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New Battlefield Park Visitor Center Now Open to the Public

By Mirror Staff

The new Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center, the completion of which was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 25, opens to the public Friday, May 27.

The Visitor Center will be from 10 am to 4 pm.

Friday through Sunday through the end of June, when hours of operation will expand.

According to John DiNuzzo, President of the Battlefield Park Alliance, a Fort George Visitor Center was first proposed in the 1890s, shortly after New York State first acquired the property that was to become the Battlefield Park.

After more than two decades of renewed advocacy by historians and volunteers, the concept came to fruition when the Lake George Park Commission and New York's Department of Environmental Conservation decided to construct a new Park Commission office building with space dedicated to

Battlefield Park's history.

The Visitor Center's exhibits include a wide array of artifacts uncovered by archaeological digs in the Park, the site of several key conflicts and encampments during the French and Indian War and the American Revolution.

According to DiNuzzo, the center also features newly created models that illustrate the forts and ships that were utilized by British and American soldiers, and related materials.

"We can't wait for the public to see what we have here," said DiNuzzo. "The efforts made by a number of historians to bring this center to life will appeal to

both the casual tourist and the dedicated student of history."

DiNuzzo credited Battlefield Park Alliance Trustees Lyn Karig Hohmann and Russ Bellico, DEC Historic Preservation Officer Chuck Vandrei, the NYS State Museum, and the Lake George Park Commission, among others, with making the new

Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center possible.

Guided Tours of Battlefield Park Begin Saturday

The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance has announced that it will resume its guided one-hour tours of the Park's most important historic sites every Saturday at 11 am. Tours start at the Visitor Center.

Unknown Soldiers of French and Indian Wars to be Honored in Battlefield Park

The annual Memorial Day ceremony honoring the four unknown soldiers of the French and Indian War whose remains are interred at Lake George Battlefield Park will take place at on Monday, May 30 at 10:30 am. The public is welcomed to attend.

Sponsored by the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance, a not-for-profit organization supporting



The new Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center opens to the public on May 27. The Center is located at 75 Fort George Road, Lake George.

historic preservation in the park and surrounding areas, the tribute will feature Lake George Town Councilwoman Marisa Muratori, Pastor Ali Trowbridge of Caldwell Presbyterian Church and Dr. Bruce Venter, historian, author and Trustee of the Battlefield Park Alliance. The Lake George Volunteer Fire Department, the Lake George American Legion Post 374 and Fort William Henry Museum guides will also participate in the ceremony.

The soldiers to be honored were killed during the first phase of the Battle of Lake George on September 8, 1755. The remains of these provincial soldiers—American colonists serving on behalf of Great Britain—were uncovered south of Lake George during a road

construction project in the 1930s. They were subsequently reinterred in the Battlefield Park in 1935. The monument at their burial site is among the Park's most frequently visited memorials.

Councilwoman Muratori notes the recognition given these soldiers on Memorial Day is symbolic, in that "there are likely thousands of others from the French and Indian War and the Revolution who perished at Lake George and whose remains have yet to be discovered." She added, "The sacrifices of these soldiers, whether as provincials in this conflict or as Patriots during the Revolution, helped pave the way to the creation of the United States."

Venter, the author of "The Battle

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of Hubbardton" and other accounts of 18th and 19th century warfare in America, observed, "One cannot underestimate the significance of the Battle of Lake George and ultimately its impact on America's history."

Venter continued, "The war for empire in North America between Great Britain and France had just started and English military initiatives were a mix of success and failure that year.

But William Johnson's victory at Lake George demonstrated a grit and determination by an army of American colonists that stood up to French regulars—and beat them. Twenty years later, this same tenacity would pay dividends when American colonists faced British redcoats in the American Revolution."

In addition to the tribute to the fallen soldiers, the Park's new Visitor Center, operated by the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance, will be open on Memorial Day from 10 am to 4 pm.
