



# Lake George Park Commission

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## 2015 Asian Clam Lake-Wide Survey: Final Report

September 3, 2015

Year 2015 marked the fourth year of the lake-wide survey to identify any new locations of invasive Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) in Lake George. Asian clams were first discovered in Lake George in 2010, and considerable effort and cost has gone into aggressive efforts to eradicate and/or control this invasive species. Left unchecked, Asian clams can reproduce exponentially and cause negative ecological and recreational impacts to a waterbody.



### **2015 Survey**

The LGPC conducts the organization of this survey, which had the benefit of 45 people who signed up to participate. Participants ranged from agency and nonprofit staff to private individuals with an interest in the lake. The survey work includes sieving (like panning for gold) through all sandy areas throughout the shoreline of Lake George to find any new populations of this invasive mollusk. If any clams are found which appear to possibly be Asian clam, they are brought to the Darrin Freshwater Institute for confirmation.

Four boats were utilized in this year's effort (Commission Tritoon, Commission Staff Whaler, LGPC Marine Patrol, and Lake George Waterkeeper Boat). The shoreline was divided up into sections that are assigned to each boat over the period of 6 days, and it was the responsibility of the boat's captain each day to survey that area of shore. When a sandy area was identified, the survey crew on the boat entered the water and took several sieves depending upon the size of the site. Small sites could be as few as 20 sieves, while large delta areas can include as many as 500 or more sieves.

This year's survey was moved up two weeks earlier in the calendar than previous years to take advantage of warmer water conditions and eliminate the need for wetsuits. The survey began on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> and concluded on Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> (6 days total). The survey crews stopped at all sandy locations (approximately 200) around the Lake George shoreline, and an estimated 25,000 sediment samples were sieved to identify the presence of Asian clam.



## Key Findings

This year's survey identified two new locations of Asian clams in Lake George, and slight expansion of several existing sites. The following are the key findings of this year's survey:



1. **New Site #1: Rogers Rock DEC Campground Beach (Hague)** – Discovered a small area of Asian clams on the eastern side of the beach, approximately 30' diameter, in which 4-8 juvenile clams were found in every sieve. No clams were found outside of that one small area. This is the northernmost site currently known in Lake George, and is in a highly utilized area.
2. **New Site #2: Basin Bay Association, North side of Basin Bay (Bolton)** – Clams discovered along length of beach of the Association, zero to four clams per sieve along most of the beach, mostly juvenile size class.
3. **Blue Lagoon Resort Beach (Diamond Point)** – Clams were discovered at this beach, which is a northward expansion of the Diamond Cove Cottages Asian clam site.
4. **Veteran's Park Beach (Bolton Landing)** – Dozens of dead Asian clam shells discovered at the beach north of the wooden dock on the south of the property, at the outer edge of the swimming area. This is likely an expansion of the Norowal Marina site, although no live or dead clams have been discovered here until this year's survey. Will monitor closely.
5. **LG Steamboat Company (Lake George)** – Dead Asian clams discovered under the steamboat berthing site at the Steamboat Company, discovered by Darrin Freshwater Institute independent of this study. The site lies between the known sites of Million Dollar Beach and Shepherd Park Beach, but is some distance from either.
6. All 14 previously known sites were confirmed to still have populations of Asian clams in varying degrees of density (a few clams per square meter up to more than one thousand clams per square meter). Further study this fall will identify relative densities of the known sites.

## Next Steps

The Lake George Asian Clam Task Force is scheduled to meet on Thursday, September 10 to discuss these findings and next steps, including potential benthic mat treatments at Rogers Rock and Glenburnie in the fall of 2015. Given the remoteness of these sites from any other locations, these sites merit consideration for eradication efforts. The other known sites are unlikely to be considered for treatment at this time due to their proximity of other known sites and/or logistical difficulty in achieving an eradication-level treatment.

This lakewide survey will continue to be conducted annually to identify new locations of Asian clams in Lake George. It is the sole method of identifying these populations in a rigorous manner, and it is conducted at

very little cost thanks to the generous individuals who donate their time for this effort.

The Commission would like to thank everyone who has participated in this effort, as it is critical to helping ensure effective management of this invasive species on Lake George.

Dave Wick  
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