walk near the flowers and beautiful trees that surrounded the pond; that time has long passed. Coram Pond is now a pale shadow of its majestic past, but thanks to Bill Kelly of Kelly Brothers Landscaping we have recaptured a bit of its former beauty and can now sit at the beautiful overlook to the Coram Pond and imagine the days of long ago.

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*Many thanks to Mr. Paul Infranco for assembling from many sources all of the information and pictures contained in this story.*



## *The Coram Civic Association*