



CORDOVA
LAKE COTTAGE ASSOCIATION



Fall/Winter 2017

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Are there hero's in
your home?

“I can smell autumn
dancing in the
breeze. The sweet
chill of pumpkin
and crisp
sunburnt leaves.”

— Unknown

Cordova Lake Cottage Association

Message from the President...

Fall is that bittersweet time of year when many of us will sadly close up our cottages and store our memories of summer away, ready to bring them out to warm our hearts on a cold winter's day, all with the hope and anticipation of 'next summer'. More and more members, however, are making the move to year-round cottaging and even full time residency. It is lovely that we have such a thriving, growing community here.

Each season at the lake comes with its own natural beauty and presents many opportunities for enjoyment. For me, September is often the most beautiful month and, as I sit writing to you, the leaves are tinged with all of the shades of autumn and the lake is so still that the reflection looks like a mirror image. Absolutely beautiful!

As many of you know, I have lived at the lake since September 2005. Until I retired, I was an elementary school principal for TDSB. For the last thirty plus years, I have been the choir director at Kingsview United Church in Oshawa. I love to bring people together and try to bring out the best in them.

At my first annual general meeting, I volunteered to become the secretary / newsletter writer. At that time, all communications took place by mail so I made it my goal to get as many lake residents as possible communicating via the internet. We now have about 75% of cottage owners regularly in communication with each other. We would love to bring that number up to 100%. If your neighbours are not members, please pass along Clare's contact information and encourage them to join us.

As CLCA secretary, I was privileged to see where we, as a lake community, had come from and I have lots of ideas of how we may continue to flourish together. I believe I have earned your trust and hope for your support as I take on this next exciting role as President.



Cordova Lake Cottage Association



I feel privileged to be a member of a great team. Sandy, Peter and Clare are enthusiastic, capable individuals who each have particular areas of expertise and interests they wish to pursue. We meet monthly and are working diligently together to gather information, establish achievable goals and work towards them. This will be an ongoing process but one on which we have embarked with confidence.

I have asked Sandy, Peter and Clare, to each write a little about themselves so that you can better acquaint yourselves with them. It has been a real joy for me to get to know these talented people and we are developing a very productive partnership.

It is an honor and a pleasure to be leading the executive team here at Cordova Lake! There are great things happening here and more to come!!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Melanie #201 FR 59, 614-472-6166

Clare Matthews, Secretary

I am a permanent resident on the lake. I have been coming up here since 2006 and moved here permanently 3 years ago when I and my spouse, Nancy Grozelle, both had an opportunity to relocate from Toronto to Peterborough for work where I am an HR Manager with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. This was earlier than anticipated (Cordova Lake was our retirement plan!) but life is about opportunities and we love this community and love living here - even in February when we turn onto the Beach Road at 6:00 pm and the only light we can see is Melanie's!

Cordova Lake Cottage Association



I am the CLCA secretary and am responsible for all CLCA correspondence, and for maintaining the membership database. I am your primary contact for lake information, including lost and found items, items for sale, and FOCA updates. If you have any suggestions for topics that you think would be of interest to the membership, please let me know.

Clare `#128 FR57

Peter Bornemisa, Treasurer

My wife Cheryl and I are newcomers to our lake having arrived in September 2015. We are in the light blue cottage on the North East tip of the lake directly North of the Beach. We have loved this community since the first day and plan to make this our permanent home. We have three children, Alex, Kyla and Megan who are all in their 20's and enjoy coming here when their busy lives permit. I am a CPA (Chartered Professional Accountant) and have spent most of my career in supply chain finance which I am passionate about. I am committed to manage the finances of the CLCA and strive to add value as a member of the CLCA Board.

Hope to see you on one of our walks around the lake!

Regards, Peter Bornemisa #32 FR 57

Sandy Rice, Vice-President

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Firstly, I have been a cottager on Cordova Lake for 58 years ... yes, that is right ... all my life. My grandfather built our family cottage in the 50's and I currently own the cottage next to our original family cottage and am a permanent resident on the lake.

Cordova Lake Cottage Association

Over my years here, I have seen a lot of changes and believe that I understand some of the challenges facing Cordova Lake today.

