



**LAKE • GEORGE**  
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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Waterkeeper Urges Municipalities to Pass Resolution to Reinstitute the Collection and Disposal of Household Hazardous Wastes

*Village of Lake George and Town of Bolton are first to pass these resolutions.*

Lake George – The Lake George Waterkeeper is urging all municipalities in Warren County to pass resolutions for the reinstatement of the collection and disposal of household hazardous wastes (HHW) by Warren County. See draft resolution below. This program was ended in 1997 when Warren County delegated solid waste collection programs to local municipalities.

Household hazardous wastes are leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients and require special care when they are disposed. These products include paints, cleaners, oils, antifreeze, batteries and pesticides. According to the United States Department of Environmental Protection, Americans generate 1.6 million tones of HHW every year and the average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of HHW in the basement and garage and storage closets.

“Our office receives numerous calls from citizens who want to responsibly dispose of these products. It is frustrating that we could not give them an answer,” said Chris Navitsky, Lake George Waterkeeper. “The final straw was an incident in the spring when paint entered the lake from an apparent illegal dumping in the Village of Lake George.”

At that point, the Lake George Waterkeeper informed Town and Village Boards of the concern and there was immediate support for an initiative. Upon further discussion with Town



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Supervisors and the Mayor, the Waterkeeper drafted a resolution for consideration by the Boards.

“We’re grateful for the early and strong support for this effort by the Village of Lake George and the Towns of Bolton, Hague and Lake George within the watershed. We look forward to working with the other towns and the City of Glens Falls” said Navitsky. “These products if not properly disposed of can create serious water quality problems. Proper disposal of these products is an important part of good stewardship for Lake George and other water bodies in Warren County as well as protection of human health.”

HHW are a significant source of nonpoint source pollution and improper disposal includes pouring them down the drain into wastewater systems, on the ground, into storm sewers or putting them into the trash. Disposal in wastewater systems impact the biological functions necessary for treatment and placing into the trash creates the potential for hazardous reactions.

The next step will to be to reach out to the Town of Queensbury and then meet with the Warren County Department of Public Works Committee to discuss the proposal and options.

“Chairman Belden and Supervisor Conover have offered support and direction on the initiative,” Navitsky said. “It appears the timing may be right because the County has currently undertaken a Solid Waste Study and HHW disposal should be evaluated as part of the study.”

Potential options for the program could include collection fees to offset program costs but these are points that would be part of the study.

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST WARREN COUNTY  
TO REINSTITUTE THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF  
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES**

**WHEREAS** Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be “Hazardous Household Wastes” or “HHW”. Products such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides require special care when they are disposed; and

**WHEREAS** According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of HHW in the basement and garage and storage closets; and

**WHEREAS** Improper disposal of HHW can include pouring them down the drain into municipal sewer systems or septic systems, on the ground, into storm sewers, or disposing of them with the trash; and

**WHEREAS** The dangers of such disposal methods of HHW can result in non point source pollution, enter our waterways or groundwater, pollute our environment, negatively impacting water quality as well as pose a threat to human health; and

**WHEREAS** The County of Warren, where the Village of Lake George is located, delegated solid waste disposal to the local municipalities in 1997 and terminated the collection of HHW; and

**WHEREAS** The \_\_\_\_\_ does not currently have the ability or means to provide its residents a lawful method to properly dispose of HHW.

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that the \_\_\_\_\_ that the potential of negative impacts to the water quality of Lake George and to the health of its residents is greatly increased with the accumulation of Household Hazardous Wastes.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Village of Lake George requests the County of Warren to reinstitute the collection and disposal of Household Hazardous Wastes for the benefit of the residents of the Village of Lake George and of the County of Warren.

### **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](http://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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