

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

Lake George Park Commission
P.O. Box 749
Lake George, NY 12845
Tel: (518) 668-9347
E-mail: info@lgpc.state.ny.us
Web: www.lgpc.state.ny.us

N E W S L E T T E R

Spring 2007

2007 Commission Agenda

- Develop a strategic action plan for water quality
- Advance a community planning process to develop basin-wide regulations for tree cutting and stream corridor protection
- Implement \$250,000 in State funding for Eurasian Watermilfoil management
- Complete and implement a plan for water-based recreation
- Expand marine patrol operations and improve radio equipment
- Increase public education on invasive species prevention and water quality
- Clear stormwater enforcement case back log hold enforcement hearings

Target Phosphorus

Starve that Lake!

The Lake George Park Commission wants to put the lake on a diet, a phosphorus diet, and it needs every single lake resident and visitor to help.

By any estimate, thousands of pounds of phosphorus and other fertilizers are brought into the basin each year as lawn fertilizer and enhanced potting soil. Once applied to the land or put into draining pots, the fertilizer is free to wash into the lake with the next storm. Dense Eurasian Watermilfoil, other water plants and increased algae often appear with regularity adjacent to fertilized lawns and gardens. "Environmental organizations and communities have done much to stop urban runoff, a major source of phosphorus. Now is the time to deal with the fertilizer issue or risk producing a green and weed-choked lake," said Bruce Young, Commission Chair.

Here's the story on phosphorus.

- It is the lake's limiting nutrient. Spike Lake George water with more phosphorus and algae growth increases.
- A certain amount of phosphorus reaches the lake naturally but the amount is limited.
- Fertilizing your lawn ultimately fertilizes the lake and it is not an abstract concept. Algae and weed growth increase along the lake bottom immediately near over-fertilized properties.

- Fertilized lawns, plant beds, potted plants, etc, are in abundance near the lake.
- Human activities that disturb the soil also can increase phosphorus loading to the lake.
- Phosphorus and other contaminants accumulate on hard surfaces such as rooftops and driveways during dry periods and get washed into the lake during runoff events.
- While only about 5% of the lake basin is developed, the developed areas contribute almost as much phosphorus to the lake as the 95% of the basin that is undeveloped.
- Once in the lake, nutrients get recycled, accelerating the lake's aging process.

Here is what you can do.

- Stop using fertilizers. Talk to your landscape company, homeowner association, etc. at a minimum switch to phosphorus free fertilizers.
- Reduce lawn areas in favor of trees or natural ground cover. There are many good resources available on the kind of native plants to use. This will also save you time and money in lawn maintenance.
- Establish a natural plant buffer area along your lakefront. Low growing shrubs or natural, unfertilized rock gardens are good.
- Infiltrate stormwater runoff from your home, driveway, etc. There are good guides available to show you how. You'll be helping to preserve the lake for our children and their children.

State Funds for Eurasian Watermilfoil Management

The State budget for fiscal year 2006-07 provides \$250,000 for Lake George invasive species management and the Commission is making plans to expand its 2007 milfoil management program. The funds will pay for expanded efforts to attack large dense beds of milfoil. The Commission has struggled for years against these large beds but funding has heretofore been severely limited. The Commission plans to begin work in Blair's, Sunset and Harris Bays and to continue projects in Dunham, Huddle and Sawmill Bays.

The Commission reported good progress in Eurasian Watermilfoil Management for 2006, having increased the financial commitment once again. Visiting each known milfoil site and hand harvesting small colonies is the priority activity and prevents the invasive plant from developing from small colonies into large dense beds. This is a cost-effective approach since dense bed areas of milfoil are particularly resistant to management.

The available approach for bed areas of milfoil is to cover them with benthic barriers. The Commission has increased its effort in this regard installing 96,000 square feet (2.2 + acres) of new barrier in 2006. Over 13,000 milfoil plants were hand harvested in 2006.

Eight new Eurasian Watermilfoil sites were confirmed in 2006. All of the new sites were initially reported by citizens bringing the total number of sites to 157. 127 of the 157 sites, or 81%, were cleared or remain cleared of milfoil in 2006.

All of the new sites were cleared of invasive milfoil including a stubborn site south of the Canoe Islands where over 1300 plants were harvested. Bed areas of milfoil were reduced in

number from 18 in 2005 to 17 in 2006. The number of beds have been reduce from 34 in 1999 to 17 in 2006.

