



January 2020 • Issue #1

Fort George Group Planning Exhibits for New Visitors Center

By Mirror Staff

The new Fort George - Battlefield Park Visitor Center, which will be part of the Lake George Park Commission's new office building in the state-owned park, has received a grant from the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust to construct its first exhibits.

The grant will provide funding for ten panels that will sequentially explain the history of the park as well as two museum quality display cases for artifacts that have been found in the park during several recent archaeological projects lead by Dr. David Starbuck.

A model of the Land Tortoise, a military vessel constructed at Lake George in 1758, will also be displayed.

The model was built by Lake George native Dale Henry, currently a boatwright at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes, Vermont.

"It is a superbly authentic model of the actual vessel," said Alliance trustee Russell Bellico, who photographed the original in 107 feet of water.

Bellico said the model will become part of a larger exhibit, telling the story of Lake George's maritime history.

"The maritime exhibit will also include the actual gunport lids from

the Land Tortoise," said Bellico.

According to Lyn Karig Hohmann, President of the Alliance, the group also plans to create exhibits dedicated to the Native Americans who used the site for thousands of years.

"The artifacts that have been found in the park include not only those related to the military history, but also those related to Native Americans. The plan is to finally

bring these objects out of storage in Albany and bring them back to the Park," said Hohmann.

Last year's discovery of an 18th century military cemetery at a Lake George construction site is the source of another display planned for the visitors Center, said Hohmann.

David Starbuck, the first archaeologist to be alerted by the Warren County Sheriff's Office to

the presence of human remains at the property, said at least some of the skeletal remains appear to belong to a soldier from the Continental Army's First Pennsylvania Battalion.

Hohmann said the Alliance hopes to have a historically accurate uniform of a First Battalion Pennsylvania soldier made for display in the VIC.

The presence of the First Pennsylvania Battalion at Fort

George, the British-built fort at the head of the lake, is a well-documented fact, according to historians.

Constructed in the late 1750s to support Britain's campaigns against the French at Lake Champlain, the fort was captured by the Americans in 1775.

The new building is expected to be completed before the end of summer, 2020.

THE
Original Vacation
IS Calling!

Start your adventure at VISITLAKEGEORGE.COM