



# Lake Champlain Basin Program

## CASIN' THE BASIN E-NEWS

June 2009 | Issue #7

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### Dear Friend of Lake Champlain,

As we welcome the warm weather, our water quality programs are gearing up for the summer months and we are entering our busiest time of the year. This summer the LCBP will help many communities and organizations enjoy the long awaited Quadricentennial events in Vermont, New York and Quebec. In addition to many wonderful Quad programs, the LCBP is working on the Missisquoi Bay Basin project, funded by the International Joint Commission; getting the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership off to a strong start with funds from the National Park Service; and expanding many technical and educational programs and local grants, with funds from the Environmental Protection Agency. We have never been busier.

All of us at the LCBP wish you a happy, healthy summer during this special 400th anniversary year. And as the temperature rises and the sun shines, remember to have a glass of water, clean water. It is so worth protecting.

Sincerely,

Bill Howland, LCBP Program Manager

### QUAD EVENTS FUNDED BY LCBP

The LCBP has awarded over \$100,000 to 18 organizations for Quadricentennial projects. Below are specific Quad events funded by the LCBP! For more information on all events, visit [www.celebratechamplain.org](http://www.celebratechamplain.org) (VT events) and [www.discoverlakechamplain400.org](http://www.discoverlakechamplain400.org) (NY events).

St. Albans, VT Franco-American Heritage Festival: June 18-20

The LCBP supported this Quadricentennial Signature Event by funding the *Lois McClure's* stay in St. Albans, ensuring accessibility by funding a shuttle bus between downtown and St. Albans Bay, as well as supporting performing artists and a



children's cultural workshop. Visit [www.francoamericanvermont.org](http://www.francoamericanvermont.org) for more festival info.

Fleming Museum Quadricentennial Exhibition: Through September 20th  
The Robert Hull Fleming Museum in Burlington presents "A Beckoning Country: Art and Objects from the Lake Champlain Valley" examining the features of the Champlain Valley landscape through objects and art created from the land and those it inspired. Visit [www.uvm.edu/~fleming/](http://www.uvm.edu/~fleming/) for more information.



When the French Were Here: July 2-5

Champlain College in Burlington, VT hosts an international symposium entitled "When the French Were Here." Scholars will discuss "New France" and the life of Samuel de Champlain. Visit [www.champlainquadricentennial.com](http://www.champlainquadricentennial.com) for details.

Champlain Waterfront Festival Parade: July 11th at 5pm

The Burlington International Waterfront Festival running from July 2-14 will include a Champlain 400 parade with the theme of "Legends of the Past and Future" funded by the LCBP. Visit [www.celebratechamplain.org/burlington](http://www.celebratechamplain.org/burlington) for details.

Bike Gang!: August Weekends

Local Motion was awarded a LCBP grant to improve and increase the Causeway Bike Ferry service connecting Colchester and South Hero, VT along the Island Line Trail. Check out [www.localmotionvt.org](http://www.localmotionvt.org) for schedules and updates!

Plattsburgh, NY Heritage Guide

The City of Plattsburgh will have a Plattsburgh Heritage Guide featuring the natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources within the city. The self guided tour will be available in print and online in both English and French. Check [www.cityofplattsburgh.com](http://www.cityofplattsburgh.com) for the online version available later this summer!

Lois McClure Canal Schooner Tour

The LCBP is supporting the Maritime Museum's *Lois McClure* as it makes 20 ports-of-call to Champlain Basin communities in Vermont and New York as the Quadricentennial flagship on the Lake. Watch for the *Lois McClure* and LCBP representatives in your area! For a full schedule visit [www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org) and see article below.

IMAGES: Vermont and New York Quadricentennial logos

## REMINDER: QUAD FUNDING AVAILABLE--DEADLINE JUNE 19TH

Towns and cities throughout the Champlain Valley are preparing for the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's 1609 historic arrival on Lake Champlain. The region's municipalities will host thousands of visitors at events this summer as they celebrate their history and culture. Municipalities and population centers developing signature events and programs are encouraged to apply for 2009 Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Grants. The deadline for receipt of proposals by the LCBP at its office is 4:30 PM, Friday June 19th, 2009. For more application requirements visit [www.lcbp.org/grants.htm](http://www.lcbp.org/grants.htm).

## LAKE STEWARDS AT BOAT LAUNCHES

The Lake Stewards program at boat launches continues in 2009 with public outreach at New York and Vermont access areas. Stewards will be present at Shelburne, Burlington, Malletts Bay, and St. Albans VT Department of Fish and Wildlife accesses in Vermont. The NY stewards are stationed at Peru, Wilcox, Point Au Roche, and occasionally Ticonderoga NYS Department of Environmental Conservation launches. They also will attend fishing derbies on the Lake to provide information about aquatic nuisance species. Learn more about this and other invasive species prevention programs by visiting [www.lcbp.org/nature.htm](http://www.lcbp.org/nature.htm) or contacting Meg Modley at [mmodley@lcbp.org](mailto:mmodley@lcbp.org).