As a board member, I have been a part of several boards and committees. I am currently a Councillor for the Ontario College of Veterinarians of Ontario and the Chairperson on the Accreditation Committee that certifies veterinary hospitals and facilities in Ontario. I have served as President of the Brampton Veterinary Association and Volunteer executive campaigner liaison for the United Way of Ontario, Business Division. Most of all, I am passionate about Cordova Lake. Our family roots are here and I would like to help ensure we preserve this beautiful place for the future generations to enjoy.

Please contact me if you have any questions at sandy.rice@outlook.com.

Regards,

Sandy Rice, #18 Fire Route 57B, 613-472-5037



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How do you deal with a tree that's fallen into your lake?

By Jackie Davis

How should we handle a tree that has fallen into the lake? It's interfering with our favourite swimming spot.

As is usually the case, the answer is "it depends," says Mike Yee, the environmental planner and the manager of biology and water quality with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in Manotick, Ont.

Before you do anything at all, you're best to make sure you don't need a permit from your municipality or the go-ahead from a local conservation authority, environment ministry, or Parks Canada. And safety first: remove the tree if it's a hazard. Beyond that, "you want to try to find a balance between your needs and the needs of the lake," says Yee. "Downed woody debris is very, very good for water ecology. It provides

structure, nutrients, and places for things to hide and live. It's like an apartment building for the lake."

How's the health of the existing littoral ecosystem? If your shoreline is struggling (with a lot of erosion or little native vegetation), the fallen tree "will have a much more significant positive impact," says D.G. Blair, the executive director of the Stewardship Centre for B.C.

Can you remove only part of the tree? The fish and other wildlife will get their apartment building, and you'll still get your swimming area. Win all around! If you must get rid of it, "anything that you do by hand will be much less invasive," says Blair. If the work requires power tools, a winch, or a backhoe, call a certified tree service company, says Mark Ellis, a senior consulting arborist with the Davey Resource Group. "You really don't want to be leaning out of a boat, wielding a chainsaw."

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PREVENT HEATING EQUIPMENT FIRES

WHAT'S THE RISK?

Heating equipment fires account for **1 in 10** home fires.

Heating equipment is the **second leading** cause of home fires.

In 29% of home heating fires, the cause is **lack of routine maintenance** of heating equipment.

The average dollar loss per heating equipment fire is **\$53,000**.

The leading causes of heating equipment fires are:

1. woodstoves
2. fireplace/fireplace inserts
3. chimneys.

How do I prevent a heating fire?

- ❖ Have your heating system and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified service technician.
- ❖ Ensure all outside heating vents are not blocked.
- ❖ Ensure woodstoves, fireplaces and fireplace inserts are installed by a qualified technician according to manufacturer's instructions.
- ❖ Always use a fire screen around the fireplace.
- ❖ Allow ashes from your woodstove or fireplace to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside.



All homes with a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage must have a working carbon monoxide alarm installed outside all sleeping areas.

Statistics for Ontario between 2010-2014.
Provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal
and Emergency Management



The biggest threats to your cottage in the off-season

By Jessica Wynne Lockhart

As you close up your cottage at the end of the season and start the long drive home, it's only natural that your mind will wander through the inevitable list of "what-ifs."

But before you turn the car around to make sure—for the third time—that you've turned the oven off, you should lay your worst-case scenarios to rest. The truth is that the biggest threats to your cottage in the off-season aren't as disastrous as they might seem (no, a rogue bear isn't going to make your cottage its den) and most are preventable.

Here's what you should really be worrying about:

Frozen plumbing

We've all heard the horror stories. Nothing can put a damper—literally—on cottage ownership like returning in the spring to discover that your pipes froze and burst, or that your septic tank cracked in your absence. Prevent damage before it happens by properly draining all your lines and tanks before you close-up for the season.

Exploding jars of food

While it may be tempting to leave that jar of tomato sauce in your cupboard, don't forget that the same freezing and thawing cycle that happens in pipes also applies to food. If you don't intend to heat your cottage over the winter months, make sure to remove any and all food from the premises—otherwise you might have a sticky mess to clean up come springtime.

Break-ins

For the paranoid among us, this is probably the biggest reservation that we have about leaving our properties unattended for extended periods of times. Whether its petty criminals out to make a buck or teenagers looking for a little weekend excitement, break-and-enters tops the list for the biggest wintertime threat to your cottage. Make crime-proofing your getaway one of your top priorities in the fall, and come springtime you won't be sorry.

