

State Agrees to Purchase Conservancy's Cat Mt. Preserve

By Anthony F. Hall

The Cat and Thomas Mountains Preserve, a 1,850-acre tract of land in Bolton acquired by the Lake George Land Conservancy in 2003, is expected to be acquired by New York State in 2012.

"The wheels are turning, progress is being made, but one can only imagine how long the process will actually take," said John Macionis, the chairman of the Land Conservancy's Board of Directors. "Still, it's very good news. We expect to recoup most if not all of our original investment."

The Lake George Land Conservancy paid roughly \$1.25 million for the property, said Nancy Williams, the Lake George Land Conservancy's executive director.

"We've been talking to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the past two years, and we've been told that the purchase will be funded through next year's state budget," Williams said.

The Cat and Thomas Mountains Preserve includes seven miles of public trails that have been maintained by the organization and volunteers.

The preserve also contains watershed lands for Edgecomb Pond, Bolton Landing's source of drinking water.

"The Cat and Thomas Mountains Preserve deserves to be added to the Adirondack Forest Preserve and protected forever," said Williams. "It's a wonderful prize."

Adding the Conservancy's land to the Adirondack Forest Preserve would also benefit the Town of Bolton, since the town would now receive property tax payments, Williams said. As a not-for-profit organization, the Lake George Land Conservancy is exempt from property taxes.

According to Macionis and Williams, the sale of the Cat and Thomas Mountains Preserve will enable the Lake George Land Conservancy to reduce its debt on two other acquisitions, the Last Great Shoreline on the northeastern shore of Lake George and the Berry Pond Tract on Prospect Mountain.



Lake George hosted the first annual Adirondack Aerial Beach Vault pole vaulting competition in Shepard Park on Saturday. The event drew scores of athletes and fans, and organizers Dennis Hogan and Don Peretta expect it will only grow.

Village, Town, Finally Come to Terms Over Sewage Treatment

By Anthony F. Hall

For more than thirty years, Lake George Village has been treating sewage from the Town of Lake George without a valid contract.

Earlier this week, however, the elected officials of the two communities approved the first inter-municipal agreement since 1976 to set forth the terms of the town's use of the treatment plant.

"I think it's a very fair agreement; we hammered out a lot of issues," said town Supervisor Frank McCoy. The agreement was supported by a majority of both boards.

"We negotiated it for a long time; we're finally there," said town Councilman Vinnie Crocitto.

On average, the Village of Lake George bills the town roughly \$220,000 a year to treat sewage from the Caldwell Sewer District.

That amount may be less after New York State repairs deteriorating pipes underneath its Battlefield Park, which convey water and sewage to the Village's treatment

plant.

Those pipes are responsible for 50 to 60% of the ground and storm water flowing into Caldwell Sewer District lines, said Frank McCoy.

New York State has assured the Town that the pipes will be sliplined this fall, after the campground closes for the season, McCoy said.

According to Lake George Village Mayor Bob Blais, 40% of the excess water treated at the Village's plant can be traced to the Caldwell Sewer District.

In addition to asking New York State to repair its pipes, the Town of Lake George is inspecting basements for illegal sump pumps, said Councilwoman Fran Heinrich.

Following the joint approval of the inter-municipal agreement, Mayor Blais asked the Town Board to consider contributing to the costs of installing technology to remove nitrogen from the plant's effluent.

"This is the last thing New York has asked us to do to comply with the consent order we signed after the July, 2009 sewer break," said Blais.

Lake George Village has been awarded a \$650,000 grant to purchase and install the equipment, which will make its wastewater treatment one of the most efficient in the nation, Blais said.

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Asian Clams Found in Bolton's Boon Bay

Colonization by Invasive Mollusk No Longer Limited to Lake George Village; Efforts to Determine if Infestation is Lake-Wide Underway

By Anthony F. Hall

Originally believed to be confined to Lake George Village, Asian clams have been discovered in Boon Bay in Bolton.

According to Peter Bauer, the executive director of The Fund for Lake George, divers retained by The Fund to harvest milfoil discovered the invasive mollusk while pulling weeds from the bay on July 15.

Steven Resler of InnerSpace Scientific Diving and Jeremy Farrell, the Darrin Fresh Water Institute researcher who discovered Asian Clams in Lake George Village, later confirmed that the clams found by the divers were in fact Asian clams.

"Our hope that we had somehow caught a break and that Lake George had only one population, which could be eradicated, has clearly diminished," said Peter Bauer. "We could be looking at a lake-wide infestation. If that's the case, management would be an acute challenge."