IMAGE: Lake Stewards show boat launch users how to inspect trailers and equipment for invasive plants and animals.

## NEW AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RAPID RESPONSE PLAN APPROVED

Thanks to the dedicated work of the LCBP Aquatic Nuisance Species Subcommittee and Rapid Response Workgroup, the *Lake Champlain Basin Rapid Response Action Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species* has been approved by the LCBP Steering Committee. This plan is intended to ensure that appropriate protocols, trained personnel, equipment, permits, and other resources are in place to contain and potentially eradicate newly detected nonnative aquatic invasive species as they are reported in the Basin. The plan envisions a task force comprised of members from Quebec, New York, and Vermont to implement and oversee rapid response actions.

This plan will be very helpful should hydrilla (for example) be found in Lake Champlain. Hydrilla has rapidly spread since it was introduced into Florida waters by an aquatic fish dealer--it is now found in Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts. The aggressive invasive poses a looming threat to Lake Champlain as it is very adaptable and difficult to control once it has established a population. A Rapid Response plan would limit its impact on the Lake and prevent hydrilla from clogging waterways. For more information about hydrilla or other aquatic nuisance species, visit [www.lcbp.org/nature.htm](http://www.lcbp.org/nature.htm).



IMAGE: Hydrilla, an aquatic invasive species

## LAKE CHAMPLAIN FARM AWARDS

Congratulations to the **Boomhowers' Bittersweet Valley Farm** for receiving the 2008 Vermont Lake Champlain Farm Award. The award recognizes the Boomhowers' extensive efforts in environmental conservation on their Fairfield, VT farm and the effect their positive leadership has had in the community.



The 2008 Quebec Lake Champlain Farm Award was presented to **La Ferme Asnong et H el ene Campbell** in Pike River, for their longstanding efforts and advocacy for environmentally sound farming practices. La Ferme Asnong is the first grain farm to receive this award.

A New York award will be made soon. To learn more about these farms and their practices visit [www.lcbp.org/farm\\_award.htm](http://www.lcbp.org/farm_award.htm) or contact Colleen Hickey, [chickey@lcbp.org](mailto:chickey@lcbp.org).

IMAGE: Boomhowers receiving Lake Champlain Farm Award

## NEW RESOURCE ROOM EXHIBITS

We've been adding to our Resource Room exhibits in preparation for the Quad and beyond. Highlights include five additions to the *Indigenous Expressions* exhibit and an exhibit called *What Did Sam See?* that discusses the natural resources Champlain may have witnessed. Special thanks to Professor Frederick M. Wiseman for his donations and assistance with the *Indigenous Expressions* exhibit. Stop by to see a cradle board, Abenaki head dress, canoe, and other unique cultural objects (opening June 24th). Preschoolers will enjoy our "History Mystery" discovery cabinet with hands-on objects. We also have lots of Quad related books and maps and NY/VT schedules available.



The Resource Room is open seven days/week on the top floor of ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Call 802-864-1848 ext. 6 or contact Nicole Ballinger at [nballinger@lcbp.org](mailto:nballinger@lcbp.org) for more information about the exhibits.

IMAGE: Replica Abenaki gourd container, made by Johnson State College students, Vermont.

## LOIS McCLURE: FLAGSHIP OF THE QUAD

The Maritime Museum's *Lois McClure* will tour Lake Champlain this summer celebrating the Quadricentennial. In addition to the knowledgeable schooner staff, LCBP representatives will attend many ports-of-call to provide outreach about Lake Champlain and watershed issues. In June, look for the *Lois McClure* at the Franco-American Heritage Festival in St. Albans, Isle LaMotte, and Champlain Islands, VT, and Rouses Point, NY. In July the boat will stop in Colchester, Burlington, Vergennes, and Basin Harbor, VT. August ports include Essex, Port Henry, Westport, Plattsburgh, Whitehall, and Schuylerville, NY, as well as Burlington and Shoreham, VT. In September, Fort Edward, Mechanicville, Waterford, and Crown Point, NY will be visited. To learn more about the *Lois McClure* and for an updated schedule visit [www.lcmm.org/our\\_fleet/lois\\_mcclure.htm](http://www.lcmm.org/our_fleet/lois_mcclure.htm).



