



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LGLC Receives \$200,000 for Land Protection**

Bolton Landing, New York – The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) recently received a grant of \$200,000 from the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation towards continued support of LGLC’s most recent land conservation projects.

The Lake George Land Conservancy took on substantial amounts of debt to finance the acquisition of the Berry Pond Preserve in 2008 and the Last Great Shoreline Protection Project in 2009. The Froehlich Foundation’s grant will help to meet the financial obligations associated with those purchases.

“It’s impossible to overstate the importance of Helen V. Froehlich Foundation’s annual support for land protection,” said Nancy Williams, LGLC executive director. “Their gifts pay our holding expenses for these lands as we continue to fundraise to pay off the loans. This year has been even more critical than most because New York State has pushed many, if not all of its land acquisition projects to the unknown future so we cannot realistically forecast how long we must hold the land.”

On February 27, 2009 the Lake George Land Conservancy ended nearly two decades of negotiations when it closed on the Gabriel land, known as the Last Great Shoreline project. With this great acquisition LGLC also took a leap into debt in order to finance the purchase. The cost of the land was \$4 million with another \$300,000 of project expenses, the largest dollar purchase in LGLC history and the largest mortgage ever undertaken.

Nearly one year earlier, on January 22, 2008, LGLC purchased the 1,436-acre Berry Pond tract in southern Lake George, marking the organization’s largest acreage purchased at one time from a single landowner. The \$2.654 million purchase, made possible through a loan from the Open Space Conservancy and funding provided by the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation and other private donors, was an integral step in the West Brook Conservation Initiative as the property includes the headwaters of West Brook. LGLC must raise around \$175,000 annually to meet mortgage requirements.

“We are thrilled that we were able to protect these parcels,” said Williams, “and have already opened public trails on both Berry Pond and the Last Great Shoreline. However, both of these purchases are heavily mortgaged so we are responsible for large payments each quarter. Our current debt is over six million which is a large number for a small land trust. Just as public

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radio fundraises from their listeners, we hope that those who use the lake appreciate the protected lands that protect the beauty of Lake George and, as they consider year-end donations, they will send a check to LGLC. There are other lands around the lake which we would like to protect but our acquisitions are essentially at a standstill until we pay for these two purchases.”

The Lake George Land Conservancy’s purchase of the Last Great Shoreline project, located in the Town of Putnam, Washington County, was a crucial step in the protection of the Lake George watershed. 351 acres and 2,357 feet of shoreline were acquired as a preserve, and 70 acres and 1,613 feet remain in private ownership that is now protected by a deed restriction.

LGLC has built over a mile of hiking trails to lead hikers through diverse ecological systems, including along parts of the Sucker Brook wetlands, to the view of forested hills and mountains of Vermont, and to a view of Lake George.

The land contains approximately thirty-five acres of wetlands (reportedly including a rare white cedar swamp) which provide important food and breeding sites for amphibians, birds and mammals. These Sucker Brook wetlands provide a natural filtration system, contributing to the pristine water quality of Lake George. In addition, the legendary Jumping Rock, rising approximately 30 feet above the lake, is situated on the northern shore and will be preserved forever as an LGLC preserve.

As a result of a bird survey conducted by a bird specialist intern hired by LGLC this past summer, eighty-seven species of birds were spotted in the region, from Anthony’s Nose to Gull Bay Preserve. Peregrine falcons are nesting along side the steep cliffs of Record Hill. Ospreys were seen flying across Warwick Road daily as they found food for their young in the wetlands. A copy of the full report, “A Preliminary Study of the Avifauna of Lake George, NY”, can be found at [www.lglc.org/ScienceStewardship/Birds-Of-Lake-George.asp](http://www.lglc.org/ScienceStewardship/Birds-Of-Lake-George.asp).

The Froehlich Foundation was created in 1993 with funds provided by the late Helen V. Froehlich. The foundation’s mission is to assist with the conservation and preservation of the environment related to Lake George, including, but not limited to, matters involving the lake, land and water immediately surrounding the lake.

The Lake George Land Conservancy is a non-profit land trust dedicated to working with willing landowners to protect the world-renowned water quality of Lake George and to permanently preserve the natural, scenic and recreational resources of the Lake George region. Since its inception in 1988, LGLC has preserved more than 12,500 acres around the Lake George watershed and 9.2 miles of lake shoreline. [www.lglc.org](http://www.lglc.org)

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