Critters

Who can blame woodland creatures for wanting someplace warm to cozy up for the winter? The truth is, while it's easy to keep the bigger animals out (make sure to close the flue on your fireplace), mice will invariably get it. Whether they stay, though, is up to you. Make your home inhospitable by setting mousetraps, removing any food (including toaster oven crumbs), and covering soft surfaces in plastic. Mice may also be repelled by certain odours, so it can't hurt to try out placing fabric softener sheets and mint essential oil in your closets.

Rooftop ice damming

It's unlikely that your entire roof is going to cave-in from heavy snow, but you'll still want to make sure your roof and eavestrough are in tip-top shape to handle wintertime precipitation. A build-up of ice and snow, paired with continual freeze and thaws, can cause structural damage. Make sure your eaves are cleaned out and that your roof is in good repair, and consider hiring a company to clean snow off your roof during the winter—just don't forget the boathouse or shed roofs.

Slip and slide sidewalks

While you may not be accessing your cottage in the off-season, that doesn't mean that no one else will be. If a visitor injures himself or herself on your property, you could be held liable for failing to clear the walks. If you're not hiring someone to maintain your property over the winter (including snow and ice removal), be sure to cancel local newspaper delivery and post a caution note to any solicitors at the end of the driveway.

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'Tis the Season to be Careful



ENJOY A FIRE SAFE HOLIDAY

WHAT'S THE RISK?

Smoking and cooking are the **top 2 causes of fatal fires** during the holidays (Nov, Dec, Jan).

Injuries caused by smoking account for **1 in 10 home** fire injuries during the holidays.

Smoking accounts for **30%** of all home fire deaths during the holidays.

Cooking fires account for **19%** of all home fires during the holidays.

27% of all home fire injuries occur in cooking fires during the holidays.

**Alcohol is a factor in many fatal fires involving smoking and cooking.
DRINK RESPONSIBLY!**

How do I protect my family during the holidays?

- ❖ Always stay in the kitchen while cooking. If you must leave, turn off the stove.
- ❖ Keep an eye on any drinkers in your household and make sure all cigarettes are properly extinguished and the stove is off before going to bed.
- ❖ Cigarettes can smoulder among upholstered items for hours before igniting. Check sofas and chairs for cigarettes that may have fallen between the cushions.
- ❖ Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers.
- ❖ Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

ARE YOU PROTECTED BY SMOKE AND CO ALARMS?

- ❖ In 34% of fatal home fires there is no smoke alarm warning.
- ❖ Install smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas.
- ❖ CO alarms are required outside all sleeping areas if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage.





11 reasons why fall is the best season for a canoe trip

By Jessica Wynne Lockhart

Just because it's time to start closing up the cottage, doesn't mean you have to pack away your canoe or kayak the minute the leaves start to fall. Here are the top 11 reasons why autumn is the best season for a canoe trip.

1. You'll have the entire river to yourself

As traffic slows down on the 400-series highways leading to the cottage, it also slows down on the waterways. With everyone back at school and work, you'll have a greater chance of having the entire river or lake to yourself.

2. You won't have to battle bugs

Energy that would otherwise be spent swatting away bloodsuckers can be devoted to perfecting your j-stroke instead. Best of all, fewer insects also makes fall the prime paddling season for taking along kids and pets.

3. Cooler weather makes for smooth waters

With a lower risk of thunderstorms, fall weather conditions provide a stable and mild environment for paddling. However, it's still possible to get a sunburn in the crisp autumn air, so don't forget to pack your hat, sunscreen, and plenty of water.

4. Portaging is made easier

Lowered temperatures make everything more manageable, including portaging. Without sweating too much, you'll be able to travel further distances with fewer breaks.

5. It can build character

There's no doubt that canoeing in the off-season can be more challenging, particularly when faced with overnight frost or an unexpected snowfall. But dealing with these adverse conditions will only make you a better camper and paddler.

6. You'll have the best vantage point of beautiful autumn colours

Nothing quite beats the reflection of brilliant red and orange hues on the water, especially when contrasted against the clear blue fall sky.

7. You might get a better night's sleep

On multi-day paddling trips, the cooler air at night makes sharing a tent that much more bearable.

