

LAKE GEORGE PARK COMMISSION

A NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL, PLANNING AND PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY
DEVOTED TO THE PRESERVATION OF LAKE GEORGE AND THE SAFETY OF ITS USERS

N E W S L E T T E R

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Commission Agenda for 2006

- Finalize a water-based management plan for the lake after completing a two-year study of use and user perceptions, reviewing a draft plan and holding public hearings. Your update, including a summary of the user survey and details on how to comment on the draft plan, will be sent this summer. The plan is expected to be completed in the late Fall 2006.
- Expand and improve upon milfoil management and find funding support to implement a newly updated Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Plan.
- Prepare a Watershed Protection Plan Governing Tree Cutting and Stream Corridor Protection in conjunction with municipalities and other stakeholder groups.
- Continue to increase Invasive Species intercept inspections to stop zebra mussels and other invasive species.
- Improve Marine Patrol communications, readiness and respond times.
- Improve the Commission's basin-wide stormwater and erosion control regulatory program with more inspections, better follow-up and grants to local communities.
- Improve customer satisfaction via faster, better, cheaper processing of wharf and boat registrations.
- Docks, moorings and marinas—fast, fair and effective permits and enforcement.



Commission Expands Milfoil Work

Two large Eurasian Watermilfoil (milfoil) beds that have existed for almost twenty years are virtually gone and good progress was made elsewhere in the battle against milfoil according to the Commission's Eurasian Watermilfoil Program Report for 2005.

Dense bed areas of invasive milfoil, one near Cannon Point and one near Tea Island, were half covered with benthic barrier in 2004. In 2005, the barrier was retrieved and re-positioned over the remaining milfoil plants. Swim-over surveys found these two once heavily infested areas now virtually clear of milfoil. Similar projects are underway in Huddle Bay and Dunhams Bay as part of expanded efforts by the Commission to control the 20 or more dense beds of milfoil, many of which have gone without management since first being discovered in the mid-1980's. *(continues page 2)*



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PARK COMMISSION**

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Commission Expands Milfoil Work

(cont'd from pg 1)

The Commission has continued to expand its commitment to milfoil management in recent years. "We have a plan for the complete eradication of milfoil from the lake. The key will be to find additional sources of funds to match the scale of the problem," said Bruce Young, Commission Chair.

In all 115 or 77% of the 149 sites where milfoil has even been found in Lake George were clear of all milfoil at the conclusion of the 2005 season. Of the total number of sites, 72 were cleared by hand harvesting in 2005. Over time, persistent hand harvesting has eliminated invasive milfoil from an additional 43 sites that have remained clear of milfoil for one or more years. 7,073 milfoil plants were hand harvested in 2005 down from 9,387 plants in 2004 and 17,438 plants in 2003, according to the report.

Almost an acre of new benthic barrier (42,000 sq.ft.) was installed in 2005 and 31,000 sq.ft. of barrier installed in a previous year was removed. This total of 73,000 sq.ft. represents a 74% increase from 2004 in the amount of benthic barrier handled. In addition to expanding the strategic use of benthic barriers the Commission has also expanded the tactical use of this control method. Benthic barrier was installed at five small sites in 2005 that had been routinely hand harvested in previous years.

Since the Commission resumed sponsorship of the program in 1995, no new beds of milfoil have been allowed to develop. All new sites identified since 1995 are clear of invasive milfoil at the conclusion of 2005. Existing milfoil beds have been reduced under the program from a high of 34 in 1999 to 18 in 2005.

The Commission's total cost for the program is estimated at \$160,000 for 2005 with approximately \$80,000 budgeted for labor and other contractual services. The Commission received a program grant from The FUND for Lake George, Inc. of \$10,000 in 2005 and utilized \$7,500 in funds from the Lake George Watershed Conference. The Darrin Freshwater Institute provides in-kind assistance and scientific support to the project on an on-going basis. The Commission is grateful to these groups and the public for their support and cooperation.

If you think you have found invasive milfoil please contact the Commission. We will be happy to check it out.



