

LAKE GEORGE MIRROR.

"THE QUEEN OF AMERICAN LAKES"

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Archaeologists Resume Digs at Fort George Park

By Mirror Staff

After an absence of several years, archaeologists returned to Fort George this week.

The digs are led this year by Dr. Siobhan Hart, an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Skidmore College.

Professor Hart and her survey team, composed of students and volunteers, will work at different locations over the course of three weeks. The project is sponsored by Skidmore College and the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Museum will oversee it.

According to John DiNuzzo, the president of the Lake George Battlefield Alliance, Hart will discuss the work of her team at the Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center on Sunday, June 16 at 2 pm. The public is invited.

The first modern archaeological digs at Fort George were begun by the late David Starbuck, PhD, in 1998 and concluded 2016, four years before his death.



Skidmore College Associate Professor Siobhan Hart (center) toured Lake George Battlefield Park earlier this year with (left to right) Mark Silo, Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance; Charles Vandrei, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation; Pat Niles, LGBPA; Peter Wuerdeman, LGBPA. Photo courtesy LGBPA.

According to a press release from the Lake George Battlefield Alliance, "David Starbuck strongly advocated additional research."

"Sampling within Lake

George Battlefield Park thus far has probably only located a small fraction of the 18th-century sites in the park," Starbuck wrote in a privately published book in 2020. "Our five years of field

work should be viewed as just a beginning to the historical and archaeological research that can and should be conducted here at the southern end of Lake George."

Among other things, Starbuck uncovered the ruins of a partially constructed fort which, had it been completed, would have been the largest British fort in North America.

At the Visitor Center, a wide array of artifacts uncovered during archaeological digs in Fort George Battlefield Park are on permanent display.

According to Alliance Trustee Pat Niles, who worked with Starbuck on two Fort George surveys, "Lake George Battlefield Park has so many layers of occupation that it is critical to try and get a greater understanding of its grounds."

Professor Hart's project will help preserve and promote public awareness of the site's history, Niles said.

The Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center is open weekends 10 am to 4 pm until the beginning of July, when it will be open five days a week. Free, one-hour tours of Fort George/Lake George Battlefield are offered every Saturday at 11 am. To reserve a spot, email info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org