8. You'll have a better selection of campsites

There's no need to line up or book weeks in advance; with fewer people portaging or on the trail, you'll have a choice selection of the best camping spots.

9. The best views of the brilliant night skies

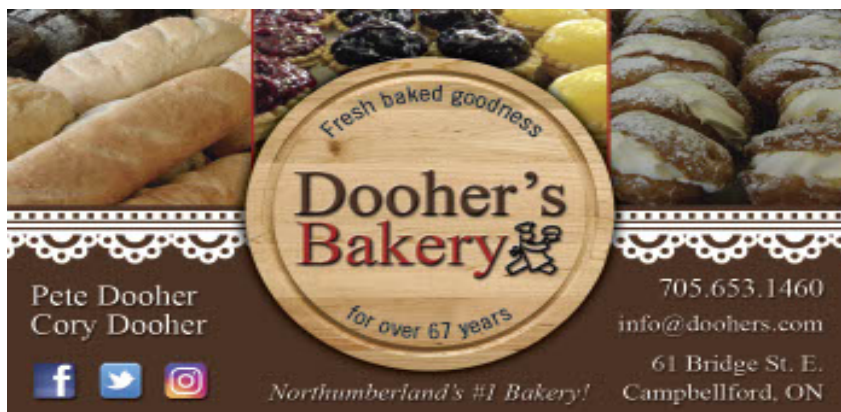
While you'll have less daylight hours to paddle, you'll have increased night time hours to glimpse that perfect shooting star.

10. You can fuel up on comfort foods

Nothing makes a canoe trip better than a hearty meal at the end of a long day. Since it's harvest season, you can relish in comforting stews and soups cooked over campfires.

11. You'll have a better chance of spotting wildlife

As animals stock up for the winter and get ready to head into hibernation, their on-shore activity will increase. Deer, moose, elk, and bats will all be seeking mates, while birds can be seen migrating. With fewer leaves to contend with, you may even be able to spot them more easily through the trees.



Cottage Fire Safety – Tip Sheet

To minimize the risk of fire and burn injury, the fire service recommends the following cottage fire safety tips:

Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. It's the law for all Ontario homes, cottages, cabins and seasonal homes to have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas.

- Test smoke alarms at least monthly or each time you return to the cottage. Pack a new smoke alarm and extra smoke alarm batteries in case they need replacement.
- Install and ensure carbon monoxide alarms in your cottage if it has a fuel-burning appliance.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan to ensure everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Know the telephone number for the local fire department and your cottage's emergency sign number, in case of emergency.
- Clean barbecues before using them. Keep an eye on lit barbecues and ensure all combustibles, as well as children and pets are kept well away from them. Fires can happen when barbecues are left unattended.
- Keep barbecue lighters and matches out of sight and reach of children.
- Remember to bring a flashlight with extra batteries.
- Check heating appliances and chimneys before using them.
- Check with your local fire department, municipality, or Ministry of Natural Resources to determine whether open air burning is permitted

before having a campfire or burning brush. If open burning is allowed, fires should be built on bare soil or on exposed rock. Remove leaves and twigs from around the fire to keep it from spreading. Always keep a bucket of water, sand, or even a shovel close by and supervise the fire at all times.

- If you must smoke, do so outside. Keep a large can with water nearby so cigarette butts can be safely discarded. If you drink, do so responsibly. Tobacco use and excessive alcohol consumption are contributing factors in many fires and can lead to serious injuries.
- Burn candles in sturdy candleholders that will not tip and are covered with a glass shade. When you go out, blow out!



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Ways to keep your cottage safe from break-ins

By Sara Laux

Your sanctuary away from the city can quickly seem not-so-safe if you're the victim of a break-and-enter. Often simple crimes of opportunity, cottage break-ins may not ever be fully preventable—but there are steps you can take to reduce the loss of property and peace of mind that goes along with this kind of crime.

Keep everything valuable out of view

When you go home at the end of the weekend, make sure everything is out of view if someone looks in your windows. (Choosing whether or not to draw the curtains is up to you—some experts suggest leaving them slightly open so would-be thieves can see there's nothing to steal.) Put any electronics, computers or flat-screen TVs out of sight in an interior room or closet. Make sure to store any expensive sports equipment in a shed or other locked area. When you close up for the winter, take everything home with you. Remember: if you can carry it, so can someone else—right out the door.

