

LAKE L O G 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

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ANNUAL REPORT

June 2008

Stream Protection Initiative Advances

The Commission is engaged in a two-year project to prepare new stream corridor management regulations and to address clear-cutting of trees and other vegetation in the lake’s uplands. The rules would fulfill a specific Legislative directive that the Commission establish standards to protect watershed resources and thereby prevent impacts to the lake’s water quality. During 2007, more than 20 organizations participated in a public planning and open discussion process on these topics. From that effort, the Commission has extracted its 2008 objectives and established a new project schedule.

Starting in 2008, Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) has been retained by the Commission to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and draft stream corridor management regulations. CWP will hold public information and discussion workshops May 28 and June 25, 2008. The first meeting will introduce CWP and focus on the state of the science of stream buffers. There will also be a report on a tributary mapping effort. These opportunities for public discussion will help CWP gather a sense of the community and needs. The Draft EIS and draft regulations are scheduled for release in November, 2008. A public hearing will follow their release in December.

The term regulatory impact refers to the cost of new regulations to project sponsors and government as well as the economic impact on private property. These will be evaluated in a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). The RIS will put numbers to the costs and other factors for the Commission and the public to consider and to weigh with the environmental consequences.

The Commission’s regulations are New York State regulations and must be promulgated in accordance with the State Administrative Procedures Act. This law prescribes that before the regulations can become effective they, must be noticed and published in the State Register and additional public hearings held.

A schedule of next steps follows on the next page.



WHAT’S INSIDE

- Stream Protection Initiative Advances
- Project Schedule.....2
- Fiscal Affairs3
- People News3
- Recreation Quality.....4
- Regulatory Services.....4
- Eurasian Watermilfoil Management in 20075
- Invasive Species Prevention5
- Registration Customer Service.....6
- Lake George Park Commission Marine Patrol.....6
- Boat Count 2007.....7
- Lake Levels.....8



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Stream Protection Initiative Advances

(continued from previous page)

Project Schedule

April 1, through May 20 2008

WCSWCD will prepare a preliminary map of streams and compile related data into a useful GIS format.

May 28, 2008

Stakeholder Organization/Public Information Meeting # 1.

June 25, 2008

Stakeholder Organization/Public Information Meeting # 2.

June 26, through September 1, 2008

CWP will prepare a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS). The DGEIS will incorporate the products of the mapping project. The DGEIS will also include draft regulations for stream corridor management consistent with 43-0112 (5).

September 1, 2008

The DGEIS will be provided to the Commission for internal review.

September 1, through September 30, 2008

Internal Commission Review of the DGEIS.

October 1, 2008

LGPC internal comments due to CWP.

October 1, through October 29, 2008

CWP will revise the DGEIS and draft regulations consistent with Commission comments.

October 29, 2008

The revised Draft GEIS will be provided by CWP to the Commission for public release.

November 5, through November 15, 2008

Commission will accept the DGEIS and must complete certain SEQRA steps and issue a Public Notice.

November 15, 2008 through January 15, 2009

The public may review and comment on DGEIS and draft regulations.

December 1, through December 7, 2008

A SEQRA public hearing will be held by the Commission Public Meeting #3 with CWP.

February 9, 2009

CWP will provide the Final GEIS that includes a Commission response to comments.

March 1, 2009

Commission will consider SEQRA findings, a RIS and final regulations for promulgation in accordance with SAPA procedures.

