

## **BOAT LIFTS**

### **PERMITTING INFORMATION**

#### **Background**

The Lake George Park Commission is the state agency charged with the protection of the recreational value and natural resources of Lake George. Our legislative directive is to reduce over-crowding, congestion and safety hazards along the shoreline and on the lake. You should contact the Commission before installing any structure in the lake.

Wharfs and moorings are regulated as a means of controlling shoreline development, limiting boat traffic and reducing conflicts among lakeshore residents and lake users.

A 'wharf' is broadly defined to include any device utilized for the berthing of vessel due to the potential impacts that such structures have on the lake environment and their potential to cause conflicts.

A permit is required for the construction, alteration or modification of a wharf or mooring. Size, setbacks and off-shore distance limits apply for the purpose of avoiding navigational hazards and impairment of access to neighboring properties.

#### **Frequently asked questions**

- Do I need a permit to install a boat lift? Yes, a boat lift, including a personal watercraft lift, is defined as a wharf. Whether it is installed within an existing slip or stand alone, a permit is required.
- How long does the permit process take? Generally, the placement of a boat or PWC lift on an existing dock is a simple and quick process. An uncanopied lift placed on an existing dock in compliance with all design limits can often be permitted within a few days. If canopied, or placed within the 20 foot property line setback, additional time (15 days) is needed to allow adjacent landowners and the town to review the project.
- What do I need to do to get a permit? An application form for a dock modification (or new dock for a stand-alone lift) may be obtained from the Commission headquarters or from the Commission website. You will need a project plan showing your lakefront, any existing docks and moorings and the location of the boat lift, the dimensions of the lift and a side view if canopied.