

LAKE GEORGE

1758 BATEAU FLEET

Bateau,

the French word for boat (plural bateaux), was used by the English and French to describe the double-ended, flat-bottomed work boats that were common for carrying troops and goods during the 18th century.

Divers found the remains of at least seven bateaux, known as the "Wiawaka Bateaux Cluster," which were intentionally sunk in 1758 for storage. These have been documented by Bateaux Below, Inc. and are now a public dive site.

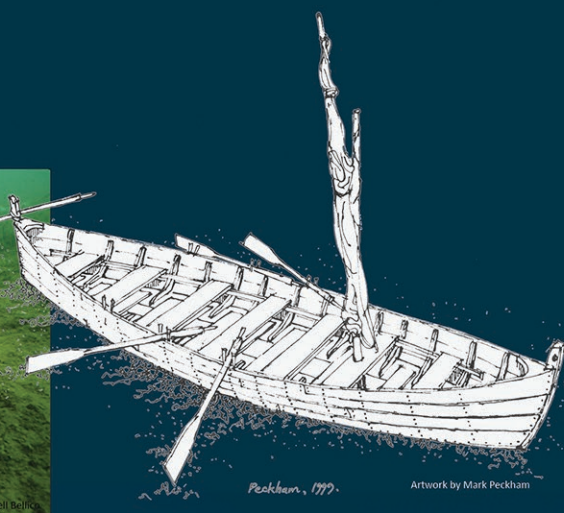
LAKE GEORGE At a Glance

- The "Queen of American Lakes"
- Flows north into the La Chute River and Lake Champlain
- 32 miles (51 km) long
- 4 miles (6 km) at its widest
- 200 feet (61 m) deep
- Entirely within New York and the Adirondack Park
- 200+ shipwrecks



Battoe-men are a breed apart. Their grouching, strikes, desertions, unquenchable thirsts, insatiable appetites & willingness to rifle any cargo makes them rather difficult to command.

- General William Shirley, 1755



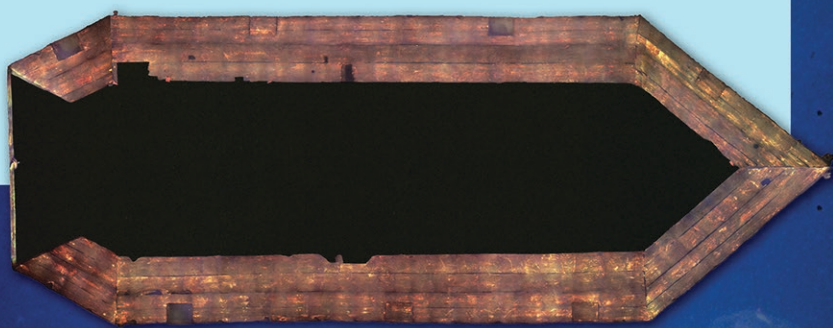
This floating battery, or radeau

had seven angled sides to deflect cannonballs and musket balls. *Land Tortoise* was built in 1758 by the British to combat the French during the French and Indian War.

Using ballast rock to sink vessels for winter storage

was common, to avoid theft or destruction by the enemy, or ice damage at the surface.

However *Land Tortoise* drifted over deeper water before it sank, making retrieval the next season impossible.



Photomosaic by Bob Benway & Kendrick McMahan/Bateaux Below

RADEAU LAND TORTOISE



Courtesy Russell Bellico

Today,
Land Tortoise
sits upright
in 107 feet of water,
a popular site for
recreational divers.