

KLA UPDATE: Healthy Shorelines

Happy Spring – and for those returning to the cottage **welcome back!**

Spring is a great time to assess the health of your shoreline and make a plan to improve where appropriate.

Based on the feedback from our Love Your Lake Survey, one of the key focus areas for the KLA is promoting healthy shorelines on Kashwakamak Lake. To that end, over the next several months we will be sharing with you tips and learnings on how we individually and collectively can work together to better manage the health of our lake and its ecosystems by maintaining healthy shorelines.

Please give your shoreline a checkup with the help of the following pictures and assess the health of your shoreline.



Healthy

Woody debris, fallen logs, and brush along the water's edge. This makes a transition zone that turtles and other critters can use to move from water to shore and provides a resting place for waterfowl. It also helps to buffer any boat wake.

Photo credit: <https://lakeshoreguys.com/shoreline-erosion-photos/>

Unhealthy

Erosion. It often stems from a lack of native shoreline vegetation and too much boat wake too close to the shore. To help, live-stake the bank with stabilizing plants, such as willows and red osier dogwood. And tell boaters to get out of your shoreline's grill.



Photo credit: <https://lakeshoreguys.com/shoreline-erosion-photos/>



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Healthy

Lots of frogs and turtles. Amphibians are especially sensitive to toxins and habitat disturbance, say the experts at Watersheds Canada. An abundance of amphibians means your shoreline is giving them a stable home.

Unhealthy

A manicured lawn. Or any lawn. Lawns are useless as habitat for almost anything excepts Canada gees and golf balls. The solution is to stop mowing – or at least stop mowing right to the water's edge (leave a buffer strip; the bigger the better, if possible).



Photo: <https://lakeshoreguys.com/shoreline-erosion-photos/>



Unhealthy

An unbalance shoreline. Are you using more than your share? According to Watersheds Canada, we should leave 75 per cent of our shoreline natural and untouched and take only 25 per cent for boating and swimming, or else it's just plain greedy.

Unhealthy

Alien invaders. Strong shorelines have a variety of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and vines. If you have invasive plants, contact your local environmental ministry or invasive species council for advice. (And if you don't know what common invasives look like – quick, to the Internet!)



Eurasian Water Milfoil – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Edited version of [Is your shoreline healthy? Read the signs - Cottage Life](#)

For more information on how you can improve your shoreline:

- refer to <https://watersheds.ca/our-work/the-natural-edge/>
- check your own property's 2021 report (add link from our web page **Love Your Lake: Accessing your property's 2020 Shoreline Assessment**) from the **Love Your Lake Kashwakamak Lake Shoreline Assessment**
- plan to attend our **Annual General Meeting on Saturday July 8** starting at 9:30 am at the Lions Hall in Northbrook. Our guest speaker, **Melissa Dakers, Watersheds Canada**, will be presenting the highlights of our lake's 2021 assessment.