



LAKE • GEORGE
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NEWS RELEASE

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Waterkeeper Releases 2009 Stream Assessment Report; Completes 3-Year Study of Stream Health in the Lake George Watershed

Report finds numerous streams throughout the Lake George Watershed have been impacted by land use and development activities.

Over 60 locations on 40 streams were monitored around Lake George.

Lake George – The Lake George Waterkeeper has released its *2009 Stream Assessment Report*, which completes a 3-year study of stream health in the Lake George watershed. 67 sites on 40 streams were sampled at regular intervals around the Lake George watershed. This report follows studies for 2008 and 2007. This 3-year study now provides the most complete analysis of stream environmental health around Lake George. This study followed established state and federal protocols for chemical, biological and physical analysis of streams.

The 2009 Stream Assessment Report includes a Stream Condition Report Card (see attached) that rates the condition of streams based upon physical, chemical and biological analysis. The report finds that the majority of streams studied, which includes the major streams in the watershed, have experienced significant impairments of instream and streamside habitat, are experiencing increasing rates of conductivity – a key indicator of pollution – and the majority of streams studies exhibit a degraded biological condition. In total, four streams were found to be significantly impaired while more than half of the 40 streams studied showed moderate impacts.

“This project is a major effort to evaluate as many streams as possible throughout the Lake George watershed. Over half of the water in Lake George comes from streams, so stream health has a major



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impact on the water quality of Lake George. Streams are highly susceptible to impacts from land uses and can change dramatically from section to section depending on surrounding land use activities. This study looks at streams all around the lake and follows state and federal scientific protocols for stream evaluations” said Chris Navitsky, the Lake George Waterkeeper.

The 2009 study incorporated the Stream Identification Form developed by the North Carolina Division of Water, which is used to evaluate a stream’s pereniality. The report indicates that 94% of the streams studied are perennial and contain water year round. “The use of the Stream Identification Form and data regarding perennial streams is very important for water quality protection” said Chris Navitsky. “It is our experience that the smaller, first order of streams are often incorrectly classified as intermittent and not protected by state or local agencies. It is imperative to protect these smaller streams and this report documents the high percentage of perennial streams in the watershed.”

This is the third report produced by the Waterkeeper’s Stream Assessment project. The report is available on the website www.lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org. The Stream Assessment Project uses established protocols for chemical, physical and biological assessments of streams. Three Lake George FACT SHEETS (37, 38, 39) are posted on the FUND/Waterkeeper website that detail and provide information on each of these protocols.

“The need to monitor and assess our streams is more critical then ever before” stated Chris Navitsky. “This research is critical for evaluating the impacts our activities are having on streams and ultimately, the water quality of Lake George. It also clearly demonstrates the need for increased regulations to protect water quality such as stream corridor management.”

“This completes a 3-year research project to assess the condition of streams in the Lake George watershed. The Stream Assessment Project followed established protocols and yielded important information. In 2010, we’re on the brink of the first comprehensive stream buffer rules and regulations from the NYS Park Commission. This report serves as an excellent baseline of stream conditions before these new rules are put in place and will help assess the effectiveness of these stream protection rules” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of the FUND for Lake George.

To access the new 2009 Stream Assessment Report or other reports produced by the Lake George Waterkeeper and FUND for Lake George please visit our website www.lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org.

The Lake George Waterkeeper

The Lake George Waterkeeper was launched in 2002 with a mission to defend the natural trust public resources of Lake George and its basin, which provides for the common good of the community and the watershed. The Lake George Waterkeeper is a resource for concerned citizens in the Lake George Basin who are concerned about land use and water quality. The Waterkeeper responds to all public inquiries and acts as an ombudsman with respect to issues having an environmental impact on Lake George and its watershed. The Waterkeeper monitors and intervenes in development proposals around Lake George and provides professional analysis by a licensed engineer to local and state regulatory agencies. The Lake George Waterkeeper (www.lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org) is a program of the FUND for Lake George. The Lake George Waterkeeper is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, which represents over 180 water bodies nationally and internationally.

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Stream Condition Report Card

Table 1: A collective summary of the 52 of the 67 sample sites impacted chemically, physically, and/or biologically. Parameters for each site were categorized with either a green circle (minimal impairment), a yellow circle (moderate impairment), or a red circle (substantial impairment). Streams that appeared to be in the worst condition are highlighted. **Please note:** The information is relatively subjective but based on data and field observations. It is included to provide a condensed and simplified summary of sample site condition.

	Physical					Chemical			Biological		Total
	Streambed	Instream Habitat	Streamside Habitat	Canopy Cover	Turbidity	pH	Dissolved Oxygen	Conductivity	BAP Score	Algae	
Basin Bay (A) tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Basin Bay (B) tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
Basin Bay (C) tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Boon Bay tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
Butternut Brook	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cooks Bay (A) tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cooks Bay (B) tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
Cooks Bay (C) tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cooks Bay (D) tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
Dodd Hill tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
East Brook	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
Edmunds Brook (DS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
English Brook (DS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
English Brook (US)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Finkle Brook (DS 9N)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Finkle Brook (Edgecomb)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Finkle Brook (Horicon Ave)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Finkle Brook (Valley Woods Road)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Foster Brook (DS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Foster Brook (US)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gull Bay tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Hague Brook (DS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Huddle Beach Road tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
Huddle Brook (DS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Huddle Brook (US)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
Indian Brook (US)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Jenkins Brook	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mohican Road tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●
North Huddle Beach Road	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
Pole Hill Pond Outlet	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Silver Bay tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Smith Brook (DS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Smith Brook (DS 9N)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	●
Smith Brook (US)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
South Cooks Bay tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
Spring Hill tributary (DS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Stebbins Brook	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Stewart Brook (DS)	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
Stewart Brook (US)	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
Still Bay tributary (DS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Still Bay tributary (US)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sucker Brook	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sunset Bay Brook (DS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sunset Bay Brook (US)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tea Island Tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tributary near Agnes Island	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tributary north of Sabbath Day Point	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
Tributary south of Bluff Head	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Van Buren tributary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
West Brook (DS 9N)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
West Brook (OTB)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●
Wing Pond Outlet	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●