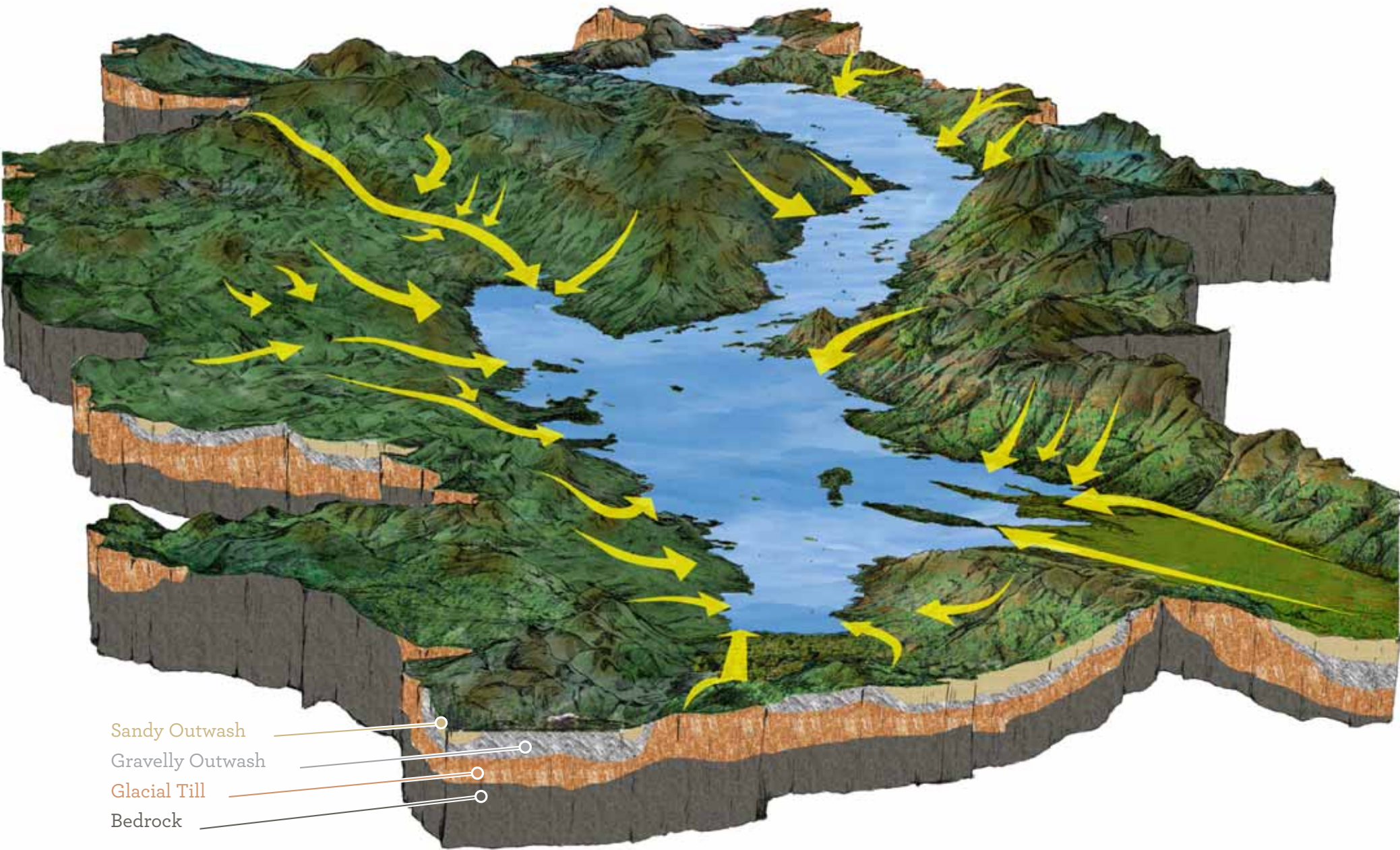


# Do-It-Yourself WATER QUALITY



## WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

All properties around Lake George, from the lakeside to mountaintops, are part of the watershed and impact water quality.

Think of a watershed as a bowl, with Lake George at the bottom. Everything slides down the sides of the bowl. Water that lands on top of Tongue Mountain, for instance, is either infiltrated into the groundwater or runs downhill into a stream, which eventually reaches the lake. As water moves across the land surface throughout the watershed it picks up sediment, chemicals used on lawns and gardens, and pollutants from roads, parking lots and rooftops, which are all carried to Lake George.

The Lake George watershed includes more than 149,000 acres, or nearly 233 square miles. The surface area of Lake George is approximately 28,000 acres. There is a 5:1 land-to-water ratio. Compared to other watersheds, this is a small land-to-water ratio. For example, the ratio in the Lake Champlain watershed is 19:1. This means that the

### THE LAKE GEORGE WATERSHED

*A watershed is like a bowl, with the lake at the bottom. As water runs downhill after a spring snowmelt or a rainstorm, it collects fertilizers, sediments, oils, salt, pesticides and other pollutants on its way to the lake.*

Lake Champlain watershed has a much larger land area that impacts its water quality. The small water-to-land ratio is one reason that the water quality of Lake George has been protected for so long. Despite this, however, the developed areas of Lake George have had a huge impact on the lake, causing a steady decline in water quality.

## You CAN make a difference.

The future health of Lake George hinges on our ability to vastly improve property stewardship throughout the watershed. *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* provides information on ways to limit your impacts to Lake George based on excellent property management. Join us for a new commitment to great property management.

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