



Watercourses should have water that is fresh and usable. Clean water sources mean safe drinking water, economic health, good fishing and quality of life. What we do in our watersheds can directly impact the quantity and attributes of water for human use and the habitat available to wildlife.

Things That You Can Do

- avoid using fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides on your property
- never refuel near the water
- maintain your septic system
- maintain a natural shoreline
- dispose of yard waste in a composter away from your shore
- put garbage and tires in the landfill



Benefits of Having a Ribbon of Natural Vegetation

- lower property maintenance
- increased wildlife activity
- filtering of pollutants
- decreased erosion
- visual and noise buffer



Produced by the



**LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**
(807) 344-5857

WATER'S EDGE

Life abounds above and below the water's edge. Many plants, birds, insects and animals spend time in both zones. Fish use the watery habitat for feeding, spawning and shelter.

People are attracted to the shoreline as well. It can be a place to play, learn and relax. Water is used for cooking, cleaning, industry, transportation and energy production. It offers scenic beauty, tourism revenue and recreation opportunities.



Each one of us can impact the health of lakes and rivers. What we do on the land is reflected in the water.

The Watershed

The **watershed** collects precipitation falling on the land and directs it to the watercourse. Forested or open ground allows water to soak into the ground and slowly seep toward the river. In urban areas, the hard surfaces of roads, driveways and roofs move water away quickly. Much of the runoff is directed into ditches and storm sewers, which connect to local rivers.



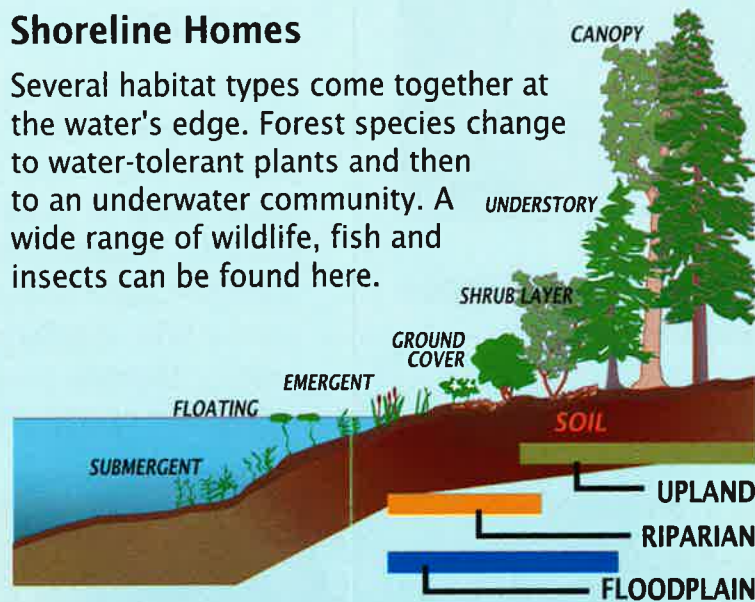
Busy Corridor

- fish spawn in the shallow water
- waterfowl feed in the shallows and nest by the water's edge
- wildlife trails parallel the shore
- many flying insects spend part of lifecycle in the water
- nutrients from the land enhance the aquatic ecosystem
- humans live, work and play here



Shoreline Homes

Several habitat types come together at the water's edge. Forest species change to water-tolerant plants and then to an underwater community. A wide range of wildlife, fish and insects can be found here.



Riparian Zone - land adjacent to the shore; vital to the watercourse's overall health

Floodplain - land outside the normal stream channel that can be covered during periods of high water. Placing development outside the floodplain keeps people and property out of harms way.

Obtaining Approvals

Various regulations are in place to ensure that the actions of one person do not harm other people or the environment. Property owners may cause problems for themselves if they undertake work without proper approvals.

Contact the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority before you start work in or around water. Staff will review your development proposal for possible flooding and fish habitat impacts. If necessary, your proposal will be forwarded to the appropriate agency.

Under the Fisheries Act, no one may carry out any work or undertaking that results in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat (HADD), unless this HADD has been authorized by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Human Impacts

Human activity can disturb the balance of life at the water's edge. Spilling, filling or digging can spoil habitat for plants and animals. Disturbing the shore can start long-term adverse impacts. Removal of rocks or trees can lead to erosion that will eat away at your yard. Also, changing the shore could alter the river and cause flood waters to rise higher.