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Install trail or dock cams

Technology can be a real help when it comes to keeping an eye on your cottage when you're away. Motion-sensitive digital cameras (the kind used by hunters and nature photographers) can help document anything—or anyone—who comes onto your property when you're not there, snapping pics of license plates and faces that can be used if something does happen.

Use motion-sensitive exterior lighting

Lighting that comes on only when something moves means you don't have to leave a light burning all night—but can provide an unwelcome surprise for someone who doesn't want to be spotted. Yes, you may get a few stunned foxes and skunks, but you might also deter some two-legged creatures who would rather stay in the dark.

Embrace the lived-in look

Cottages are broken into most often when it looks obvious that no one has been there for a long time, so make sure your cottage is maintained, even if you're not there. Pay a property management company to cut the grass and shovel, if necessary. Ask your neighbours to park in your driveway or tie up at your dock occasionally. And make sure you have some interior lights on timers so the cottage doesn't stay dark the whole time you're gone. You can even go so far as to leave inexpensive gardening tools out in the yard so it looks like someone has been working in the garden.

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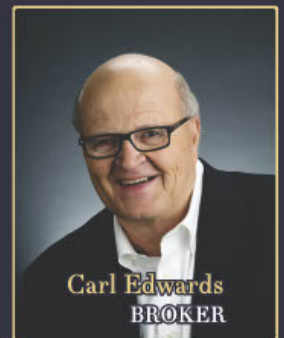
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CHECK THE DATE.

Look at the back of the smoke alarm for the date of manufacture. The expiry date is usually 10 years from that date. **Replace expired alarms.**



TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARMS.

Once you've checked the date, test your smoke alarms by pressing the test button.



INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS ON EVERY STOREY OF THE HOME AND OUTSIDE ALL SLEEPING AREAS.

For added protection, install smoke alarms in every bedroom.



HOME ESCAPE PLANNING

It is **vital** that you know what to do when the smoke alarms sound in an emergency:

- Sit down with everyone in your home and discuss how each person will get out in a fire.
- **GET OUT & STAY OUT!** When the smoke alarms sound, get out immediately and call 9-1-1 from outside. Never re-enter a burning building.

Despite their best efforts, the fire department may not arrive quickly enough to save you from a fire. **You need to be outside when the firefighters arrive.**

For more information, contact your local fire department.

Insert Fire Department Name and
Contact Information

Office of the Fire Marshal
and Emergency Management
ontario.ca/firemarshal

What Type of Lake Do You Live By?

There are three basic types of lakes found in Ontario. You can learn more about your lake's unique characteristics by contacting your local Conservation Authority, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) or cottage association.

Oligotrophic Lakes



- Generally deep
- Minimal aquatic plant growth
- Low nutrient levels
- Support cold-water fish such as trout and whitefish
- Low levels of phosphorus and chlorophyll
- Most lakes on the Canadian shield are oligotrophic with some exceptions

Mesotrophic Lakes



- Medium depth
- Usually good for fishing; support a wide variety of fish such as walleye and bass
- More nutrients than oligotrophic lakes, but not nearly as much as eutrophic lakes
- Occasional algae bloom at the surface

Eutrophic Lakes



- Generally shallow with abundant vegetation
- Support warm-water fish such as perch, bass and pan fish
- Frequent algae blooms
- Susceptible to oxygen depletion
- High phosphorus or chlorophyll readings

Eutrophication is a lake's aging process. Sediments, erosion and the growth and decomposition of aquatic plants eventually fill up the lake bottom. Over time, the lake is converted to a wetland (e.g., a bog or marsh) and later, dry land. This process normally takes tens of thousands of years, but human activity can accelerate lake eutrophication by contributing excessive nutrients.

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Limiting Nutrients in Your Lake

Excessive amounts of nutrients, particularly phosphorus, are carried into a water body with runoff from fertilized lawns, golf courses, urban or agricultural areas and from poorly maintained septic systems. Water quality impacts associated with excessive nutrients in a lake include:

- Frequent blooms of undesirable algae* (potentially toxic, giving water poor taste and odour)
- Excessive growth of aquatic plants leading to a loss of open water
- Decrease in water clarity
- Lower levels of dissolved oxygen, which may lead to fish kills and affect fish diversity
- Increased levels of coliform and E. coli bacteria present
- Possible increase in the presence of carcinogens, such as chloroform, resulting from increased organic matter reacting with disinfectants such as chlorine

*Note that nutrients are only one of the variables that influence algal blooms. Blooms are also impacted by increased temperatures and water column stability.



