



**CASIN' THE BASIN E-NEWS**

Issue #3 | JUNE 2008

*Dear Friend of Lake Champlain,*

Summer has come to Lake Champlain and we have lots of exciting news to share. As this is the season for spending time on and in the Lake, the Lake Champlain Basin Program will release its *State of the Lake and Ecosystem Indicators Report - 2008* on June 27th to inform residents and visitors about the health of the Lake. Our public input process for the new Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership management plan is underway and we are delighted to report that we will have a full local grants program for 2008. Details on all of these activities and more are below.

Wishing you a wonderful summer with lots of time to enjoy and care for the Lake,

*Bill Howland, Manager  
Lake Champlain Basin Program*

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*Photo: Summer view from Sandbar in Colchester, VT. Credit: LCBP*

#### **2008 STATE OF THE LAKE RELEASE - JUNE 27TH AT 1:30 PM**

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The public is invited to a press conference on June 27th to release the LCBP's latest report on the health of Lake Champlain: *State of the Lake and Ecosystem Indicators Report - 2008*.

#### **2008 State of the Lake Release**

**When:** June 27, 2008 at 1:30 PM

**Where:** LCBP Offices, 54 West Shore Rd., Grand Isle, VT

For directions to the event [click here](#). The LCBP offices are a short walk from the Grand Isle-Plattsburgh ferry.

**About the report:** The *State of the Lake and Ecosystem*



*Indicators Report - 2008* is a 32-page report that answers important questions frequently asked by the public and lake managers about the health of Lake Champlain. It covers issues in three key areas: phosphorus and algae; human health and toxins; and biodiversity and aquatic invasive species. For each issue, the report presents details about the status or condition of the issue, pressures that are contributing to the problem, and management responses to alleviate the problem. The 2008 report also includes an ecosystem indicators scorecard to summarize the health of each of the Lake's five major segments: Missisquoi Bay, Northeast Arm (Inland Sea), Malletts Bay, Main Lake, and South Lake.

The report is written for a general audience and is based on the most recently available monitoring and other relevant Lake data. It is part of a larger scientific process undertaken by the LCBP and its partners to identify ecologically and socially important ecosystem indicators for the Lake Champlain Basin. This report represents the work and input of numerous scientists, agencies, and organizations focused on Lake Champlain issues.

The *State of the Lake and Ecosystem Indicators Report - 2008* will be available at the press conference and also will be posted on [the LCBP website](#) on the day of the conference. To request paper copies, please email your name and address to [kjarvis@lcbp.org](mailto:kjarvis@lcbp.org).

*Photo: Aerial view of the Champlain Islands. Credit: LCBP*

## CHAMPLAIN VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

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In November 2006, the communities along the interconnected waterways of Lake Champlain, Lake George, the Champlain Canal, and the upper reaches of the Hudson River received a special recognition by the United States Congress. The region was designated as a national heritage area (NHA) named the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP). Only 40 places in the country have the distinction of an NHA designation. Learn more about this new partnership program by reading the recent [planning bulletin](#) (235 KB PDF).



With CVNHP funding from the National Park Service, The Lake Champlain Basin Program will award \$100,000 in CVNHP Implementation Grants to communities and organizations (up to \$10,000 each) in 2008. Details about how to apply will be available later this month.

As the managing entity of the CVNHP, the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) is seeking public input on how the new program should function. Please let us know what you think is important as we begin developing a management plan. Comments, questions, and/or concerns can be sent to [heritage@lcbp.org](mailto:heritage@lcbp.org), or call us at 802-372-3213 or 800-468-5227 (NY & VT). Your involvement will make the management plan more meaningful and useful, and your thoughts are greatly appreciated.

Public meetings throughout the CVNHP region are being held this year. The next meeting is in St. Albans, VT at the St. Albans Museum on June 30th, followed by meetings in Clinton County, NY in July. For details and a schedule email [heritage@lcbp.org](mailto:heritage@lcbp.org) or call Jim Brangan, LCBP Cultural Heritage and Recreation Coordinator at 802-372-3213 or 800-468-5227 (NY & VT).

*Photo: Crown Point State Historic Site along the Lake Champlain shore in New York.  
Credit: LCBP*

## **2008 LCBP LOCAL GRANT APPLICATIONS COMING SOON**

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The LCBP is pleased to announce funding for several local grant programs in 2008. Applications for the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) grants will be available later this month (\$100,000 total funds). The LCBP will also boost Quadracentennial programs by offering \$50,000 in special "Quad" grants later this summer.



In August, the LCBP will release a request for proposals for its familiar local implementation grants program, which supports projects by local watershed groups and other organizations. A total of up to \$140,000 will be available for these programs. A mini-grant program to help farmers implement water quality improvement projects also will be available (up to \$35,000 total).

All RFPs and grant announcements will be posted on the [grant page](#) of the LCBP website.

*Photo: LCBP local grants help watershed groups such the Missisquoi River Basin Association (pictured) hold river clean-up days and many other important implementation activities. Credit: LCBP*

## **LAKE STEWARDS AT BOAT LAUNCHES**

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Last summer's successful Lake Stewards program at boat launches has been expanded for 2008 to provide public outreach at more New York and Vermont access areas. The stewards will also be on hand for the fishing derbies on the Lake. Learn more about this and other invasive species prevention programs by contacting LCBP Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, Meg Modley, at [mmodley@lcbp.org](mailto:mmodley@lcbp.org).



*Photo: LCBP Lake Stewards discuss invasive species spread prevention with a boater. Credit: LCBP*

## **2008 MONITORING SEASON UNDERWAY**

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The LCBP-funded Lake monitoring programs are underway for 2008. In addition to collecting data for phosphorus and other Lake indicators, the Lake will again be monitored for blue-green algae blooms. For details about this program and the status of blooms on the Lake, visit the LCBP's [blue-green algae webpage](#).



*Photo: A Lake monitor deploys a plankton net at the Burlington Harbor monitoring site. Credit: LCBP.*

## QUADRICENTENNIAL NEWS

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Please join us in wishing the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum a successful journey to Québec City on the sailing canal boat *Lois McClure*. We also thank the LCMM for their generous spirit as "Lake Champlain's Floating Ambassador" at Québec City's 2008 Quadricentennial Celebration from June 30th to July 6th. To learn more about the journey and other locations where you can see the boat along its tour visit the [LCMM website](#).



### More Quadricentennial Links:

[Vermont](#)

[New York](#)

[Quebec City 2008](#)

*Photo: LCMM's Lois McClure has set sail to Québec City. Credit: LCMM.*

## TEACH ABOUT THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN WATERSHED

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A few spots are still open for teachers to take part in the **Watershed for Every Classroom** training. This Champlain Basin Education Initiative (CBEI) program kicks off on June 25th, so contact LCBP Education and Outreach Coordinator, Colleen Hickey at [chickey@lcbp.org](mailto:chickey@lcbp.org) right away to apply. This is an exciting program to learn how you can make Lake Champlain come alive for students.



Application details are available on the [LCBP website](#).

## QUICK LINKS & UPCOMING EVENTS

[Lake Champlain Basin Program Website](#)

[Watershed Activity Calendar](#) - Lots of Great Summer Events!

[Upcoming Committee Meeting Dates](#)

## CONTACT US

**Main Office in Grand Isle:** (802) 372-3213 or (800) 468-5227 (toll-free in NY & VT)

**Resource Room:** The LCBP Resource Room at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain (2nd Floor of ECHO on Burlington's waterfront) is open to the public 7 days/week. Call (802) 864-1848 ext. 109 for more information or learn more [here](#).

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