

FORT GEORGE POST

The Newsletter of the Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance

PO BOX 26, LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK 12845

www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org

WINTER 2020

President's Report to the Membership

By Lyn Karig Hohmann

During the August 2019 annual meeting, we presented an annual report to the membership. Since many of our members are unable to attend this meeting, we are publishing that report here. While some is now a little dated, it will provide a summary of the activities of the Alliance for last year.

1. Thank you, first, all for coming today. I think you will be very interested in our program today, but first we need to attend to our business.
2. First, we have completed all our required annual reporting to the Chartering section of NYSED, the Attorney General (CHAR500), and the federal government – 990 N. Please note that this year we did not file a 990 EZ as usual, as we determined that the 990 N was appropriate for our fiscal standing. I expect next year, if we are successful with our planned grant requests, we will have more complicated filings.
3. This has been a year of transition. Two long time officers, Bill Herrlich and Nadine Bataglia, requested a well-deserved retirement from the Board. We have two new officers, Rosemarie Earl as Treasurer and Fran Cocozza as Secretary. Bringing on new people with new ideas is great and it allows us to identify if there are

improved ways to handle the business of the Alliance. Bill did his excellent accounting by pencil and paper; Rosemarie has established a computerized spreadsheet. Rosemarie took over half way through the fiscal year, so there was a need to transition from Bill's format to the new computerized one, and that took a little work. We want to thank Bill for his many years of service. His records and his filings have always been accurate, timely and excellent. And of course, many thanks also to Nadine for her excellent work these many years. Fran is also using an efficient computerized form for the minutes. Although the prior secretary did membership also, I took it over for this year to see how to do it most efficiently. I now have a membership Excel spreadsheet to keep track of dues, do mailings and do emails very simply. I am looking for a person who would like to be the Membership Chair. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me.

4. We have continued to implement improved policies and procedures. Although the Board has always monitored the finances of the Alliance and in a small not-for-profit, the Board can act as the Audit committee, this year we established a formal Audit

Committee that did reviews of 2017-18 and 2018-19. Due to the transitions noted, it did take some time for us to assemble all the required records; however, we expect the Audit Committee will now bring forward a formal policy for doing the audit which will make the process much easier to work through in the future. An Internal Controls Policy for the management of money consistent with our current practice was written that we will review and finalize also for our policy notebook.

5. This year we were able to host around 500 school children from the area visiting the Park through a grant program with NYS Parks and Rec. This was in partnership with Fort William Henry and the Steamboat Company who have done a program, Lake George Experience, over the years. We were a new addition to this program and the fact that we were a state park allowed the schools to seek reimbursement for travel expenses. Next year we have talked with DEC about having a program that includes the Park and Prospect Mountain.
6. The Alliance Officers and Board have continued to work on planning for the Visitors Interpretive Center (VIC). We

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President's Report to the Membership

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have not yet applied for grants to cover the cost, but that is our next step. We have been waiting for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) update from DEC that would give us the authority to seek funding as part of our responsibility. We have not yet received one. It is our understanding that the MOU between the Lake George Park Commission and NYS DEC is final/near final. In lieu of the MOU, we will be asking for a letter of support noting that an expanded version of our current MOU is in process. The first exhibit for the VIC, an accurate model of the radeau, Land Tortoise, by Dale Henry, has been completed. Russ Bellico is the project director for this exhibit. Additionally, because of the new finds in Lake George, I have reached out to a person who makes Revolutionary War uniforms to determine if a First Battalion Pennsylvania uniform can be made. This was not originally planned but seems appropriate at this time with the discovery of the cemetery related to the 1776 Northern Campaign hospital. There is a possibility of grant money for this project.

7. Related to improved signage in the Park, Friends Groups of Parks are eligible to seek small grants for specific projects. If you were here last year, you heard how important signage is as part of our Park experience. We are eligible to receive these grants and are now officially registered. The grant information will be released September 1. We will be looking into these small grants as a way to upgrade park signage.

8. Shortly, you will hear about the Revolutionary War Cemetery that has been found in Lake George. While I will leave the details to our speakers, I want to say this has been an extraordinary volunteer effort by many professional and avocational archaeologists who have been giving up their Saturdays for this work. When the Alliance first heard about the discovery, we submitted a resolution to both the Town and Village of Lake George requesting that these Patriots receive a respectful reburial in Lake George. Both the Town and Village accepted the resolutions and the Village passed its own, supporting reburial in our Park. There is now a committee working on the particulars of this process.