Fiscal Affairs

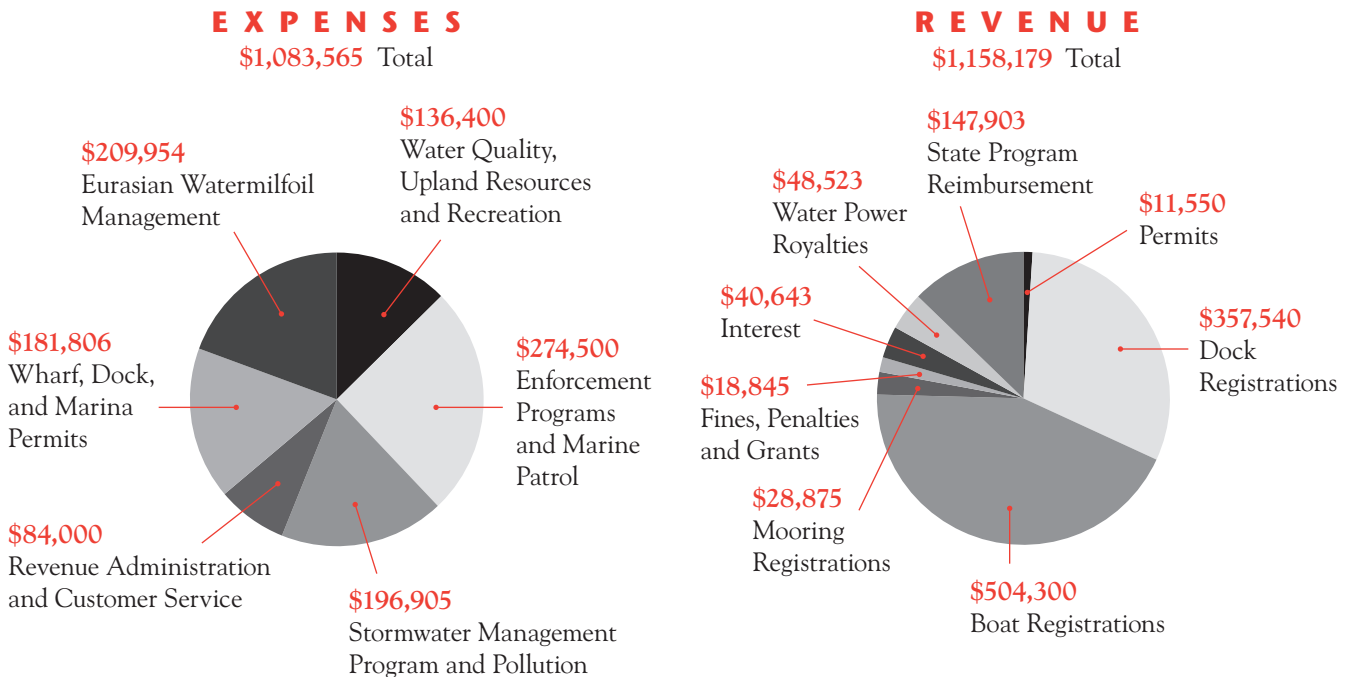
The Commission is a regular New York State agency. Appropriations of the Commission are established in the New York State budget. All revenue is deposited to the Lake George Park Trust Fund, an account in the care and custody of the New York State Comptroller. Expenditures of the agency are upon warrant and subject to audit of the New York State Comptroller's Office.

The Commission's expenses booked for the twelve month period ending March 31, 2008 (fiscal year 2007-08) were \$1,083,565 a decrease of \$17,421 or 1.6% from the previous year. Personal service expenses were less for the fiscal year

than last year because the Commission left a full-time position vacant. Expenses increased for milfoil management, fuel and contractual services.

Total cash expenses included \$209,954 from a New York State Environmental Protection Fund grant for milfoil management and \$873,611 in expenditures from the Lake George Park Trust Fund.

The Commission had revenue of \$1,158,179 during the year. This compares to \$1, 200,654 in FY 2006-07 as a decrease of 3.5%. ■



People News

E. Wilson Campbell, a former Commission member, long-time volunteer and friend, died December 7, 2007 after a long illness. He was 82. A retired Deputy Commissioner, NYS Department of Transportation, Mr Campbell was an advocate for the lake and through his tireless effort, improved stormwater management programs within the lake basin.

Shawna DeSantis, a Commission member for six years, resigned January 15, 2008 to devote more time to her work for The Nature Conservancy's New York Program. A practicing attorney and mother of two, Ms. DeSantis devoted countless hours and provided steady leadership as a Commissioner. Commission members serve without compensation.

Lt Joseph Schneider, who served since 1995 as the Commission's Director of Law Enforcement, left the Commission in August for a promotion to Chief Environmental Conservation Officer, DEC Region 5. He is replaced by **Thomas Caifa**, newly appointed to the rank of Lieutenant, Supervising Environmental Conservation Officer.

Recreation Quality

The Commission has special authority under its charter legislation to enact regulations governing water-based recreation. The goal of these regulations is to prevent congestion, overcrowding and safety hazards and to protect the lake's natural resources, especially its superior water-quality. The Commission's recent study plan, *An Assessment of Water-based Recreation Trends, Impacts and Economic Factors* (2006) measures use and evaluates user perceptions about recreation quality, hazards, congestion, Commission performance and more. The following summarizes the special regulations enacted by the Commission.