For additional information on 2006 results or to report milfoil contact the Commission or visit our website at www.lgpc.state.ny.us.

Number of reported milfoil sites and their status at the conclusion of each survey year.

Year	Total # of Milfoil Sites	Density of Milfoil Growth			Status	
		Bed	Moderate	Scattered	New	Clear
1985	3	3	0	0	3	0
1986	22	9	0	13	19	0
1987	43	8	0	29	21	6
1988	55	8	0	35	12	12
1989	66	12	6	23	11	25
1990	76	13	8	19	10	36
1991	91	11	7	27	15	46
1992	97	16	4	40	6	37
1993	106	21	13	10	9	62
1994	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1995	111	26	13	5	1	67
1996	118	25	11	9	7	73
1997	123	28	11	13	5	72
1998	127	31	7	6	4	83
1999	134	34	7	4	7	91
2000	136	28	8	3	2	94
2001	141	24	11	4	5	103
2002	144	23	7	4	3	110
2003	146	22	6	3	2	114
2004	148	20	8	2	2	112
2005	149	18	10	2	1	115
2006	157	17	9	0	8	127

This total represents all of the locations where EWM has ever been found including new, cleared, bed, scattered and managed sites.

This total does not include four "managed" sites where benthic barriers have been installed and some scattered EWM plants remain.

Watershed Plan for Tree-cutting and Stream Corridor Protection Advances

The Commission held the first in a series of public meetings among a broad array of interest groups with the goal of developing a consensus on new rules for tree-cutting and stream corridor protection within the Lake George watershed. In November 2006 and again in January 2007, representatives of interest groups including: environmental organizations; state and local government; development and timber interests; and the public, met to exchange ideas in a community planning process. The goal is a watershed plan and a set of standards to better protect the lake's water quality and the scenic characteristics of the upland.

The Commission has retained a planning consultant, Saratoga Associates, and provided clear objectives and milestones to advance the project. Under the schedule, preliminary draft regulations will be prepared for review and public comments will be accepted during the summer months of 2007. Meanwhile, interested parties may participate in the process or follow the emerging outputs by logging on to the Commission's website.

The project also involves the preparation of an environmental impact statement and an economic impact statement including an analysis of the status quo of protective regulations. This will enable an informed comparison of various options and assessment of the costs of actions under consideration. A visual simulation, a conceptualized view of the potential development under current standards, will also be prepared.

The schedule calls for preparing consensus regulations and supporting studies by March 2008.

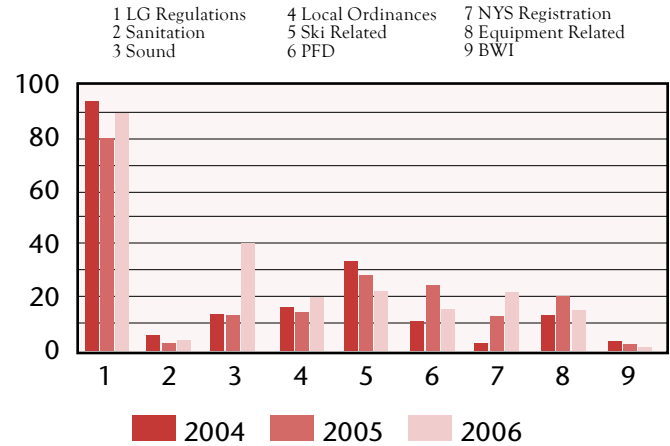
This important initiative affects all who live, work and recreate in the Lake George Park. The Commission is encouraging everyone to participate. There are various degrees of involvement and all are welcome. Contact the Commission to be added to the mailing list and receive meeting announcements or e-mail your thoughts, question and suggestions to us. Track progress and emerging documents on the Commission's webpage at www.lgpc.state.ny.us.



2006 was a busy year for the Commission's Marine Patrol, not surprising with an estimated 430,000 boating trips on the Lake each season.