"First there was one site, now there's two; if there's ten, we need to set priorities," said Sandra Nierzwicki-Bauer, the director of the Darrin Fresh Water Institute. "The question is, will we have the resources?"

The clams appear to have been introduced to Boon Bay at roughly the same time that someone introduced them to Lake George Village, said Nierzwicki-Bauer.

"Based on the distance from Lake George Village to Boon Bay, the size of the clams in Boon Bay and the distribution and population of clams at Boon Bay, we believe this is a separate introduction rather than natural migration or transportation from the Lake George Village area," said Nierzwicki-Bauer.

The heaviest concentration of clams was found near the Diamond Village Resort, said Nierzwicki-Bauer.

The resort provides dock slips and boat launching facilities for its guests; it is the only point of public access to the lake at Boon Bay.

While some residents of Boon Bay have speculated that clams were introduced by a boat launched from that site, the source of the Asian clam infestation of Lake George is as yet unknown, said Peter Bauer.

"It's hard to say which of the possible pathways were taken to bring Asian clams to Lake George," said Bauer. "Was it a bait bucket? An aquarium dump? Asian clams are very hearty; it takes only a few to establish a colony."

Identifying the sources of infestation is a crucial part of controlling and preventing the introduction of invasives, Bauer said.

According to Bauer, the clams were probably introduced to Boon Bay three years ago and have now spread to a three to five acre area, an area as large, perhaps, as the beach front in Lake George Village where the clams were first discovered and where the Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force

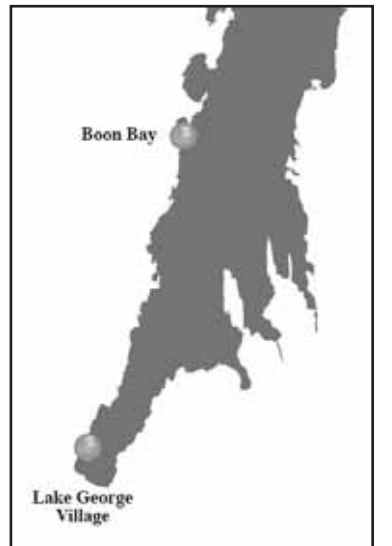
installed benthic barriers to deprive the clams of oxygen.

Over 825 benthic barriers were installed; all were scheduled to have been removed by the end of this week.

As of late July, 97% of the clams had been killed, said Peter Bauer.

According to members of the Task Force, the next steps in the eradication effort include a second treatment in Lake George Village after Labor Day that will employ suction harvesting to clear areas that were inaccessible during the busy summer months, as well as an assessment of the Boon Bay infestation.

"We'll develop strategies for the second site; \$475,000 was commit-



ted to eradicate Asian clams from Lake George Village, but it wouldn't have to be that expensive to treat Boon Bay," said Peter Bauer. "We're already outfitted, there are inherent efficiencies in managing two sites, and we've learned a great deal since we began the eradication effort in April."

"The Asian clam control effort in Lake George Village will be essential to determining our capability of managing any additional infestation sites," said Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program Aquatic Invasive Species Management Coordinator.

The Task Force is also calling upon landowners around Lake George to survey the areas under their docks, along their shores, and at their beaches for the presence of Asian clams.

"This new discovery is profoundly disturbing. It shows that we need to rally support from all individuals around the lake to find out if these invaders exist anywhere else. Put on a facemask and take a swim and tell us what you see," said Walt Lender, Executive Director of the Lake George Association.

People are encouraged to photograph and email a picture of a suspected Asian Clam to the Darrin Fresh Water Institute, the Fund for Lake George, the Lake George Park Commission, or Lake George Association.

"We need a broad survey of the lake as a whole," said Nierzwicki-Bauer. "We need to collect information rapidly."

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While it may look like an early Smith-Granger, this Lake George rowboat was built by Charles Bartlett of Hague. It's being rowed by Janet Brodie near Sabbath Day Point in the mid 1960s.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Kam's Cool with Coney Island

To the Editor:

The July 22, 2011 Lake George Mirror's editorial asks the question, "Which town is the Coney Island of the Adirondacks now?" It's meant to be insulting. It's meant to bring shame upon us. It hopes that it's not too late for us to shake off the demon curse of shameless pandering to tourist prostitution and mend our ways. I believe its clarion call is for us all to rise above the bright lights and flapping banners, put down the

inflatable pool toys and for god's sake be quaint. Quaint and charming, and clean and folksy.

