



THE FUND *for* LAKE GEORGE



NEWS RELEASE

July 20, 2009

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FUND and Waterkeeper Call for NYSDEC to Order Independent Review of Condition of Lake George Municipal Sewage System

Independent review needed to evaluate condition of system, ensure proper maintenance, prevent another sewage spill

Town of Lake George has strained municipal system through allocating connections to new subdivisions and townhouse developments

Lake George – The FUND for Lake George and Lake George Waterkeeper called upon Pete Grannis, Commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to require conditions in any settlements or Consent Orders for violations by the Village of Lake George for the sewage spill in early July, which kept Shepard Park Beach closed for more than 10 days. The DEC has notified the Village about its intent to execute a Consent Order for the spill. The FUND and the Waterkeeper have called upon the DEC to:

- Require that an independent assessment be performed to ascertain the condition of the Village's and all tributary District's municipal system.
- Independent review should focus on an issue of concern for a number of years concerning inflow/infiltration into the system of rainwater and stormwater, which elevates flows during storm events.
- Independent review should also focus on Town and Village actions to permits new hook-ups to the system, which have oversubscribed system capacity.
- Independent review should also focus on nitrogen leaching into Lake George by the sewage treatment plant. Research has found significantly elevated levels of nitrogen loading in West Brook where the only viable source is the sewage treatment plant.

“We have long called for a comprehensive, independent analysis of the operational efficiency and condition of the infrastructure of the Village and Town sewage treatment system,” said Chris Navitsky. “We want to make sure sewage spills don’t happen again, but we think the Town and Village system has serious inflow/infiltration issues that result in greater flows during rain storms. The combination of high rainfall and high volumes due to peak tourist activities stress the system.”

“The DEC should use this opportunity to evaluate the Village and Town systems in its totality,” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of the FUND for Lake George. “Any fines levied by the DEC should be put towards a full inventory of the system’s conditions so that upgrades and improvements can be made.”

The Lake George Waterkeeper initially expressed concerns about the management of Village of Lake George system to the NYSDEC beginning in 2005, when the DEC stated the system was being operated accordingly. “We need a top-bottom evaluation of the condition of this system and find the resources to make repairs to the system. The municipalities continually add to the system and talk about expanding the system. There should be no expansion or new connections until all the necessary repairs and upgrades have been made,” said Chris Navitsky.

The FUND for Lake George

The FUND for Lake George is a not-for-profit, privately funded organization dedicated to the protection of Lake George. Formed in 1980, the FUND takes a science-based approach to the protection of Lake George water quality and the overall health of the Lake George watershed. The FUND pursues this mission through support for long-term scientific research on the lake, launching new initiatives, advocacy for new protections, and partnerships with other organizations and local governments. The FUND is the sponsor of the Lake George Waterkeeper, among other programs on Lake George. The FUND for Lake George is managed by a Board of Trustees and maintains an office in Lake George. See www.fundforlakegeorge.org.

The Lake George Waterkeeper

The Lake George Waterkeeper was launched in 2002 with a mission to defend the natural resources of Lake George and its watershed through the compliance with existing regulations, scientific research and sound engineering principles, which provides for the common good of the community. The Lake George Waterkeeper is a resource for concerned citizens in the Lake George Basin who are concerned about land use and water quality. The Waterkeeper responds to all public inquiries and acts as an ombudsman with respect to issues having an environmental impact on Lake George and its watershed. The Waterkeeper monitors and intervenes in development proposals around Lake George and provides professional analysis by a licensed engineer to local and state regulatory agencies. The Lake George Waterkeeper (www.lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org) is a program of the FUND for Lake George. The Lake George Waterkeeper is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, which represents over 190 waterbodies nationally and internationally.

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