9. Finally, I want to say a few additional words on volunteerism. The Alliance is an all voluntary group of folks who love this Park. We have no "management" in the meaning of paid employees. We are a volunteer board as you are all volunteer members. So, I want to personally thank all of you who take the time to correspond with us, make voluntary contributions, take time to come to our meetings or go to our Memorial Day event. And, also, to the officers and board. This transition year has been expensive in the sense of time. I think it will be more efficient going forward, but a lot of work has been expended and I want to thank the officers and board for their efforts. ■



President's Welcome

By Lyn Karig Hohmann

Welcome to the Winter 2019/2020 Issue of the Fort George Post. This issue will have a few updates for the membership including the Annual Report to the Membership as given at the Annual Members Meeting in August 2019 and the "reveal" of our new website created under the management of our Vice President, John DiNuzzo. Primarily, however, this issue will be devoted to the planning for the new Lake George Battlefield Park Visitors Interpretive Center (VIC), with planned opening during the Summer of 2020. I want to finish this short welcome with the Vision for the VIC as verbalized by our Board:

Lake George Battlefield Park Visitors Interpretive Center

Vision Statement: Visitors shall have the opportunity to understand the role of this park in our military, social, and cultural history and to appreciate the people who served here during the period of the building of our nation. ■

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Errata: Please note in the last issue of the Fort George Post, the by line to the article, 1775: FORT GEORGE RE-ACTIVATED, was inadvertently omitted. Dr. Russell Bellico was the author and we apologize for the oversight. Dr. Bellico is a frequent contributor to this newsletter and we greatly appreciate his well-researched articles on the history of our Park. ■



At Last . . .

A Visitors Interpretive Center But Not Such a New Idea. . .

The Alliance has worked very hard over the last number of years to create a visitors interpretive center (VIC), suggesting options such as converting the Pavilion. We knew that we had wonderful artifacts from several archaeological studies of the Park that were in boxes in the NYS Museum archives. We were able to have these artifacts displayed briefly at the Caldwell-Lake George Library and, through the assistance of the Lake George Historical Association, had an exhibit for two years related to the history of the Park. But until the Lake George Park Commission identified a need for a new building, we were not able to find a solution for a permanent VIC. A requirement for the Park Commission building is that it house the LGBP VIC. This newsletter has been devoted to our plans for the VIC, but thanks to the archival resources from Dr. Russell Bellico, we know that the VIC is not such a new idea. The following are several excerpts:

Lake George Mirror, September 10, 1898:

"The Sunken Batteaux of Lake George"

"Why not establish a Lake George Museum on the Grounds of the Proposed Lake George Park at the Head of the Lake?"

"New York State has done her part and purchased most of the land at the head of the lake including the Dowling property and other tracts comprising the site of the battlefield.

Now that this project is so far advanced would it not be advisable for those interested to secure permission from the State Authorities (to) raise funds, and erect a suitable building for a Lake George museum.

There are thousands of relics of Lake George battle fields scattered among the people living on Lake George and in other parts of the state. These could be collected and placed in the departments of the proposed building. What more fitting place for such a museum than on the shore of Lake George."

Glens Falls Daily Times, September 12, 1898:

"The Four Sunken Bateaux in Lake George Described"

"In advocating the establishment of a state museum on the Lake George battlefield park, the Lake George Mirror has the following concerning the old bateaux that are known to be sunk in the lake and which would be a valuable addition to the museum."

Morning Star Glens Falls, March 21, 1904:

"THIS IS A TIMELY MOVE"

"An appropriation for Improving the Lake George Battle Ground"

"Assemblyman Davis has succeeded in having an item of \$1,500 inserted in the annual appropriation bill for improvements to the Lake George battle

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At Last . . . A Visitors Interpretive Center - But Not Such a New Idea . . .

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ground. If the item finally meets with approval the money will be used to cut off the brush and put the grounds in attractive condition. The reservation is badly in need of attention. Scraggly underbrush, loose stones and other evidences of untidiness make the place uninviting and reflect discredit upon the commonwealth. The dwelling house on the property is also in need of attention. It should be repaired and enlarged by the addition of an annex for a museum. Many relics and curiosities could be obtained if a suitable place could be had for exhibiting them."

The Lake George Mirror, August 18, 1934:

"Preserve Historical Relics"

"The suggestion last week by James L. MacDonald, manager of the Fort William Henry Hotel, that efforts be made to raise a war bateau, reported sunk in the days of the French and Indian War at the head of Lake George, seems to have met with a good deal of serious interest in this section. Mr. MacDonald suggested that a fund be raised to carry on this work and that a building be constructed to house the remains of the bateaux in Fort George Park."

"While we are on this subject it occurs to us that there are many relics privately owned in this section which would be of great interest not only to historians, but to the summer visitors to Lake George. A museum would be a real attraction at the head of the lake and in it could be housed all these relics which pertain to the early history of Lake George. No doubt the owners of relics of early Lake George would welcome the opportunity of giving these relics to some organization which would preserve them for posterity."