Activity	Means	Standard
Marinas	Permits	Prior review of expansions/no new quick launch
Lake safety	Marine Patrol	Assist thousands of boaters/campers annually
PWC	Special rules	5 MPH within 500' of shore
Anchoring	Special rules	No anchoring within 200' of private property
Parasailing	Special permit	Allowed only in certain areas, # of chutes limited
Boat noise/speed	Lake-wide limits	90-db engine noise level enforced/ 45 MPH day – 25 night
Invasive species prevention	Public education	Boat inspection required/ 60 participating businesses
Water quality	Boat sanitation	Inspection/certification/ public education
Intensity of use	Special anchorages	Sandy Bay mooring plan/ Paradise Bay no anchor
Overall use.	Data/Analysis	Study of use, user satisfaction and conflicts



Regulatory Services

Regulatory services is the term applied to the professional functions that assist permit applicants, the public and Commission members in making environmental regulatory programs work as intended. These functions include: meeting with project sponsors; processing applications; performing reviews in the regulatory framework; and drafting permits and other essential mechanisms. Although all of the Commission staff contribute to this effort, the Commission's Environmental Analyst 2, Molly Gallagher, is most involved and most recognized by applicants.

The Commission's monthly meetings are largely devoted to public comments and making permit decisions. Each year, regulatory services staff serve over two hundred applicants, hundreds of interested parties and address thousands of inquiries. Included in regulatory services are the conduct of technical and analytical assessments of designs, plans, structures and activities within a legal framework of specific limits and general quality standards.

The following data while providing a sense of the trend and overall volume of permit activity does little to convey the real workload of the program. Even simple projects are very important to people and often require hours of individualize staff attention from initial consultation to final inspection. Characteristically, the public dropping by the office finds friendly advice and a helpful manner from a staff member on hand. ■

Applications Received in 2007

New and modified docks and boathouses	68
New Moorings	9
Crib repairs and protection of waters permits	57
Stormwater permits	25
Marinas, new	2
Marina renewals and modifications	13
Other	14
TOTAL	188

Eurasian Watermilfoil Management in 2007

The Commission has operated a Eurasian Watermilfoil management program annually since 1995. Sites where invasive milfoil has been found are re-checked and small colonies of milfoil are hand harvested. This method has proven effective at preventing newly established milfoil from taking root as a large bed.

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) has caused impairment of hundreds of waterways across the country since being introduced from Europe in the 1940s. EWM reduces biodiversity and destroys habituate by crowding out native plants. It tends to dominate communities and form dense mono-specific stands. Floating mats of stems form over dense areas of EWM. Swimming, boating and other recreation opportunities are reduced in such conditions.



Eurasian Watermilfoil

The Commission also uses benthic barriers to smother dense beds of EWM. Benthic barriers are heavy PVC panels that are placed by divers, anchored and weighted with steel bars. Benthic barriers are used only on dense beds of EWM to limit damage to native plant communities. The dense beds of EWM in the Lake are, for the most part, those discovered in the first few years following the identification of EWM in Lake George in 1985.

New York State Environmental Protection Fund appropriations supported a significantly expanded benthic barrier effort for the second straight year in 2007. Several bed areas of EWM that had been wait-listed for many years were covered. These included long-existing beds in: Glenburnie/Blairs Bay; Huletts/Eichlerville Bay; Gull Bay; Hague; and Elizabeth Island Channel. Benthic Barriers were also installed over a newly discovered bed near Lake George Village, at West Brook, Dunham's Bay and at a dozen more locations.

In total about 4 acres, 171,000 square feet, of the benthic barrier was installed. ■

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
2007	160	14	8	6	3	132

Table. Number of reported milfoil sites and their status at the conclusion of each survey year. Data for years 1985-2001 are from Eichler & Boylen 2001. Except for the 'Total' column, data in this table are not inclusive of all sites; there is a 'hidden' category of managed sites. Sites which are actively being managed with benthic barrier but which still have stands of milfoil are considered 'managed' sites. Thus the total number of sites for 2006 is a sum of the following categories: 17 (Bed), 9 (Moderate), 127 (Clear) and 4 (managed); Σ=157. New sites are accounted for in the appropriate 'density' or 'managed' category but are listed here to track number of new sites/year. In previous annual activity reports (2004 and prior) sites were considered managed if benthic barrier remained even if the site was devoid of milfoil. Since 2005, all sites devoid of milfoil are listed as cleared even when benthic barrier remains in place.

Invasive Species Prevention

There is a growing list of plants and animals from around the earth that have caused problems when introduced to natural systems such as Lake George and its watershed. The Commission works with the Invasive Species Task Force of organizations to stop the spread of invasive species on land and water.

Commission regulations prohibit launching or retrieving a boat without inspecting the equipment and removing any plant or animal material. The Commission posts all

launches with information and all transient boat registrants receive details about clean boat precautions. The Commission's Participating Business Program is an information network of more than 60 businesses that post signs about invasive species, help with inspections or provide boat-cleaning services. ■



Registration Customer Service

Dock , Mooring and Boat Registration Activity

The Park Commission's programs are supported by the Lake George Park Trust Fund which is held in the custody of the State Comptroller. The Lake's users support these programs through a unique system of user fees.

