

AVOID PROBLEMS

Flood Damage

High flows can be caused by melting snow, heavy rainfall and ice blockages. Flooding is a natural event and each river has a 'floodplain' where the water wants to flow. Avoid problems by not building in flood-prone areas or storing equipment there either.

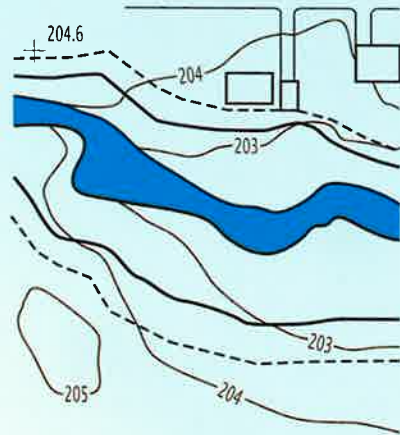


Erosion

Disturbing the shore can have long-term consequences. Removal of rocks or trees may 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.

The Fine Print

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 building approvals. Check at the Planning Department and Conservation Authority with your plans before you start construction.



Brought to you by the



Produced by the



LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
(807) 344-5857

Expanded information available at
www.lakeheadca.com

LIFE *by the* WATER

Caring for shorelines, streams and lakes

WATER has a natural attraction. It is a place to play, learn and relax. Water can be used for transportation or to produce energy. We use it to cook, clean and water gardens. It offers scenic beauty and tourism revenue.



All living things depend on water – from microscopic life to fish, plants and animals. Some live right in the water, while others live on land by the stream.

People are part of this picture, too. Think of the river as a neighbour. Each one of us can have an impact, particularly property owners along a lake or river.



HOW IT WORKS

Water Ways

There are many routes that water can take to reach the stream. In urban areas, much of the runoff is directed into ditches and storm sewers that connect to local rivers. The hard surfaces of roads, driveways and roofs move water away quickly. Water that soaks into the ground will slowly seep toward the river.



Riparian (and other) Zones

The *riparian* zone is the land adjacent to the shore. It is a vital part of a river and important to its overall health. The *floodplain* is the 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.



Shoreline Homes

Several habitat types come together at the shore. Forest species change to water-tolerant plants and then to an underwater community. Human activity can disturb the balance of life here.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Put Waste In Its Place

Do not dump yard waste by the stream where high water could carry it off. Rotting plants use up oxygen, which makes the water poorer for fish. Sticks can dam up the water and worsen flooding. Garbage, old tires and other refuse are not only unsightly, but can be a hazard to wildlife.



Fresh and Clean

You want to live by water that is fresh, not fouled. Be careful with fertilizers or chemicals that can wash into storm sewers and streams. Never refuel near the water. If you are on a septic system, be sure to keep it properly maintained.

Buffer Strip

Leave the area beside the shore as natural vegetation. Even a few metres can create a wildlife corridor. The shade will keep the water cooler, which is better for fish and water quality. If you have lawn down to the shore, plant some bushes and trees instead.

Know Your Limits

Be sure you know where the edge of your property is – it may not extend to the water's edge. In many places the municipality owns the land adjacent to the river. Do not remove vegetation or alter the property that may belong to the municipality or a neighbour.

Benefits of Shoreline Care

- Less work for you
- Help preserve water quality
- More beautiful property
- Place to relax
- Wildlife to watch
- Visual and noise buffer
- Less risk of property damage