And more recently:

The Lake George Mirror, August 21, 1998:

"A Visitor's Interpretive Center for Fort George Park"

"New Historic Markers May Be The Beginning, Says Russell Bellico"

"This battlefield was a tourist attraction in the nineteenth century," says Bellico. "The ruins of the forts were on the itinerary of every visitor, whether it was the Earl of Derby, Harriet Martineau, or Francis Parkman. People visited Lake George to admire its beauty, but they also came to relive history."

"A visitors' interpretive center would renew interest in the northern tour, and increase the number of visitors to other historic sites in the area," Dr. Bellico argues. "This park is an excellent example of a battlefield from the French and Indian Wars and the American Revolution, and its potential has yet to be fully developed."

Alliance Web Site Live!

By John DiNuzzo

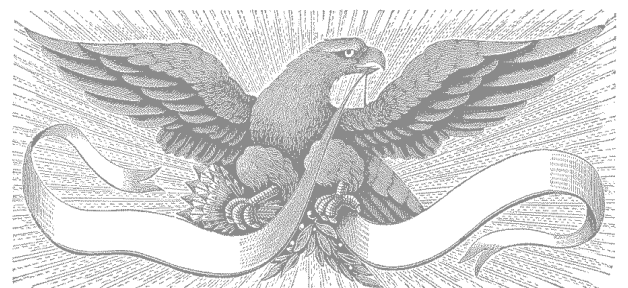
Members of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance and history-lovers across the globe can now stay current on news about the Alliance and activities at the Park through our new web site:

www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org

The site features fresh articles developed by Trustees of the Alliance and others, as well as archived materials from past issues of the "Fort George Post." As our organization looks to a period of growth spurred by the development of the Visitors Interpretive Center and other initiatives that recognize the Park's key place in American history, the new web site will help greatly in keeping the public apprised of developments.

A thousand thanks go to volunteer Christine Sullivan of Monroe, CT, who created the web site for us as well as Bruce Venter who prepared back issues of the Post for the website. Members wishing to submit articles, or who just have questions regarding the Alliance, the Park, or the history of Lake George Battlefield/Fort George, can do so by emailing info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org. ■

From the President: Many thanks to John who has worked to develop this site for several years.



How Much Will the VIC Cost?

This is the challenge! While the building and final interior work for the ground floor space for the VIC will be funded by New York State, the Alliance is responsible for the historical content of that space. In other words, we will need to raise the funding for interior display cases, panels and other items that will be used to tell the story of the Park. Fortunately, the majority of items to be displayed will be loans from the New York State Museum and, possibly, other museums. These are items that have been recovered from the Park and its environs. In order to have these loans, however, it is necessary to have lockable museum quality cases as well as other security features to protect the artifacts.

Included in this newsletter is a layout that the Board of Trustees and Officers have worked on for the last several years. While there may be adjustments as we move forward, it does allow us to identify what items are needed and what the cost of these items is. We estimate that we will need to raise at least \$100,000 to finish the layout as shown. With the recent Alfred Z. Solomon Grant and several generous donations, we are already over 25% there. While daunting for our small organization, we do believe we have, currently, a solid base of items to start, with the option, if necessary, to add the remaining items as funding is raised. Of course, we would like to start with as much in place as possible.

