In 1801 Elkanah Watson, one of the earliest landowners in Bolton Landing, wrote in his diary:

“Upon debouching from the forest, this lovely lake with its innumerable islands suddenly burst upon our view, revealed in all its exceedingly romantic beauty. This lake is celebrated for the depth of purity of its water. The scenery of Lake George is surpassingly grand, picturesque and beautiful.”

Now, 200 years later, thanks to the visions of early conservationists and organizations such as the Lake George Land Conservancy, Lake George remains much as it was in Watson’s day—renowned for its water purity and picturesque scenery. A passionate community of Lake George devotees stands ready to fight for the protection of the lake, its mountains and beloved beauty.

Yet the lake, loved by millions for its primitive splendor, is not immune to change. Most of the future changes will occur on the remaining forested hillsides and ridgelines, the very features that define the lake’s beauty and awesome grandeur. The Lake George Land Conservancy hopes to protect these prominent and ecologically important regions, preserving both the historic views and the purity of Lake George’s water.

The Lake George Land Conservancy depends on the support of individuals, families and foundations who share the vision to make important conservation, such as ridgeline protection, possible. You can join our efforts by including us in a plan of your own—your estate plan. As the information briefly described here makes clear, estate planning is one of the most powerful, and most flexible, ways for you to help ensure that your vision for Lake George is preserved for future generations.

What will your legacy be?
Join the Land and Water Society

Imagine Lake George in the year 2150. How do you want it to be? The future of Lake George, the Queen of American Lakes, depends on the actions and choices we make today.

Join the dedicated individuals and families who have already taken steps to preserve Lake George with a planned gift to the Lake George Land Conservancy.

When you include the Lake George Land Conservancy in your giving plans, tell us so that you can receive the benefits of joining our legacy club, the Land and Water Society. Please see the far right column for more about this information relates to your individual and family circumstances.

Bequests
A simple way to make a gift to the Lake George Land Conservancy is through your will, naming the Lake George Land Conservancy as a direct beneficiary of specific assets, of a portion of your estate, or of your residual estate after other payments. Bequests can serve as an enduring investment in the future of Lake George. Please visit www.lglc.org for examples of specifically designed bequests, such as Memorial Bequests.

Gifts of Real Estate
A gift of real estate can be very tax-friendly. Your residence, vacation home, farm or vacant lot may have appreciated in value through the years, resulting in a sizable capital gains tax when sold. By leaving your property to the Lake George Land Conservancy through planned giving, your estate could instead receive a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the property. A conservation easement or retained life estate gift may be similarly used to reduce your estate’s value. An independent appraisal of your property is required by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) if you wish to claim a deduction. If you are considering a devise of land to your Land and Water Society can provide:

• Special acknowledgement and recognition at Lake George Land Conservancy events and in publications,
• Invitations to events designed only for Land and Water Society members.
• Savings to your family in estate taxes while allowing your investment in the protection of Lake George.
• Satisfaction that you are making a significant difference to programs that most interest you,
• Legal and Organizational Details
As always, your lawyer or financial advisor should be consulted for any matters regarding such an important document for your review but not required by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) if you wish to claim a deduction. If you are considering a devise of land to be preserved in its natural state or bequeathed in a will, we ask that you notify us in advance so that we may determine whether we will be able to manage the bequest in a manner consistent with your wishes.

Retirement or Life Insurance Plans
You can name the Lake George Land Conservancy as a primary or secondary beneficiary of your Individual Retirement Plan (IRA), Keogh plan, 401(k), 403(b), other qualified pension or insurance plans. The proceeds of these plans are distributed outside of probate and are entirely free from federal estate tax.

Gifts of Personal Property
This can be another creative method to feel positive about your investment in the protection of Lake George. Antiques, artwork and other valuables may be retained by the Lake George Land Conservancy or sold with the proceeds put towards land conservation projects or operations. Please note that for all properties over $5,000, you are required to provide the IRS with an appraisal of the property if you want to use the deduction on your federal income tax returns.

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By directing your legacy gift to the Lake George Land Conservancy, you will help protect the crystal clear drinking water and forested mountains of Lake George. Your gift may also allow you to take advantage of tax benefits that will protect your family’s inheritance.

The type of asset you give and the way you transfer it to us will determine the tax and financial benefits resulting from your gift: certain kinds of gifts may be more advantageous than others. It pays to plan your gift in order to secure maximum benefits. Most traditional donations are in the form of cash, stock or securities, but other options are also available, as briefly described here.

You may direct the use of your gift in writing or permit the Lake George Land Conservancy to use it where it is needed most.