

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Alliance dedicating historic sloop model on August 18



Halifax model.
Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance

LAKE GEORGE – The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance announced that it is dedicating a newly constructed model of the sloop Earl of Halifax, which was built at the lake's southeast corner in 1758, at a ceremony in the park's Visitor Center on Tuesday, August 18, at 1 p.m. The new model is being funded under a grant from the Lake George Park Commission.

The sloop model completes the array of 18th-century warships exhibited in the Battlefield Park Visitor Center. Full models of the smaller bateau and radeau have been popular features with the thousands of guests who've viewed them since the center opened in 2022. In addition, the center has among its displays pieces of actual Colonial-era watercraft, pulled out of the lake at various times over the past 100-plus years, further enhancing the overall visitor experience, the alliance stated in a press release.

"The 'plank on frame' model of the 1758 armed sloop Earl of Halifax was built by a professional model-maker and fully funded by the Lake George Park Commission," said Dr. Russell P. Bellico, author of "Empires in the Mountains: French and Indian War Campaigns and Forts in the Lake

Champlain, Lake George, and Hudson River Corridor" and four other books on the region's maritime history. Bellico helped orchestrate the model's creation and said he is thrilled to have it in place at the Visitor Center.

Bellico, a longtime Battlefield Park Alliance trustee who now serves on the Visitor Center Curation Committee, adds, "The model represents the largest warship ever deployed on Lake George. Although the sloop was a British vessel, it was built by provincial shipwrights [American colonials] and manned by provincial sailors."

Lake George Park Commission Chairman Ken Parker shares Dr. Bellico's enthusiasm for the Alliance's presentation of the lake's fascinating history. "The Commission proudly supports the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance as it honors and promotes the history and historical significance of the Lake George Park," Parker stated.

"As part of the British/American Sunken Fleet of 1758, the sloop Earl of Halifax is considered an important piece of American colonial history, and we're pleased to have been able to partner with the Alliance on this project," Parker continued. "Alongside models of a historic bateau and radeau, the Alliance's new scaled model of the vessel Halifax complements and completes the impressive display of colonial-era warships that were built and utilized on Lake George. Many thanks to the Alliance for their unending efforts to enrich the collective understanding and appreciation for Lake George's rich history, which only deepens our love for the Queen of American Lakes."

Chairman Parker, Dr. Bellico, and others will be available at the dedication event to answer questions about the new sloop model and additional community initiatives being supported by the Lake George Park Commission and the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance.

The Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center is open Thursday through Monday each week in the summer from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will also remain open for the day on Tuesday, August 18, following the dedication ceremony. The Visitor Center is located on the bottom floor at the lakeside entrance of 75 Fort George Road, Lake George. The public is welcome to attend this free event.