

# HISTORIC SCULPTURES RESTORED IN LAKE GEORGE BATTLEFIELD PARK



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Charles W. Neuhauser, governor general, Society of Colonial Wars, and J. Barclay Collins II, New York governor, Society of Colonial Wars, perform a restoration ritual at the dedication ceremony.

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LAKE GEORGE – The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance celebrated the completion of restoration work on the site’s three bronze sculptures, the oldest of which dates to the early 1900s. The sculpture restorations cost a total of \$48,000, culled together by contributions from 17 different organizations and individuals.

The major restoration donors include the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York, which contributed to the restoration of the “Battle of Lake George” sculpture that it originally commissioned in 1903; the Lake George Park Commission, through a grant, supported repairs to the “Isaac Jogues” statue; and Lorna Hainesworth of Randallstown, Maryland, who underwrote

the entire cost of restoring “Mohawk Warrior” that was dedicated in 1921.

The ceremony to honor the sculpture restorations was hosted by Alliance President John DiNuzzo and held on the park grounds last Friday. Those in attendance learned about each sculpture’s historical significance and the enormous undertaking of restoring them to their former glory after years of natural wear and tear.

“Since these monuments were erected, Lake George has seen remarkable change, but the one thing that has stayed constant is our community’s commitment to preserving our history,” said Lake George Town Supervisor Vincent Crocitto.

The late sculptor Dan George, a Lake George native, was the original voice behind the restoration of these

historic sculptures.

“In the summer of 2024, a visit to the sculptures and the shock at their state of neglect led [George] to spring to action – even as he was fading from cancer,” said Erica Marks, George’s wife.

Marks remarked how her husband had often visited the statues in Battlefield Park throughout his childhood, even inspiring him to pursue a life in the visual arts of sculpting and history.

“Hearing out of the blue from Dan George, agreeing with his observation that the sculptures needed revitalizing, and then having him say, ‘We can do this!’ – get the statues repaired and refreshed to their original magnificence – was a gift that

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fell into our laps," DiNuzzo said.

"He jumped in to help, spurring a fundraising drive and pulling in a wide range of contacts. While Dan didn't live to see the project to completion, he was deeply gratified to know it was well underway by the time of his passing," Marks said.

Dan George contacted Andrew Pharmer, another Lake George native who is a partner at the Kingston-based foundry Workshop Art Fabrication, to manage the restoration process.

"One day, he came in and asked me if I remembered the monuments in Battlefield Park," Pharmer recalled. "Of course, I did because we had our senior picnic at the pavilion near the Mohawk Warrior. It was in poor condition even in 1984."

"When Dan proposed that we team up and do this project together, I was happy to oblige because this was something I could give back to my hometown with my particular expertise as an art fabricator. We put together the most rea-



The Isaac Jogues statue.

sonable budget we could, even though Dan said 'not to worry about the price,'" Pharmer said.

According to the Alliance, supplemental work on the landscapes that surround the sculptures is being contributed by the State Department of Environmental Conservation, which operates Lake George Battlefield Park.

After putting the Lake George Battlefield Park sculpture restorations in motion, Dan George passed away due to his cancer illness on January 4.

"Dan George has an enormous legacy of artistry and humanity across the globe," DiNuzzo said. "Dan's impact on his hometown of Lake George,

through our project, may be among his most enduring impacts. We are so grateful that he swooped into our lives as he did."

"In 1903, 1921, and 1939, residents got together to erect these monuments to ensure that the stories of colonial battles, Native American heritage and missionary sacrifice would endure," Crocitto said.

"Today, in 2025, we stand here because of the people who want to continue that legacy, who honor those who have walked on this path before us," Crocitto continued.

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The "Battle of Lake George" sculpture.