Volunteer Invasive Species Prevention Participating Business Program

In 2001, the Lake George Park Commission established a program called the Zebra Mussel Prevention Participating Business Program. Now over fifty volunteer businesses join the Commission in an information and referral network to educate the public on the steps to prevent introduction of zebra mussels. Participating businesses display and distribute educational materials and provide assistance on how to properly inspect boats and other equipment. In 2005, the Commission expanded this program calling it the "Invasive Species Prevention" participating business program. The expanded focus points to the huge problems posed by a growing number of invasive aquatic nuisance species that threaten Lake George. We are actively seeking new participants. It's easy. If you can help please contact the LGPC at (518)668-9347 or www.lgpc.state.ny.us.

According to our post-season survey for 2005 (23 of 39 businesses responding), 1,500 boats were inspected by participating businesses and 766 boats were inspected by the Commission. Four businesses that responded stated that they detected zebra mussels on a total of ten boats prior to entering Lake George and were referred to appropriate boat wash facilities.

Forty-eight percent of the responding businesses indicated they "strongly agree" that boaters were supportive of this program. Thirty-nine percent responded that they "somewhat agreed" that boaters were supportive and thirteen percent had no response. Seventy-four percent of responding businesses stated that "most boaters" were aware of the invasive species problem and threat to Lake George. Thirteen percent stated that "few boaters" were aware of the problem and thirteen percent had no answer.

The first year of the Lake George Park Commission Marine Inspectors, under supervision of the Commission's Marine Patrol staff, proved to be an effective tool intercepting aquatic nuisance species prior to entering Lake George. The inspectors reported that of the 766 boats inspected three had zebra mussels and were referred for de-musseling to a participating marina.

The Commission will release new public awareness material to the general public in spring, 2006. Using this new material, the Commission will be able to significantly increase public awareness of Aquatic Invasive Species, expand its Participating Business Program as well as educate the public on precautionary measures to stop the introduction of new Aquatic Invasive Species into Lake George.

The LGPC would like to thank each member of our volunteer Invasive Species Prevention Participating Business Program for their continued support. The Commission would also like to acknowledge the eleven NEW businesses that will begin participation during summer, 2006. Thank you!

All Waves Discount Marine	Norowal Marina, Inc.
Ann's Bait and Tackle	Northern Lake George Yacht Club
Bayview Marina	Outdoorsman Sport Shop
BBG on the Lake	Performance Marine
Beckley's Boats	The Sagamore
Boardwalk Restaurant & Marine	Scotty's Motel
Boats By George	Sharkey's Store
Bolton Landing Marina	Shoreline Marina
Castaway Marina	Snug Harbor Marina, Inc.
Chic's Marina, Inc.	Sportline Power Products
Dockside Landing Marina/Marine	Sunshine Laundry/Do It Yourself
Dunhams Bay Sea Ray	Tony's Ticonderoga Sports, Inc.
Dunhams Bay Docks & Launch	Town of Ticonderoga
Fish 307.com	Yankee Boating Center
Fisher's Marina	Alpine Village Resort NEW
F.R. Smith and Sons	Boathouse Restaurant NEW
Gilchrist Motel and Marina	Carey's Lakeside Cottages NEW
Hall's Boat Corporation	Chelka Lodge NEW
Harris Bay Yacht Club	Diamond Cove Cottages NEW
Huletts Island View Marina	Hacker Boat Co. NEW
King Boatworks	Lake George Association NEW
Lake George Camping Equipment	Melody Manor Resort NEW
Lake George Club	Montcalm Liquors NEW
Lake George Steamboat Company	Sun Castle Resort NEW
Lakeshore Garage	Trout House Village Resort NEW



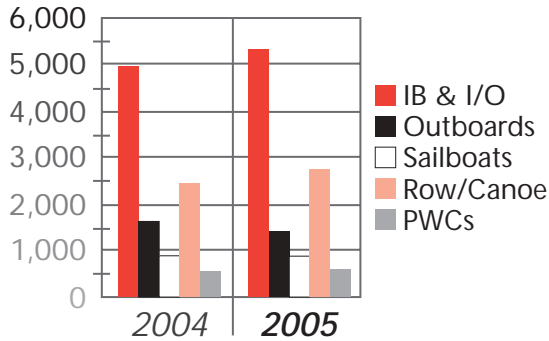
Zebra Mussel Aware Decals are available at the LGPC office



