

LAKE GEORGE MIRROR.

"THE QUEEN OF AMERICAN LAKES"

LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK, July 31, 2026

Unearthed Cannon Balls from the French & Indian War Now on Display

By Mirror Staff

Had Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance president John DiNuzzo not stopped by Lake George Town Historian Margy Mannix's office one day, or had Alliance Trustee Bruce Venter made an appointment with a different barber, the Battlefield Park Visitor Center would be minus one display.

That display, created last winter, includes four cannon balls from the French and Indian War found in Lake George and Queensbury, attesting to the region's near-continuous use by the French and the British armies as they contested one another for control of "the Great War Path" along the Hudson, Lake George and Lake Champlain.

The cannon balls on loan from barber Marylee Gosline were unearthed by her father, Queensbury developer Leland

Hudson, when farming the family property near Halfway Brook sometime in the 1950s.

"They sat stacked by our fireplace for years," said Gosline, who explained that her father constantly unearthed 18th century artifacts, especially when building houses in the area once occupied by Fort Amherst and the Garrison Grounds.

"He'd find artifacts here and there – buckles and other metal pieces – and we would donate them to Fort William Henry," said Gosline.

It should come as no surprise that cannon balls and other military artifacts have been found near Halfway Brook, said Bruce Venter, an author and historian of 18th century conflicts in northern New York and New England.

"Halfway Brook was the halfway point between Fort Edward and the head of Lake George, the end point of Sir



John DiNuzzo, Margy Mannix, Marylee Gosline and Bruce Venter with the Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center's display of locally unearthed cannon balls.

William Johnson's 14-mile 1755 military road," Venter explained.

"There would have been a lot of activity here: artillery being transported from Fort Edward to Lake George, the British moving back and forth, the French coming down from Canada and raiding the Military Road here."

The cannon balls owned by the Town of Lake George may have come from a battery established by Montcalm's forces as they lay siege to Fort William Henry in 1757.

They were, at any rate, discovered near the site of

one of Montcalm's artillery emplacements north of what is today Lake George Village.

When John DiNuzzo told Mannix that he was taking Marylee Gosline's cannon balls to be analyzed by Eric Schnitzer, the interpreter and historian at Saratoga National Historical Park, she suggested that he take the cannon ball in her office as well.

According to DiNuzzo, Schnitzer established that the cannon balls were definitely from the French and Indian War-era and at least one of them may have

been made by the French.

When Marylee Gosline told Bruce Venter that a collector was interested in purchasing her family's military artifacts, he suggested that she loan them to the Visitor Center instead, he recalled.

"I didn't want to sell them; I wanted them to be placed in front of the public to be shared," said Gosline.

"They have a connection to the Military Road and to Fort George, so it's great to be able to display these and allow everybody to see them," said Bruce Venter.