More than 10,000 people register their boat or dock each year by mail. In addition, there are over 40 locations around the lake where boats may be registered. These marinas, shops and government offices are listed on various Commission publications and web site. Registration provides an invaluable link to the lake users to disseminate information about safety, special lake rules and invasive species prevention

Total boat registration numbers in 2007 compared to 2006 as a small increase of 45 annual registrations and a decrease of 266 temporary (1 or 7 day) registrations.

Below are the numbers of 2007 registrations by category:

Boats Registered on an Annual Basis

Not-equipped for overnight	8367
Equipped for overnight.....	2363
Total Annual.....	10,730

Boats Temporarily Registered (1 Day or 1 Week) 5728

Wharfs and Docks

Residential.....	2734
Association.....	342
Commercial Dock Facilities (1 or many docks)	253

Moorings

Residential.....	460
Association.....	86
Commercial.....	132
Total Moorings.....	678



Lake George Park Commission Marine Patrol

The mission of the Commission's marine patrol is to promote public safety and recreational quality through emergency assistance, public education and effective law enforcement.



The Patrol provides a wide array of services to the boating public such as: boater assistance; search and rescue; first-aid; vessel and forest fire fighting; public education; emergency towing and courtesy gas service; and enforcement of State Navigation Law, Commission regulations and local ordinances.

The patrol consists of eight patrol boats staffed by eight uniformed patrol officers and two sergeants. The patrol operates seasonally from the middle of May to Columbus Day. Full scale operations occur from early July through Labor Day with a maximum of eight patrol units on duty, day and night. ■

Daily Log Summary Patrol Officer's Activity Statistics 2007 Patrol Season

		2006	2007
ASSISTANCE	Courtesy Gas	6	11
	Stranded Boater	72	90
	Vessel Tows	23	14
	First Aid	11	12
	Assistance Other Agency	44	45
	Other Boater Assist	688	409
	Searches	10	10
	Fires	2	4
	Ambulance/Rescue Called	7	10
	Reported Drowning	0	1
	Investigate	10	8
	Investigate Fatal (with WCSD)	0	0
	PROPERTY	Stolen/Lost Vessel	1
Stolen/Lost Motor		0	0
Stolen /Lost Miscellaneous Property		7	11
Property Recovered		10	11
	\$ Value	\$30,000	\$25,000
VESSEL INSPECTIONS	On Water	219	149
	At Launch	55	45
	At Marina	278	285
ENFORCEMENT	Complaints	116	187
	Vessel Contacts	1487	1780
	Warnings	527	925
	Arrest/Summons- Navigation Law	105	108
	Arrest/Summons - Other	90	71
	BWI arrest	3	5
REGATTAS PATROLLED		57	53

2007 LGPC MARINE PATROL ACCIDENTS & UNUSUAL EVENTS

The Patrol investigated a total of 8 vessel accidents this season and a wide variety of calls, the following are just a couple of the more unique ones:

On June 2nd, a very severe storm hit the Narrows area of the lake. Heavy rain, hail, lightning and winds in excess of 80mph were reported. Its no surprise then that many trees went down and a great deal of property



damage was sustained in one of the most heavily trafficked areas of the lake. Lt. Schneider and MPO VanAnden quickly responded to the area to check on the safety of any boaters and campers that might have been caught in the storm. One group of campers in particular was found trapped inside their sailboat after a tree had fallen on it. Lt. Schneider and MPO VanAnden rendered assistance to the campers, some

of whom suffered minor injuries. By the end of the day, all boaters and campers in the Narrows were accounted for and clean up operations had begun.