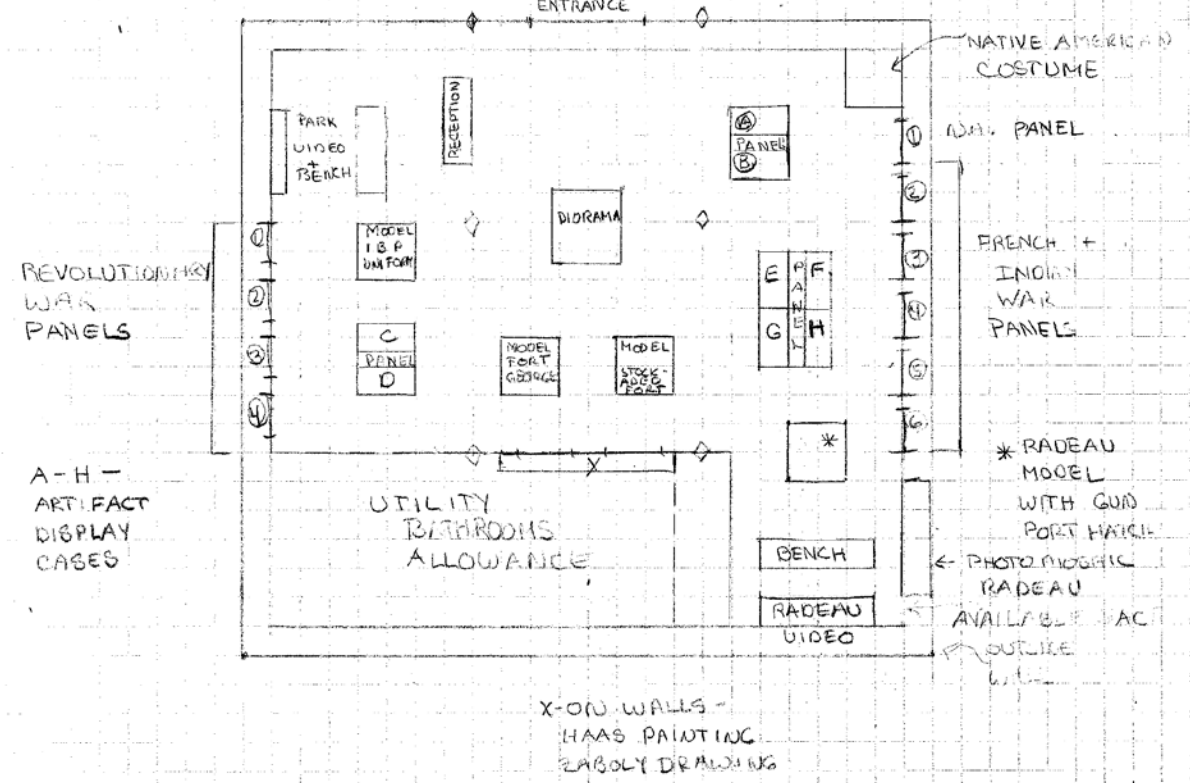
The following table lists the items, number we believe are needed, approximate cost based on current catalogs and inquiries, and information if items are currently funded. We would ask our members to review this list. If you can support all or part of an item or know an organization that would be able to, please let us know. All donations will be acknowledged in the VIC.

Item	Number Needed	Individual Cost	Total Item Cost (incl. 30% shipping/hand.)	Funded?
4' Rectangle Full Vision Display Cabinet (Radeau and Gun Port Cover)	1	\$1,866.68	\$ 2,426.68	
Mannequin display cases (N.A./IBP soldier)	2	\$2,240.00	\$ 5,824.00	
Hexagonal Glass Top Pedestal (Fort Models)	2	\$1,585.00	\$ 4,121.00	
50"x22"x42" Museum Display Cases (artifacts)	8	\$2,738.00	\$28,475.20	2/8 funded
10 Panels depicting Park History; created, fabricated and installed			\$15,353.75	Funded
LED screen media player with DVD Player	2	\$ 277.00	\$ 554.00	Funded
Native American Representative	1		\$ 750.00	
1st Pennsylvania Battalion uniform	1		\$ 750.00	Partially Funded
Military mannequins with stands	2	\$ 274.00	\$ 712.40	
Radeau Model	1			Done
Models of Forts Estimate	2		\$ 5,000.00	
Photomosaic Radeau				Done
Ernie Haas Painting				Done
Ranger Illustration/Zaboly			\$ 800.00	Funded
Dioarama of Park - Estimate			\$25,000.00	
Additional signage/display set-up - Estimate			\$ 7,500.00	
Gunboat model for children - Estimate			\$ 2,500.00	
		Total	\$99,767.03	
Consultation with museum resource - Estimate			\$25,000.00	

We also need to recognize that there will be ongoing expenses, particularly insurance coverage to protect the Alliance.



LAKE GEORGE BATTLEFIELD PARK VIC
CHILDREN'S
INTERACTIVE
SPACE



I LOVE MY PARK days

Saturday, May 2, 2020



PARKS & TRAILS
NEW YORK



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

Parks, Recreation
and Historic
Preservation

Department of
Environmental
Conservation

The Alliance will once more be participating in I Love My Park Day to get our favorite park cleaned up for the summer. A lot of work but a free T-shirt! Sign up and join us!

Register to volunteer at:
www.ptny.org/ilovemypark



Four Unknown Soldiers of the Battle of Lake George remembered with a Wreath Across America wreath for the holidays.

Please Mark Your Calendars to Join us on Memorial Day

May 25
2020

As we honor those who have fallen in the Colonial Wars in the Lake George area, as represented by the Four Unknown Soldiers of the Battle of Lake George, the oldest governmentally recognized Unknown American soldiers.

Need to renew and have a Friend who wants to join?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to protect this beautiful historic site and join the Alliance.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

- Sustaining Member \$2,500
- Associate Member..... \$1,000
- Sponsor Member \$ 500
- Paid Up for Life Member..... \$ 500
- Individual Member..... \$ 35
- Family Membership \$ 50
- Student Member..... \$ 15
(under 25 and enrolled in full time education)
- Institution Member \$ 35
(Newsletter only)
- Patron Member \$ 100

Check should be made out to the Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance and mailed to:
Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance: P.O. Box 26 • Lake George, NY 12845

MEMBERSHIPS ARE RENEWED APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.



Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance
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