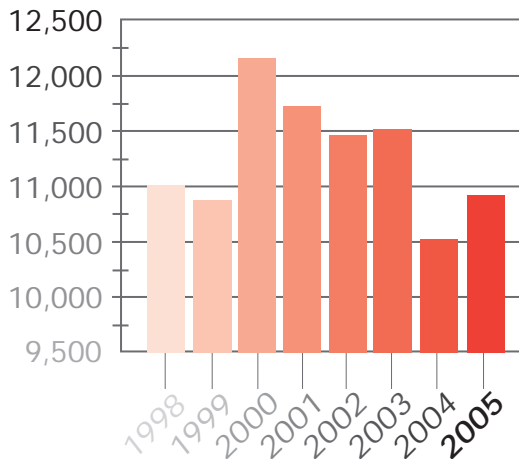
Annual Lake George Boat Count

LGPC Patrol Officer's 2005 Activity Statistics

2005 vs 2004 by Type of Vessel



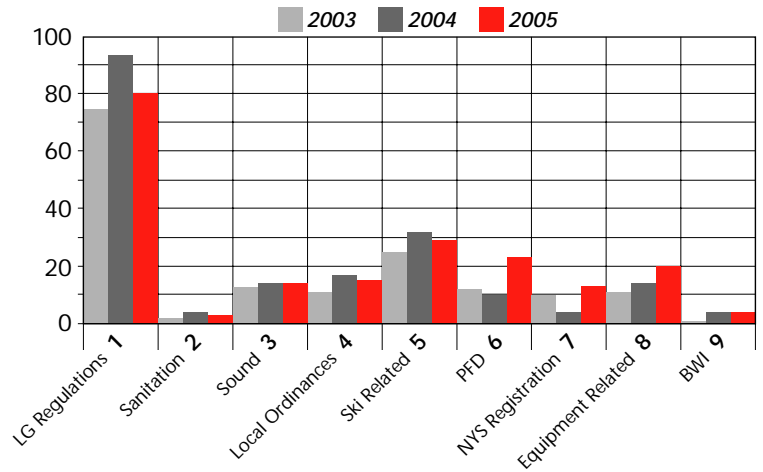
8 Year Trend



1989 through 2005 Totals

Year	IB & I/O	Outboards	Sailboats	Row/Canoe	PWCs	Airplanes	Totals
2005	5,291	1,402	881	2,751	587	1	10,913
2004	5,003	1,621	893	2,426	573	1	10,517
2003	5,372	1,634	1,050	2,792	668	1	11,517
2002	5,442	1,833	1,095	2,317	770	0	11,457
2001	5,381	1,680	1,172	2,685	807	1	11,726
2000	5,797	1,685	1,138	2,784	755	1	12,160
1999	5,313	1,614	1,060	2,268	631	1	10,887
1998	5,061	1,691	1,056	2,561	645	3	11,017
1997	4,998	1,608	1,145	2,283	746	3	10,783
1996	4,417	1,465	990	2,314	556	4	9,746
1995	4,482	1,461	816	1,967	388	4	9,118
1994	4,630	1,855	847	1,922	331	3	9,588
1993	3,799	1,460	629	2,202	232	1	8,323
1992	4,322	1,601	759	2,285	298	5	9,270
1991	4,300	1,963	974	2,449	306	6	9,998
1990	3,997	1,550	912	3,244	229	3	9,935
1989	4,305	1,732	950	2,498	178	4	9,667

A.T.'s by Type of Offense



2005 vs 2004 Statistics

	2004	2005
Assistance:		
Courtesy Gas	8	8
Stranded Boater	74	85
Vessel Tows	23	15
First Aid	27	16
Assist Other Agency	43	57
Other Boater Assist.	854	648
Searches	21	15
Fires	13	5
Ambulance/Rescue Called	12	10
Reported Drowning	1	1
Accidents:		
Investigate	13	12
Investigate Fatal (with WCSD)	0	1
Property:		
Stolen/Lost Vessel	2	1
Stolen/Lost Motor	0	0
Stolen/Lost Miscellaneous Property	2	8
Property Recovered	15	12
	(\$50,000)	(\$50,000)
Vessel Inspections:		
On Water	283	210
At Launch	62	85
At Marina	290	380
Enforcement:		
Complaints	76	140
Vessel Contacts	1501	1354
Warnings	439	533
Arrest/Summons, Navigation Law	109	160
Arrest/Summons, Other	117	99
BWI Arrest	4	4
Regattas Patrolled	50	48