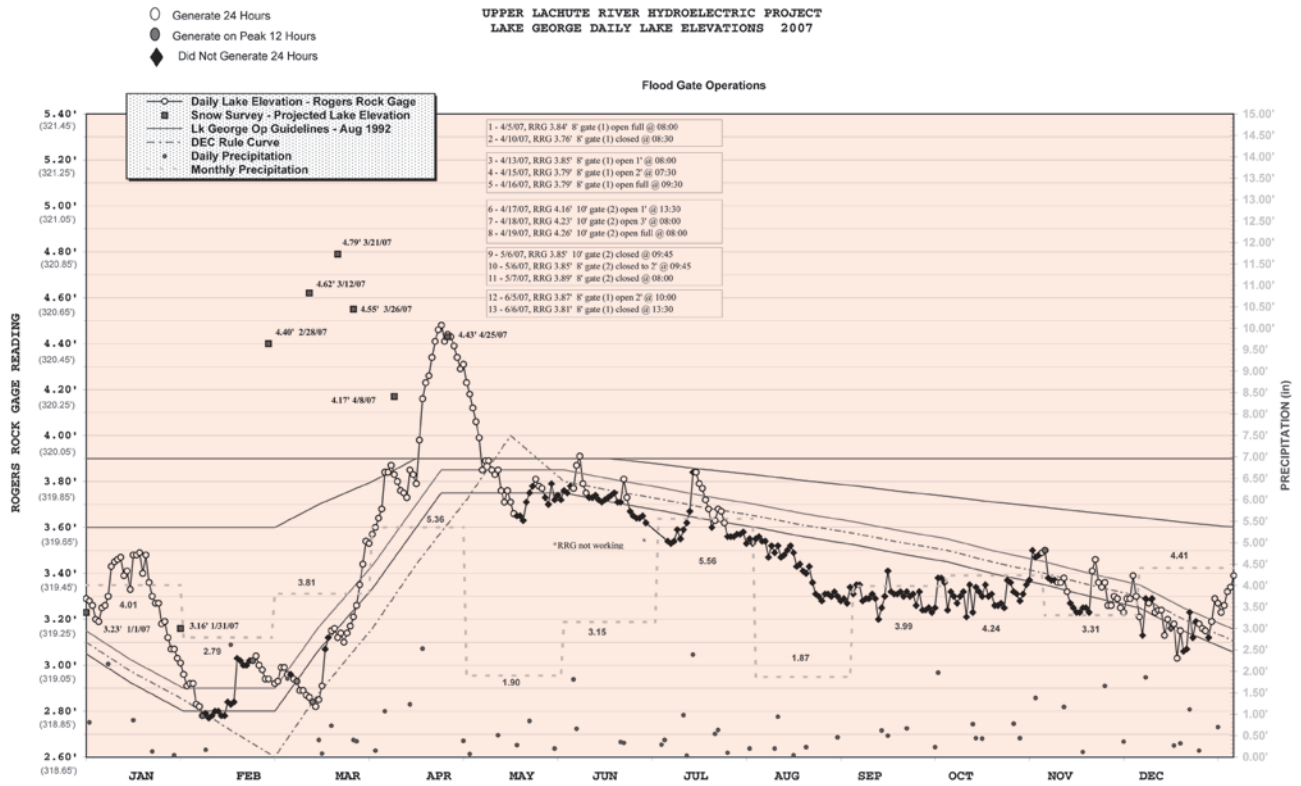
On July 13, MPO VanNess received a complaint about a "sheen" on the water in South Bass Bay. After a quick search of the area, VanNess located a greyish colored film covering the water near a newly constructed boathouse. Nobody was home, but on the dock was a paint sprayer and 3 cans of oil based wood preservative. Since it was lunchtime, the officer decided to wait a while and see if someone returned. Sure enough, several workers arrived just before 1pm and it was obvious from the stains on one workers' face who did the spraying. The company was issued an appearance ticket for a misdemeanor offense of polluting the waters of Lake George.



BOAT COUNT 2007

Area	Inboards & I/O's	Outboards	Sailboats	Rowboats Canoes	PWC's	Airplanes	Totals
North of Sabbath Day Pt. to Ticonderoga Bridge	574	200	210	459	66	0	1509
Ticonderoga Bridge East Shore to Bluff Head	305	165	95	297	55	0	917
North of Veteran's Beach to Montcalm Point	293	67	52	246	31	0	689
Bluff Head East Shore to 14 Mile Island	224	87	67	266	10	0	654
North of Montcalm Point to Sabbath Day Point	31	18	13	37	15	0	114
The Narrows	36	21	12	2	0	0	71
Mother Bunch Islands	13	13	1	2	1	0	30
14 Mile Channel to Harris Bay Yacht Club	847	128	125	606	80	0	1786
Harris Bay Yacht Club to Million Dollar Beach	448	74	35	339	59	0	955
Million Dollar Beach to Fish Point	810	156	89	380	127	0	1562
North of Fish Point to Veteran's Beach	233	70	28	175	17	0	523
Sagamore Docks (Green Island)	50	16	8	2	0	0	76
Long Island, Speaker Heck & Diamond Island	12	8	3	3	0	0	26
Marinas	1134	323	157	88	40	0	1742
Totals	5010	1346	895	2902	501	0	10654

LAKE WATER LEVELS



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