

LAKE GEORGE MIRROR.

"THE QUEEN OF AMERICAN LAKES"

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Lake George Battlefield Visitor Center Opens for 2026

By Anthony F. Hall

The Lake George Battlefield Alliance has opened its Visitor Center for the 2026 season and is preparing a slate of historical programs and special events designed to highlight the region's military and cultural heritage.

The Visitor Center, located in Lake George Battlefield Park, is currently open Fridays through Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. A five-day operating schedule will resume July 2.

Among the new attractions this season is a detailed diorama created by Steve Keyer depicting the positions of British, French and Native American forces during the Battle of Lake George. Visitors can also view four authentic 18th-century cannonballs on loan from Queensbury resident Marylee Gosline and Alliance Trustee Margy Mannix.

According to John DiNuzzo, the president of the Lake George Battlefield Alliance, three cannonballs were discovered by Marylee Gosline's father sometime in the 1960s. A fourth is owned by the Town of Lake George and loaned to the visitors' center by Margy Mannix, the official town historian.

Eric Schnitzer, the Saratoga battlefield interpreter, believes they date to the French and Indian

War and that at least one of them is French, said DiNuzzo.

Additional exhibits are planned for later this summer, including a composite model of a Continental soldier afflicted with smallpox, created by the same artist who produced a similar model for the New York State Museum.

The center also expects to unveil a scale replica of the 70 ft. sloop Earl of Halifax, built at Lake George in 1758, which will complement existing displays featuring a radeau and bateau.

"Three types of boats were built by the British during the French and Indian War on Lake George. We have models of two of them – the bateau and the radeau," said John DiNuzzo. "With this model, we will close the loop, as it were, and have on exhibit models of every boat type larger than a canoe launched from Fort George during the wars of the 18th century."

The alliance will sponsor and co-sponsor several public programs in the coming months.

On June 25, historian and archaeologist Joseph W. Zarzynski will present "Warships of the French & Indian War: Naval Preludes to the American Revolution" at 7 p.m. at the Fort William Henry Conference Center. Registration is available through the alliance.

A program marking the

anniversary of the Fort George Smallpox Hospital is scheduled for July 9 at 6:30 pm at the Fort William Henry Conference Center. Sam Huntington, manager of the Crown Point State Historic Site, will discuss the reception at Crown Point of the American soldiers who had contracted small pox during the 1775 invasion of Canada; Michael Gabriel, the author of "Major General Richard Montgomery: The Making of an American Hero" will present the perspective of the leader of the invasion; and Dr. Richard Leach, the retired Glens Falls physician, will examine the founding of the military hospital at Fort George.

The alliance's annual membership meeting will be held Aug. 15 at 10 am at the Fort William Henry Conference Center. Guest speaker Dr. Michael Lucas of the New York State Museum will discuss the Revolutionary War-era gunboat discovered at the World Trade Center site in New York City. Registration opens July 1.

The alliance is also promoting several regional history programs. On July 7, Alliance Trustee Bruce Venter will commemorate the 249th anniversary of the Battle of Hubbardton during a presentation at the Sandy Hill Arts Center in Hudson Falls. The event begins at 6:30 pm and is hosted in partnership with local historical



Members of the Lake George Park Commission at the re-dedication of a refurbished sculpture in Battlefield Park in 2025, which the LGCP helped fund. The monuments is located near the Visitors Center, which is housed in the LGPC's state office building.

organizations.

The organization is also encouraging history enthusiasts to attend the Whitehall Naval Heritage Weekend planned for later this fall in neighboring Washington County.

The Lake George Battlefield

Alliance operates the Visitor Center and supports educational programming focused on the French and Indian War, the American Revolution and the broader military history of the Lake George region.