



# Lake George Association

*People Protecting the Lake Since 1885*

## NEWS RELEASE

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**For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Glens Falls National Bank Donates \$20,000 to LGA for West Brook Conservation Initiative**

**LAKE GEORGE, NY – Oct. 5, 2011** – The Lake George Association announced today that Glens Falls National Bank and Trust Company is donating an additional \$20,000 to the LGA for the West Brook Conservation Initiative (WBCI) project, located on the former Gaslight Village property. This gift brings Glens Falls National Bank's total commitment to the project to \$25,000.

"In all of our 125 year history, the West Brook Conservation Initiative is the Lake George Association's largest, most important water quality remediation effort," said Walt Lender, executive director of the LGA. "This project will treat millions of gallons of stormwater," he continued, "while also educating thousands of annual Lake George visitors about the importance of water quality. We are so grateful to Glens Falls National for recognizing the importance of this project."

"Glens Falls National Bank has been a strong partner from the start. We appreciate their increased support," said Victor Hershaft, LGA president.

Due to the filling of historic wetlands, channeling of the stream, and development in the stream's watershed, West Brook today is the single largest source of contaminants — pollution, nutrients and sediment — entering the south basin of Lake George. The delta at the mouth of the brook has grown to over 7,000 square meters.

To date, \$9.4 million has been raised toward the \$15 million dollar project.

"Here at Glens Falls National Bank and Trust Company we are well aware of the central role Lake George plays in our region's economy. We know that protecting the exceptional quality of the lake's water is essential, and are very excited about this project, as we believe it is key to ensuring a healthy future for the lake and its citizens," said Tom Hoy, CEO and chairman of Glens Falls National Bank and Trust Company. "And as a result of our donation, we hope other businesses will be able to support this Lake George project as well," he continued.

Earlier this year, grading and infrastructure for a stormwater treatment complex was completed on the south parcel of the property. This series of sediment ponds and wetlands will naturally slow stormwater generated from the Route 9 corridor and adjoining properties, capture sediment, and filter pollutants. Wetland plants will be installed next year. Project engineers estimate that 90% of the sediment will be successfully treated and over one-half of the nutrients will be removed.

Conceptual designs for an interactive environmental education park and festival space on the property are underway, and were approved earlier this fall by the Warren County Board of Supervisors. Public input for the designs was gathered over the summer, and a public review of the concepts will occur later this fall.

Three environmental groups — the Lake George Association, the Fund for Lake George and the Lake George Land Conservancy — are developing the project under the terms of a conservation easement they jointly hold with two municipal partners: the village of Lake George and Warren County.

Significant state and federal funding has been acquired to complete the construction of the project, but monies still need to be raised from private individuals and corporations to pay for the conservation easement on the land. In addition to a \$2.1 million loan on the Gaslight Village purchase by the LGA and the FUND, the Lake George Land Conservancy is carrying a \$2.7 million loan on the 1,400-acre Berry Pond tract, which protects the upland watershed for West Brook.

### **About the Lake George Association**

The LGA is a member-supported nonprofit organization. Families, businesses, summer residents and donors support the LGA. Founded in 1885, the Lake George Association is the nation's oldest lake protection organization. Members and friends of the association can:

- Learn more about lake-friendly living;
- Take a trip aboard the LGA's Floating Classroom;
- Subscribe to a free e-newsletter;
- Attend educational outreach presentations;
- Become a citizen scientist or volunteer for stream clean-ups;
- Call the LGA for technical expertise and solutions for low-impact development and landscaping; and
- Learn about LGA stormwater protection projects in their neighborhoods.

The LGA is located on Rt. 9N across from I-87 South Exit 21 in Lake George. For more information the public can call 518-668-3558 or visit [www.lakegeorgeassociation.org](http://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org)

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