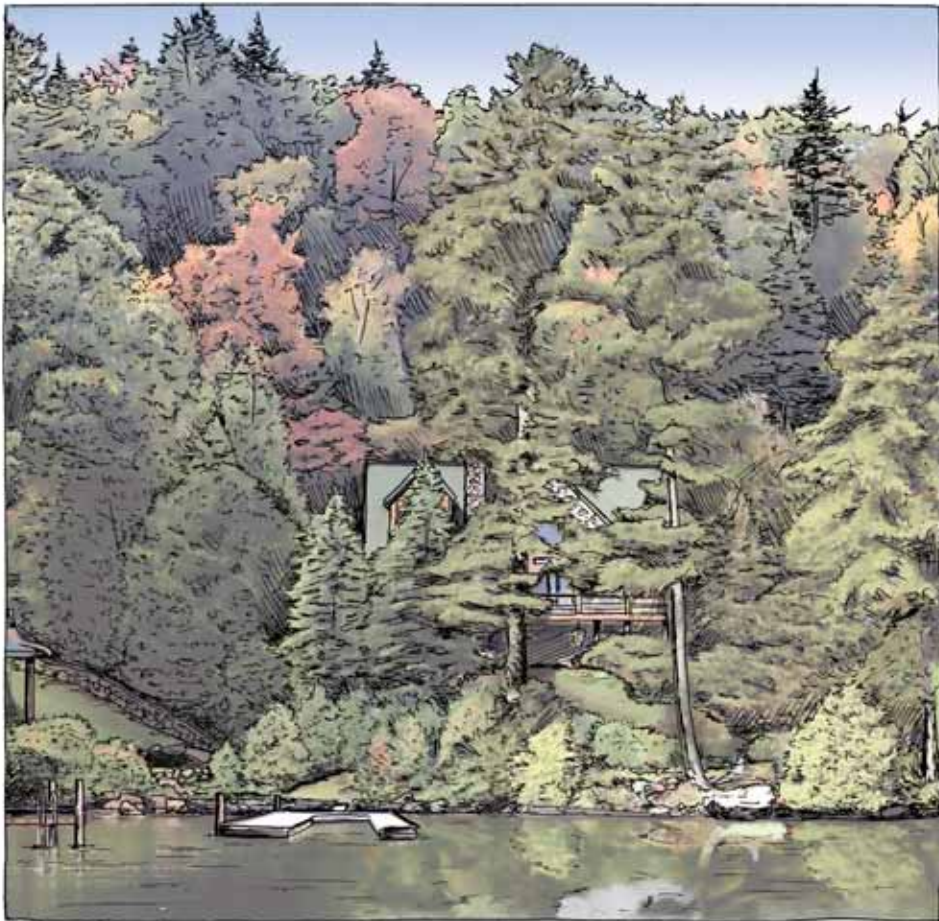


Do-It-Yourself WATER QUALITY



FULLY BUFFERED PROPERTY



UNBUFFERED PROPERTY

SHORELINE BUFFER

A shoreline buffer is one of the best ways to protect Lake George.

Planting and maintaining a robust shoreline buffer is one of the best management practices a landowner can undertake to protect Lake George. A shoreline buffer, which relies on natural processes to prevent pollution from reaching the lake, is inexpensive to create and maintain. Many residences around Lake George have fully functional shoreline buffers of 25, 30 and 50 feet or more in width. Many have no buffers at all.

A shoreline buffer provides a final defense in blocking unwanted nutrients and pollutants from entering the lake. An effective buffer prevents erosion, absorbs excess nutrients, stabilizes and shades the shoreline, and recharges the groundwater. It also provides wildlife habitat for small animals and helps to deter waterfowl, such as Canada geese, which fear predators in areas with an obstructed view. Buffers can be designed so that filtered views are provided of the lake.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

These illustrations show the same property with and without a shoreline buffer. Each property enjoys access to the lake, but the one with the full buffer helps to protect water quality, while the house with the large grass lawn negatively impacts the lake by loading nutrients from stormwater, fertilizers and pesticides. The fully buffered property protects the natural shoreline and may eliminate the need for the construction of a seawall.

Natural shoreline buffers consist of trees, shrubs, herbaceous and perennial plants, and a duff layer of decomposing organic matter. The trees, shrubs, plants and duff intercept and prevent nutrients and other pollutants carried in stormwater runoff from reaching the lake. The deep roots within the buffer provide maximum infiltration, as opposed to the shallow roots of a grass lawn that are ineffective at infiltrating stormwater.

You **CAN** make a difference.

The future health of Lake George hinges on our ability to vastly improve property stewardship throughout the watershed by using techniques, such as planting shoreline buffers. For more information about shoreline buffers as part of the *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* campaign go to the websites listed below or call our office for a site consultation. Join us in a new commitment to great property stewardship!

