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INFORMATION RELEASE

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The Commission has posted *The 2008 Aquatic Plant Management Project Report* to the Commission's web page www.lgpc.state.ny.us for review and public comment.

During 2008, Lycott Environmental Inc. work crews under the Commission's direction hand harvested more than 14,000 invasive milfoil plants and installed 115,850 square feet of benthic barrier material to smother dense beds of milfoil.

Ninety-three sites were cleared of milfoil during 2008. An additional 47 sites remain clear from past management activities. These 140 sites represent 82% of the 171 locations in the Lake where milfoil has ever been found. Twenty-four sites require future management including 16 sites with dense beds of milfoil.

The eleven (11) new sites confirmed in 2008 represents a substantial increase in comparison to recent years. The overwhelming majority of new sites in 2008 were located in response to referrals to the Commission from the public. This may be the product of years of sustained public education by groups such as the Lake George Association and the Fund for Lake George, Inc. There may be a positive aspect to this otherwise unwanted result if it represents an improvement in the ability to quickly find new sites. The program responds on a priority basis to new sites. No location of milfoil found since the Commission assumed the program in 1994 has been allowed to remain past two years from detection.

The program report indicates progress in reducing some of the very large bed areas that have been known to exist virtually from the first discovery of invasive milfoil in the Lake during the 1980s. Notably, in 2008 the program attacked dense beds in Dunham, Harris, Sawmill, Glenburnie, Huddle, Paradise and Gull Bays as well as on deltas at Hague,

West, English, Finkle, and Foster Brooks. A total of 48 sites have been managed with benthic barrier. Of these 28 are now cleared, 10 are controlled but not cleared and 10 have milfoil growth that is not controlled.

The Commission wishes to express appreciation to the Fund for Lake George, Inc. for its generous contribution of a replacement vessel, motor and trailer for the program. The in-kind services of Darrin Freshwater Institute and their scientific advice are invaluable to the program, as well.

The Commission plans to increase efforts for 2009 with funds budgeted from New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The availability of this funding is a credit to the efforts of our State elected officials and the support of the counties and municipalities that border the lake.