



PRESS RELEASE

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Land Conservancy Receives \$500,000 Grant for Land

Bolton Landing, NY – The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) has been awarded a \$500,000 State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) grant from the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The grant makes possible the conservation of nearly 500 acres of pristine wetlands and forest in the uplands of Bolton Landing.

The Bolton property includes the headwaters for Indian Brook and contains important wildlife habitat within its large, unfragmented forest. With its expansive wetlands, the land protects Lake George from excess nutrients and sediments that would otherwise easily run into Indian Brook and Northwest Bay.

“Many people have expressed concerns about the growing delta in Northwest Bay. Deltas are a visible indicator for changes occurring in the Bay. Although future developments along Indian and Northwest Brooks may impact the Bay, this project will assure that the headwaters of Indian Brook will remain clean and wild. In just a few hours, LGLC naturalist volunteers identified over 170 species of plants, animals and insects on just half of the 500 acres.” said Nancy Williams, LGLC Executive Director.

The property, located between Padanarum Road and Trout Falls Road, had been under threat of being developed. In response, and unbeknownst to LGLC, a representative of 228 Bolton residents presented a petition to the Bolton Town Board in June of 2007 requesting the Board to protect these lands. That same evening, the Board voted to endorse LGLC’s application for the EPF grant. LGLC also received written support for the grant from Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little and Assemblywoman Teresa R. Sayward. Now, thanks to a collaborative agreement between LGLC and the developer-owner, who has offered a matching gift in land donation, the EPF grant allows LGLC to purchase the lands and leave them protected into perpetuity as an LGLC Preserve for the enjoyment of future generations.

The new conservation area will be named the “Ronning Padanarum Preserve”, in appreciation for Rolf Ronning’s donation of land value that will provide the match required by the grant. Mr. Ronning’s appreciation of the area is evidenced by his own words, “I grew up in North Bolton and bicycled up to Padanarum Road from the time I was 10 until I was 16-years old. When I heard that the land was sold to an out-of-town developer, I paid him \$400,000 more than he had paid so that I could make sure that the land would be sensitively developed. This is the only area remaining in Bolton that is almost as it was when Bolton was settled over 200 years ago. I want to maintain the character of the pristine natural area that the settlers of this town loved and that many of us still love today.”

LGLC plans to create hiking trails and a canoe launching area for passive recreation, exploration and education, as well as place a kiosk on the land that will help visitors learn of the many types of wildlife that use the land for mating, nesting and habitation. The northern pond will remain as a wilderness area, accessible primarily by canoe or a wood's trail where visitors can enjoy the rare experience of wilderness in Bolton Landing. LGLC also hopes to provide a location for an accessible trail as a means for all public to enjoy the view of the water.

The EPF, created in 1993, is primarily funded through the real estate transfer tax and provides a dedicated source of funding for a variety of environmental projects and programs administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

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: Wetland in northern end of property.