I just finished reading Dr. Dan O'Keeffe's book "Halfway to Heaven". It's about his life growing up in North Creek. It's dated at the bottom of the cover "1920-1950". Fantastic book. Its pictures show cars parked up and down both sides of the main drag. It tells of the multiple garage businesses, his father's drug store, local industries, and a thriving year round economy. North Creek was the prosperous hub of the North Country. Then the trains stopped running. It was the end of

the line for the Delaware and Hudson railroad. The last train came to town in 1957. The end of the line indeed.

Bolton started out as a farming community. Oldest town on Lake George. Real quaint. Aw shucks, Gary Cooper quaint. Then came the hotels and steamboats. Then, you guessed it, the railroad. Summer people. Then summer houses began to spring up and soon Bolton's economy became more sophisticated, complex, full of variety and for the locals, opportunity.

Back in the 1950s, Charley Wood was running a summer resort. It bothered him that on cloudy, rainy days, the kids didn't have anything to do. Unhappy kids, unhappy parents. Bad for business. So he put himself at some considerable risk and invented Storytown. Play some games.

Ride the rides. Bring back some souvenirs to show the folks back home. It was a nutsy idea in 1955. The bank took some real convincing and a lot of collateral, but suddenly Lake George became a new kind of destination resort. Charley even beat Walt Disney to the punch. Charley's good friend Arto Monaco beat him, up in Jay, N.Y., but the building of the Northway put Storytown over the top.

A few years ago Bolton commissioned a survey in preparation for its Comprehensive Plan. A friend of mine who was very much involved with this thing said you could tell right away what the respondents' survey would look like just by the return address. On the one hand we have people who stand on the shore on a sunny day August Saturday looking out on the controlled chaos that is such a scene, and lament "this is crazy, this is ruining the lake, someone's gonna get hurt or killed or worse!" And then again, we have a select few who look out on the madness and say "look at all those people having fun!"

Quaint is for the "leaf peepers". Nobody sent the young family tourists a survey so they didn't get to vote. However, they vote every summer with their vacations and dollars.

So in closing: Coney Island? Never been there. Seen pictures, though. Crazy place. Lots of stuff going on. Crap everywhere! Not a quaint corner to be had. Lots of people having fun though.

Kam Hoopes
Bolton Landing

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"The new infestation focuses us all on the need to fully survey the entire lake for additional infestations. A search of 60 locations in the south end of Lake George last year found no other infestations outside the Village of Lake George. Now, we need to expand our control efforts to include Boon Bay and expand our survey work around the lake to identify other infestations if there are any. We need shoreline owners to look at the waters off their property and boaters around the lake to help us by looking out for Asian clams. People should look for the telltale tiny butterfly open clam shells the size of a dime or smaller," said Peter Bauer.

"Efforts to survey this additional Asian clam population are underway. The crews of divers managing Eurasian water milfoil operated by the Lake George Park Commission and FUND for Lake George have been asked to look for Asian clams and other aquatic invasive species. The LGA is working with its Lake Stewards program to survey boat launch areas as well. DFWI is carrying out surveys in conjunction with its long-term efforts for identifying native mussel locations and zebra mussel introductions to map locations with or without Asian Clams. All of these efforts will help to determine the extent of the overall infestation in Lake George," said Meg Modley.

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The remaining \$900,000 must be bonded, and the Village is asking the Town to share in the costs of debt service.

The Town Board agreed to consider the request after a presentation from the Village's Department of Public Works.

For the past several years, The Fund for Lake George and the Lake George Waterkeeper have argued that the Town is threatening to over-tax the system.

Approximately five large-scale developments have been planned for the Caldwell Sewer District, and a system of allocating credits for new sewer hook-ups was to be included in the new inter-municipal agreement.

But according to Mayor Blais, the plant's capacity is large enough to accommodate the proposed developments.

If it becomes necessary to enlarge the plant, the contract specifies how the costs will be apportioned between the two municipalities, said Blais.

The new inter-municipal agreement expires in 2016.



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THEATER LAB from page 27

City."

Of all the plays submitted to Gates for the 2011 season, "The Cottage" was not only among the most interesting, it was likely to benefit most from a laboratory environment, said Gates.

"The Cottage" will be presented in the Dollar Island Room inside the Sagamore hotel. The reading begins at 8 pm. Tickets are \$15 each. For reservations, call 518-203-2600.

"Daisy Foote knows exactly what she wants to accomplish here, and part of our mission is to assist playwrights develop their work," said Gates.

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