

Lake George winning vs. milfoil

By Gordon Woodworth
 Chronicle News Editor

Eurasian watermilfoil is here to stay in Lake George, but ramped-up eradication efforts appear to be slowing the spread of the fast-growing invasive.

"There is definitely reason for hope," says Dave Wick, executive director of the Lake George Park Commission, which coordinates the annual milfoil management program.

"The goal is to eliminate all dense beds by 2022," Mr. Wick said. "Bay by bay...great progress is being made now, faster than any other time since milfoil was managed for the first time in the late 1980s. There's no doubt in my mind we can do it."

Suction harvest, not mats

Four three-man crews from AE Commercial Diving are on the lake five days a week through

LGPC's Wick:
'We'll never be totally free,' but goal to eliminate all dense beds by 2022; \$460,000 annual funding



the end of September, using three suction harvesters to carve into the dense beds.

Previous efforts with heavy mats that smothered the plants on the lake bottom are no longer

being used.

"We send the suction harvesters into the most dense areas and then send divers in to get the fragments," Mr. Wick said.

"Suction harvesting hadn't really been done professionally on Lake George before last year. We're seeing great progress."

Mr. Wick said the Park Commission is spending \$460,000 this summer on milfoil eradication. The same is budgeted for 2020 and 2021.

He said Warren County, through a state grant obtained by Chris Belden, contributes \$200,000 a year. The Lake George Association and the Park Commission each contribute \$100,000 annually. The FUND for Lake George kicks in \$60,000 a year.

Milfoil was first discovered here in 1986, and more than \$5-million has been spent since then on milfoil eradication efforts. Current funding "is the

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Inside: How 4 smaller lakes are doing ▶ 12



Brian Michael Alvarado, Anthony Richichi, Letizia Mastrantoni Cathy DeDe photo

The trio behind GEM Fest

Huge event downtown this weekend ▶ 23-24

Bob Blais: New push for year-round performing arts center in Lake George

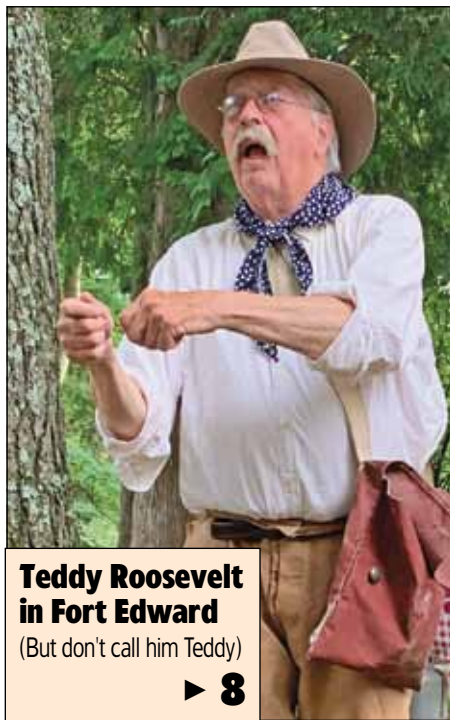
Chronicle Managing Editor

Cathy DeDe writes: Mayor Bob Blais has launched a new effort to create a year-round performing arts center in Lake George Village.

He said the most promising spaces now are the Towers Hall carriage house on the Fort William Henry property, and the Lake George Forum.

"Both have plusses and minuses," Mr. Blais said. "The carriage house has a great lo-

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Chronicle photo/Mark Frost

Teddy Roosevelt in Fort Edward

(But don't call him Teddy)

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