

BATTLEFIELD PARK'S RESTORED STATUES TO BE REDEDICATED JUNE 27

By Anthony F. Hall

A rededication of the Lake George Battlefield Park's monuments to Isaac Jogues, William Johnson & King Hendrick and to an anonymous Native American, restored this past year with funding from the Lake George Park Commission, the Society of Colonial Wars and private individuals and firms, will take place on Friday, June 27.

"These sculptures are magnificent works of art and history," said John DiNuzzo, president of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance. The non-profit organization, the officially-designated "friends" group of the state-owned park, proposed "a beautification of the sculptures" to the agency managing the park - Department of Environmental Conservation - in 2023, a proposal accepted by the agency.

The restoration of all three pieces was conducted by the Kingston NY-based firm, Workshop Art Fabrication. Interviewed at the site this past March, the firm's principals said their craftsmen would repair and reattach broken pieces, replicate missing ones, pressure wash the granite plinths and clean, wax and restore the statues' bronze patinas.

"We'll have crews on site to refurbish the patinas, but some work - such as the Christian cross borne by the Jogues figure, which was damaged, knocked backward, in all likelihood, by a fallen tree limb - will be taken back to the shop. We'll then bring it back to weld it to the statue," said Andrew Pharmer, the firm's co-owner, and, as it happens, a Lake George native.

That work was expected to be completed by the end of this week.

Pharmer's firm was brought to the attention of the Lake George Battlefield Alliance by another Lake George native, the late Dan George, whose career as a sculptor of civic spaces included commissions for Brooklyn, Boston and Belfast, Ireland as well as Prospect Mountain and Warrensburg, NY, where in 1988 he installed "riverrun yes," a series of sculptures along the Schroon River.

According to John DiNuzzo, George contacted the Alliance in 2024 and, without being aware of the organization's discussions with the DEC about plans to refurbish the monuments, offered "to help spruce them up."

The roughly \$17,000 required to refurbish the statue of Isaac Jogues – the 17th century Jesuit martyr said to have “discovered” the lake and who is credited with giving it its French name, Lac du St. Sacrement – was raised with the help of the Lake George Park Commission, which voted in December, 2024 to contribute \$9,540 to the project.

According to the Park Commission, the agency is empowered by state law not only to protect Lake George’s water quality and recreational assets, but also, to “promote the study of history, science and lore,” enabling it “to partner on this important project,” to quote from

the Dec. 17 resolution.

The statue of Father Jogues was formally dedicated on July 4, 1939. The sculptor chosen to create the piece was Charles Keck, one of the few sculptors still creating traditional, civic sculptures for public spaces in the 1930s and 40s, and certainly the most well-known. Keck was also responsible for Ticonderoga’s 1924 Liberty Monument, a gift to the town from Horace Moses.

The restoration of the statue of Sir William Johnson and King Hendrick, formally known as “The Battle of Lake George – Sept. 8, 1755,” was funded with support from the Society of Colonial Wars of New York, which commissioned the statue and whose representatives were

present when it was dedicated on September 8, 1903. That statue, too, was missing elements that had be reproduced in bronze – two tomahawks on the gate in the fence surrounding the monument – and replaced.

The restoration of the bronze and steel “Mohawk Warrior,” a 1921 tribute to Native Americans by Alexander Phimister Proctor, which incorporates a fountain, entailed reproducing two bronze arrows that were lost through vandalism.

According to John DiNuzzo, the restoration of the Battlefield Park’s three monuments will complement the new memorial to those who perished at Fort George in 1776 and whose remains were discovered in Lake George Village in 2019. The memorial, where those remains will be interred, will be dedicated in July, 2026.

“With the restoration of these sculptures, along with some improvements to Battlefield Park made this year by the DEC, the entire park will have been given a terrific facelift that will be visible to the thousands of people we expect to all see here, drawn by the reinterment of the Revolutionary War soldiers’ remains,” said DiNuzzo.

The June 27 rededication of the statues will take place in Battlefield Park at 1 pm.



A: Andrew Pharmer at the rarely seen south side of the Jogues monument. **B:** Isaac Jogues was canonized in 1930. The monument as photographed in March, 2025. **C:** A photograph, taken by Fred Thatcher in the 1920s, “The Mohawk Warrior,” by Alexander P. Proctor. According to historian Bill Orzell, it was originally intended to be installed at Saratoga Spa State Park. However, city’s reputation for vice persuaded George Pratt, the civic leader who commissioned it, to place it in Lake George. **D:** The statue of Sir William Johnson and King Hendrick, formally known as “The Battle of Lake George – Sept. 8, 1755.”