



PRESS RELEASE

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Lake George Land Conservancy Breaks Ground for Center for Conservation

Bolton Landing, NY – A groundbreaking ceremony for the Macionis Family Center for Conservation was held on Friday, September 22, 2006. The center, located at 4905 Lake Shore Drive, Bolton Landing, New York, will be reconstructed from its prior use as a restaurant to provide office and meeting facilities of the Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC).

“This building was once a tavern and I like to think about the many stories told around that bar inside,” said Nancy Williams, LGLC executive director. “This old tavern is going to be transformed from a place where stories are told to a place where new stories are made. This is a place where the conservation community will gather to plan the future and to make it happen.”

The expanded work areas at the Macionis Family Center for Conservation will provide LGLC staff with sufficient space to meet the organization’s ambitious land protection goals by bolstering their ability to set conservation priorities, involve partners, negotiate complex transactions, identify ecologically important sites and raise money—all of which are vital to conserving Lake George’s natural treasures. A new addition to the current structure will provide meeting space where conservation and community groups, as well as the general public, can share ideas, programs and educational exhibits through lectures and special events to help further strengthen dedication to water quality protection through land preservation. The planting of native flora in new gardens, the rebuilding of the spillway from Dula Pond, and the improvement of water quality inflow to the lake via much-needed stormwater mitigation will represent an example of an environmentally friendly, sustainable landscape that will improve the health of Lake George.

The facility in Bolton Landing is named in honor of the outstanding contributions made by John and Amy Macionis of Hague, New York, and Mount Vernon, Ohio, and their children, McLean and Whitney. They have resolutely committed to the LGLC mission of land protection through their volunteer leadership (John and Amy serve the LGLC as board president and advisory board member, respectively) and a generous financial gift and lead donation in excess of \$300,000 toward the purchase and reconstruction of the building.

“For all of us, Lake George is a very special place. For some—many of whom have come here from elsewhere—the lake is our home,” said John Macionis. “For the rest of us, who are not year-rounders, the lake is an almost sacred place, a location to which we return with almost

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religious regularity, on a pilgrimage that persists year after year, generation after generation. In a world of movement and change, this lake anchors us. We gather here today to celebrate a particular place at the lake, a home-to-be, the new home of the Lake George Land Conservancy.

“With the completion of the structure which will stand on this site,” continued Macionis, “the Conservancy will reach a new level of visibility, a new level of effectiveness...so that more people know who we are, where we are, and what we do. Surely, this will mean that, as we like to say, ‘a lot more deals will get done.’ ”

To date, more than eighty percent of the funds needed to complete the building reconstruction project has been raised, primarily through the support of individual members of the LGLC board of directors and private foundations. The following individuals were recognized for their outstanding support of the project: Henry Caldwell, Dean L. and Terrina Cook, David Darrin, Margaret A. Darrin, Arthur and Antoinette Franz, Bolton Town Supervisor Zandy Gabriels, John and Ellen Hubbard, Peter and Gretchen Menzies, Sandra Nierzwicki-Bauer, Hugh Roberts, and Rob Singer. A grant was received from the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation for site remediation and landscaping. Cotler & Horsch Architects of Latham, New York, and the L.A. Group, of Saratoga Springs, New York, have provided design services for the reconstruction of the building and the site improvements. Kevin Kershaw of Adirondack Builders is serving as the general contractor.

Upon completion of the turn of the shovel by Macionis, supporters in attendance were invited to participate in a joint cutting of a cake specially decorated with a rendering of the building.

Donations to support the LGLC’s conservation gateway building in Bolton Landing may be made to the Lake George Land Conservancy, Lake Shore Drive, P.O. Box 1250, Bolton Landing, New York 12814, (518) 644-9673, or online at www.lglc.org.

The LGLC is a non-profit organization working to preserve the world-renowned water quality of Lake George and the rare plants and animals within the lake’s 150,000-acre watershed by permanently protecting natural lands.

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Photo captions:

Left, John Macionis breaks ground at the Lake George Land Conservancy’s Macionis Family Center for Conservation in Bolton Landing, New York, on September 22, 2006.

Above, L-R, John Hubbard, Zandy Gabriels, Hugh Roberts, Henry Caldwell, Peggy Darrin, David Darrin, Art Franz, Toni Franz, and Ellen Hubbard cut the cake at the Lake George Land Conservancy’s groundbreaking ceremony for the Macionis Family Center for Conservation on September 22, 2006.