

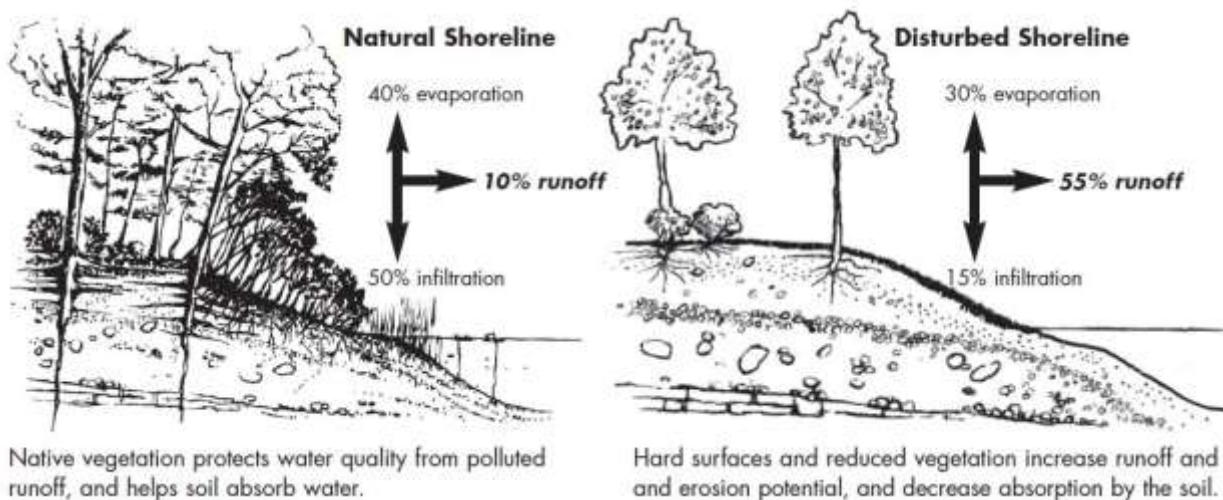
We hope that everyone is enjoying their summer so far!

You may recall that in our spring posting on **Shoreline Health**, we encouraged you to complete a short self-assessment of the health of your shoreline. In Part 2 of our focus on Shoreline Health, we wanted to briefly highlight **WHY** one of the most important contributions a cottage owner can make to Kashwakamak Lake is to create and maintain a natural shoreline vegetation buffer – or a **“Ribbon of Life.”**

### What are Shoreline Buffers?

In its simplest form, a shoreline buffer refers to a vegetated strip of land that borders along the lakefront. The width and composition of this strip can vary ...but the benefits of any buffer are significant! They are the “Ribbon of Life” for our lake.

### Why is it Important to Maintain a Shoreline Buffer?



**Maintain Water Quality** - A vegetation buffer filters runoff - rain that runs off the land can be slowed and infiltrated in the buffer, which helps settle out sediment, nutrients and other pollutants before they reach the lake. Nutrients from fertilizers and other contaminants that originate on land are taken up by tree roots. Phosphorus and nitrogen are stored in leaves, limbs and roots instead of reaching the lake.

**Provide Food and habitat for wildlife** - leaves and woody debris fall into the lake where they provide food and habitat for small bottom-dwelling creatures that are critical to the aquatic food chain. The shoreline buffer itself also offers habitat for many animals, including songbirds, foxes, loons, turtles and amphibians. This habitat provides linkages between natural areas and acts as a migration corridor for a wide variety of plants and animals.

**Prevent Shoreline Erosion** – Tree, shrub and plant roots hold the bank soils together and protect banks by deflecting the cutting action of currents, waves, boat wakes, and stormwater.

**Reduce Impact of Flooding** - Buffers slow the velocity of runoff, allowing the water to recharge the groundwater supply. Groundwater enters the lake at a much slower rate and over a longer period of time than water that has traveled as surface water.

**Provide Canopy and Shade** – shading by Buffer vegetation can moderate water temperatures along the shoreline providing relief for aquatic life in the hot summer months.

**Protect Our Property Values** – using buffers to set-back development and land uses from the shoreline is a cost-effective way to protect many of the natural features and water quality that are an essential component in establishing the market value of a lakefront property

**Privacy For You and Your Guests** – enjoy your cottage time away from the prying eyes of touring boats

**In Summary: we can reduce the environmental impacts of polluted runoff, protect the water quality of Kashwakamak Lake and protect our property values into the future by establishing new vegetated buffers or enhancing existing ones!**

Finally, for those of you that were unable to attend our July AGM, the following is a link to an informative presentation that Melissa Dakers from Watersheds Canada, made on the Kashwakamak Lake “Love Your Lake” Survey results. Check out the video on the lake bed of a healthy vs unhealthy shoreline. Well worth a watch! [LYL AGM Presentation](#)



[Benefits of a Natural Shoreline \(rvca.ca\)](http://rvca.ca)  
<https://watersheds.ca/>

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