Daily Log Summary		2005	2006
2006 Patrol Officer's Activity Statistics			
ASSISTANCE	Courtesy Gas	8	6
	Stranded Boater	85	72
	Vessel Tows	15	23
	First Aid	16	11
	Assistan Other Agency	57	44
	Other Boater Assist	648	688
	Searches	15	10
	Fires	5	2
	Ambulance/Rescue Called	10	7
	Reported Drowning	1	0
ACCIDENTS	Investigate	12	10
	Investigate Fatal (with WCSD)	1	0
PROPERTY	Stolen/Lost Vessel	1	1
	Stolen/Lost Motor	0	0
	Stolen /Lost Miscellaneous Property	8	7
	Property Recovered \$ Value	12	10
VESSEL INSPECTIONS	On Water	210	219
	At Launch	85	55
	At Marina	380	278
ENFORCEMENT	Complaints	140	116
	Vessel Contacts	1354	1487
	Warnings	533	527
	Arrest/Summons- Navigation Law	160	105
	Arrest/Summons - Other	99	90
	BWI arrest	4	3
RAGATTAS PATROLLED		48	57

A.T.'s By Type of Offense



Boat Count 1990 -2006

Area	Inboard& I/O's	Outboards	Sailboats	Rowboats	FWC's	All Planes	Totals
2006	5163	1400	814	2798	565	1	10741
2005	5291	1402	881	2751	587	1	10913
2004	5003	1621	893	2426	573	1	10517
2003	5372	1634	1050	2792	668	1	11517
2002	5442	1833	1095	2317	770	0	11457
2001	5381	1680	1172	2685	807	1	11726
2000	5797	1685	1138	2784	755	1	12160
1999	5313	1614	1060	2268	631	1	10887
1998	5061	1691	1056	2561	645	3	11017
1997	4998	1608	1145	2283	746	3	10783
1996	4417	1465	990	2314	556	4	9746
1995	4482	1461	816	1967	388	4	9118
1994	4630	1855	847	1922	331	3	9588
1993	3799	1460	629	2202	232	1	8323
1992	4322	1601	759	2285	298	5	9270
1991	4300	1963	974	2449	306	6	9998
1990	3997	1550	912	3244	229	3	9935

See Back Page for further boat count breakdown

SAVE THE DATE

Lake George Watershed Conference Forum, May 17, 2007

"It's Your Watershed - Exploring Stewardship Opportunities on Lake George"



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Ticonderoga

Kenneth W. Parker
Diamond Point

Thomas W. Hall
Representing DEC Commissioner

Ronald S. Montesi
Representing DEC Commissioner

P.O. Box 749
Lake George, New York 12845
Tel: (518) 668-9347
Fax: (518) 668-5001

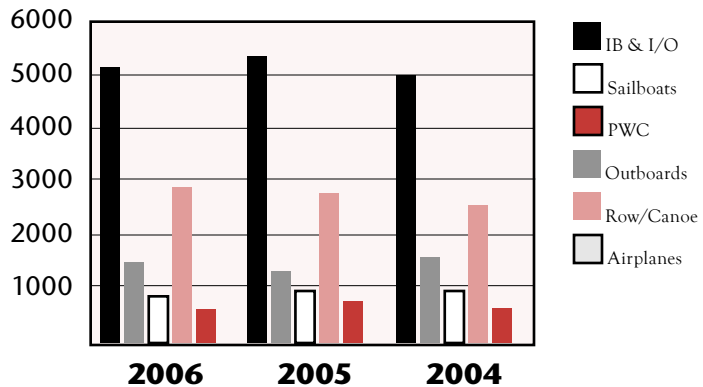
E-mail:
info@lgpc.state.ny.us

Web:
www.lgpc.state.ny.us

Boat Count - 2006

Area	Inboard & I/O's	Outboards	Sailboats	Rowboats	FWC's	All Planes	Totals
North of Sabath Day Pt. to Ticonderoga Bridge	728	215	155	567	63	0	1728
Ticonderoga Bridge East Shore to Bluff Head	413	114	92	323	67	0	1009
North Veteran's Beach to Montcalm Point	303	82	54	176	37	2	653
The Narrows	193	75	51	57	13	0	389
Mother Bunch Islands	39	11	14	24	5	0	93
14 Mile Channel to Harris Bay Yacht Club	54	27	5	29	5	0	120
Harris Bay Yacht Club to Million Dollar Beach	20	7	0	5	0	0	32
Million Dollar Beach to Fish Point	783	139	143	595	83	0	1743
North of Fish Beach to Veteran's Beach	229	65	31	167	15	0	507
Sagamore Docks (Green Island)	106	30	7	23	11	0	177
Long Island, Speaker Heck & Diamond Island	13	10	4	0	0	0	27
Marinas	994	380	130	77	41	0	1622
Totals	5163	1400	814	2798	565	1	10741

Boat Count 2004, 2005 & 2006



8 Year Trend

