



LAKE GEORGE PARK COMMISSION

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DETERMINING THE POSITION OF THE MEAN LOW & MEAN HIGH WATER MARKS

The Lake George Park Commission regulations define the **mean low water mark** for Lake George as 317.74 feet above mean sea level and the **mean high water mark** as 320.20 feet above mean sea level.

The position of these levels is important to lakefront owners who are developing plans for new wharfs or new moorings as regulatory limits on these projects use these elevations as reference points. Plans submitted with permit applications for these activities need to include the position of the mean low water mark for wharfs proposed to be longer than 40 feet and the position of the mean high water mark for docks proposed to be longer than 100 feet, moorings, boathouses, and also for determining the square footage of a dock. (see example plans in the Permit Application Instructions)

There are two relatively simple methods to determine the position of these levels at your site. The first method is to call a land surveyor and have him/her prepare a survey of your lakefront including a contour corresponding to 317.74' and 320.2' elevations. The second method is outlined below:

1. Pick a day that is relatively calm since you will be using the surface of the lake for your measurements and choppy water will greatly reduce your accuracy.
2. Call this office on the day you plan to take your measurements at (518) 668-9347 Monday thru Friday 8:30 - 4:30, and ask for the current level of Lake George. This will be provided as a Roger's Rock Gauge reading.
3. Find the lake level on the following table. Read across to find the height above water for the mean high water elevation or the depth below water for the mean low elevation.
4. Mark this number on your yardstick with a piece of tape or a rubber band.
5. For the mean low, walk out into the lake at the point at which you plan to place your wharf until the water depth reaches the tape or rubber band. Measure the distance from this point to the shoreline (marked today's level on figures) and other reference points.
6. For a dock greater than 8' wide, repeat this process on both sides of the dock or several times in the area of a proposed dock.
7. Plot these distances (to scale) on a tax map showing your parcel or a recent survey.
8. Indicate with your application how the mean low was determined. Unless a licensed surveyor made the determination, you should indicate the date the determination was made, the lake level on that day, and your calculated adjustment.
9. If there is permanent wharf structure at your lakefront, you may wish to make a permanent mark on the wharf at the low water mark for future reference.
10. Finding the mean high water mark is more difficult, especially with a gradually sloping shoreline. The mean high level is *above* the water level at most times of the year.

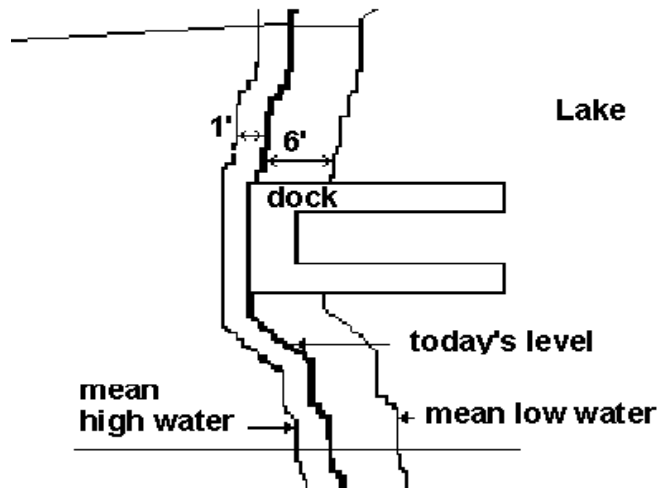
LAKE LEVEL CALCULATION CHART

Today's Water Level (feet)		Mean High (inches)	Mean Low (inches)
RRG	MSL		
2.5	318.56	19.7	-9.8
2.6	318.66	18.5	-11.0
2.7	318.76	17.3	-12.2
2.8	318.86	16.1	-13.4
2.9	318.96	14.9	-14.6
3.0	319.06	13.7	-15.8
3.1	319.16	12.5	-17.0
3.2	319.26	11.3	-18.2
3.3	319.36	10.1	-19.4
3.4	319.46	8.9	-20.6
3.5	319.56	7.7	-21.8
3.6	319.66	6.5	-23.0
3.7	319.76	5.3	-24.2
3.8	319.86	4.1	-25.4
3.9	319.96	2.9	-26.6
4.0	320.06	1.7	-27.8
4.1	320.16	0.5	-29.0
4.2	320.26	-0.7	-30.2
4.3	320.36	-1.9	-31.4

Place the following information on your project plans if you have used our "yardstick method" to determine either mean high or mean low:

Today's Water Level: _____ feet
 Mean Low: _____ inches
 Mean High: _____ inches

**Plan View
Based on "today's level" of 3.4**



Example based on Today's Level = 3.4'