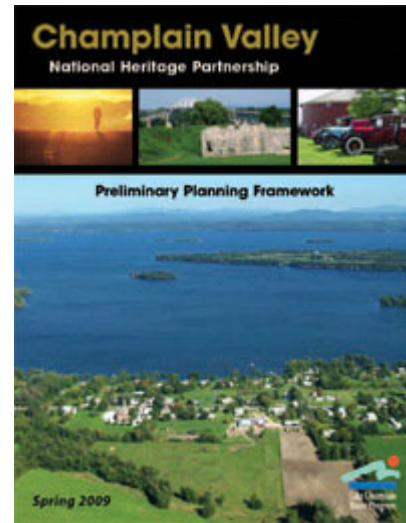
IMAGE: Lois McClure, courtesy of LCMM.

## CHAMPLAIN VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The *Preliminary Planning Framework for the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership* (CVNHP) has been released and is available for viewing on the CVNHP website. This framework provides the foundation for a Draft Plan/Environmental Assessment, which is scheduled for release in August 2009.

Contact Jim Brangan at [heritage@lcbp.org](mailto:heritage@lcbp.org) or visit [www.champlainvalleynhp.org](http://www.champlainvalleynhp.org) for more information.

IMAGE: Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Framework document cover



## HOT OFF THE REEL: AWARD WINNING CHAMPLAIN DOCUMENTARY AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS!

*Champlain: The Lake Between* is a dramatic one hour documentary reenacting historic events of Lake Champlain. The LCBP provided funding for a CD ROM that accompanies the DVD, for use at home or in the classroom, and to distribute the DVD and CD ROM free to all Champlain Basin schools. The DVD recently won the Historical/Cultural Program category at the Boston/New England Emmy Awards on June 1st, 2009! For your copy call 802-759-8412 or visit [www.historicvermont.org/chimneypoint](http://www.historicvermont.org/chimneypoint).

## QUEBEC CLEAR WATER MUSKETEERS

The final Clear Water Musketeers curriculum booklet was published for use in 13 English and French speaking schools. It addresses water quality and is aimed for elementary students. The LCBP funds the English version of the booklet, which also is published in French. More than 600 classrooms across the Quebec border have been introduced to Musketeers Aqualine and Riviero as they guide students through issues affecting the Missisquoi Bay basin in this four year watershed curriculum. To learn more about this program, contact Chantal d'Auteuil at [cdauteuil@videotron.ca](mailto:cdauteuil@videotron.ca).

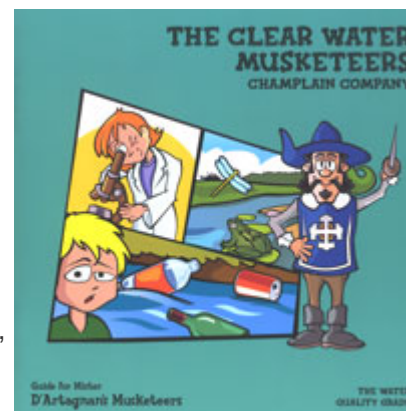


IMAGE: Cover of fourth Clear Water Musketeer curriculum booklet.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS: NEW LAKE CHAMPLAIN BOOK PUBLISHED!

*Lake Champlain: An Illustrated History* is "a celebration of America's most historic lake." Color photos and historic images of the lake and activities fill 216 pages supported by text written by

Lake Champlain experts, including LCBP's very own Laura Hollowell. Laura is an avid naturalist and coordinates the LCBP's Resource Room at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain (top floor of ECHO). She wrote the book's natural resource section. Visit [www.lakechamplainbook.com](http://www.lakechamplainbook.com) for more information or to purchase!

## NEW FACES FOR THE SUMMER!

The LCBP welcomes seven Lake Stewards for the summer season: Jay Tilton, Austin Sachs and Julie Bellino at Vermont accesses and Dale Warner, Karla Gratto, Tim Hanrahan and Besty Madan in New York. For more information about the Lake Stewards see the previous article in this E-News.

We also welcome Eulaila Ishee as our Communication and Education Intern. Eulaila is a master's student in UVM's Plant and Soil Science Department. She's worked with Alaska fisheries and Florida manatees and is happy to return to her native state of Vermont and to become involved with environmental stewardship of Lake Champlain.

## CONTACT US!

### Main Office in Grand Isle:

54 West Shore Road  
Grand Isle, VT 05458  
(802) 372-3213 or (800) 468-5227 (toll-free in NY & VT)

**LCBP Resource Room:** The Resource Room at The Leahy Center for Lake Champlain (top floor of ECHO Lake Aquarium & Science Center) is open to the public seven days/week. Call (802) 864-1848 ext. 109 for more information.



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