

KLA UPDATE: Shoreline Health - Part 3 – “*The Ribbon of Life*”

Fall is in the air! With it brings cooler weather and a great time to work on improving the health of your shoreline.

This is the third part of our series focussing on Shoreline Health – “*The Ribbon of Life*”. Recall Part 1 provided tips on how to self assess your shoreline. In Part 2 we reviewed **WHY** shoreline health is so important. In this segment, we focus on the **HOW** you can improve your shoreline health.

The following table provides you with some tips:

Leave your existing natural shoreline undisturbed and avoid removing vegetation, adding sand, or creating artificial beaches.

Plant new plants/bushes to secure your shoreline and protect against damage from waves. Choose native species that are suitable for wet conditions and provide habitat benefits. Natural Edge has a great website to help you; <https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/>

Prune trees for views rather than removing them!

Maintain a NO MOW, NO TRIM border along your shoreline. The Love Your Lake Survey Report for Kashwakamak Lake identified that many cottages on Kashwakamak are close to the waters edge. While we can't change that fact - you can mitigate the impacts. Whether your cottage is 100' or 20' from the waters edge - you can have a natural border along your shoreline.

Naturalize along your break-wall: Just because you have a wood, cement, stone break-wall doesn't mean that you can't have a natural ribbon of life along your shoreline. Plant a natural edge along your break-wall. Enjoy the new wildlife it will attract – and the privacy it will bring to you and your neighbours.

Follow the rules if you need to build a dock; choose a design that minimizes the impacts on the shoreline and aquatic life

If you see someone clearcutting along the shoreline do remind them of the impacts that their actions have on the health of our lake. North Frontenac Bylaws define that, ***“Clearcutting is prohibited in this area (i.e., shoreline); however selective cutting is permitted in the area commencing at a point 15 metres inland from the high-water mark ...;”***

Please **do not use lawn fertilizers** or pesticides near the water or your natural shoreline.

Compliment and thank your neighbours /friends on the lake for maintaining a natural shoreline.

Take pride in your natural shoreline and the fact that you are contributing to a healthier lake for years to come!

For your reference, North Frontenac has a Natural Vegetation Buffer Bylaw 3.29.1 that requires a natural vegetation buffer be maintained for; *“The area from the high-water mark extending inland a depth of a minimum of 15 metres, for the entire width of the lot, shall retain natural vegetation...”*

<https://www.northfrontenac.com/en/township-services/commonly-requested-by-laws.aspx>

Plants thrive with the fall rains and get a good start before the spring so that they can really take off next year. Please consider taking a weekend (or two), this fall planning, planting...whatever you need to do to vitalize or revitalize your shoreline.

By keeping our Kashwakamak shorelines healthy, we can all enjoy the benefits of clean water, beautiful scenery, and abundant wildlife for years to come!