Ontario Environmental Science Centre

Simple Steps to Reduce Excess Nutrients

Reduce or Eliminate Fertilizer Use

Remember that what goes on your property goes into the lake! That includes fertilizers applied near the water. Rain and irrigation carry these fertilizers into the water and encourage the rapid growth of aquatic plants and algae. For every pound of phosphorus in the water, 500 pounds of aquatic vegetation are produced!

Maintain Your Septic System

Pumping out your septic tank on a regular basis is critical to reducing nutrient flows into lakes. The frequency of your pump-outs will vary based on the size of your tank, your family size, and the number of appliances your use. As a general rule, pumping your septic tank every 2 to 3 years is a good practice.

Be Careful With Soap

At the lake, soaps should always be phosphate-free. Soapy wastewater from dishwashing and bathing should be disposed of in soil at least 60 meters from the water's edge to prevent harming wildlife and creating nutrient-induced algae blooms.

To find out more about the water quality of your particular lake, or to play a hands-on role in water quality sampling on your lake, contact the Ministry of the Environment's Lake Partner Program at 1-800-470-8322, www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/water



Shorelines

Shorelines

The shoreline of your waterfront property is called a 'ribbon of life' because it is where 90 percent of all lake and river life is born, raised and fed. Natural shorelines support cattail, pickerelweed and reeds that provide habitat for fish, nesting birds, mammals and insects. Plants at the water's edge help filter nutrients and prevent erosion, while underwater logs and rock piles allow fish to rest, feed and spawn while providing protection from predators. In these ways, healthy shorelines help to protect valuable recreational resources and are part of a healthy lake ecosystem. Unfortunately, not every shoreline demonstrates these features.

Erosion

Shorelines erode due to various forces: natural wave and wind action, ice movement from freezing and thawing, and human activities such as altering the waterfront with lawns, docks and breakwalls. When soil is exposed and vegetation is mowed to the water's edge, the stabilizing effect of root systems is lost, exposing the soil to the power of waves, ice and surface runoff. Sediment carried away by wind or waves reduces the size of waterfront properties and damages shoreline habitat by burying spawning beds and reducing water clarity.

Hardened Shorelines

Despite their popularity in some areas, natural erosion can't be prevented by concrete shore walls or sloped rock. Both of these measures are expensive and temporary fixes. Major storms, ice damage and the effects of time eventually cause them to fail. Hardened shores in one place may also deflect wave and wind energy and cause more erosion problems at neighbouring shorelines.

Naturalized Shorelines

A naturalized shoreline is generally considered the best multi-purpose approach to protecting the lake's edge. Maintaining or planting a buffer zone of native vegetation along your shoreline will slow erosion, provide food and shelter for fish and wildlife species and protect your property and investment. Best of all, naturalized shorelines mean less work and more time to enjoy the lake!

- Roots from shrubs and trees absorb wave and ice energy, stabilize soils and prevent erosion
- Plants along the shoreline slow surface runoff and filter contaminants before they reach the lake
- Shrubs and trees discourage Canada Geese, preventing goose poop and nuisance interactions with these birds
- Naturalized shorelines provide food and shelter for fish and wildlife species



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Buffer Zones Protect Shorelines and Reduce Erosion

- Protect the natural shoreline by replanting areas that lack trees and shrubs, and maintain those areas that already exist.
- Leave a buffer zone of native vegetation around all shoreline areas. The buffer zone can be as little as three meters wide or as large as you would like.
- Don't mow right to the waterfront. A pathway can be maintained for access down to the water, but keep any development at least 30 meters away from the shoreline.

Restoring Developed or Damaged Shorelines

Shorelines that have been stabilized with rock 'rip rap', armour stone or gabion baskets can be modified to incorporate natural vegetation and extend the life of retaining structures. Noted below are some options to protect your shoreline from erosion while improving habitat.

Restoring Developed or Damaged Shorelines

Vegetated Buffer Zone

Plant native species of trees and shrubs with a variety of other aquatic and upland plants. Biodegradable erosion-control fabric can be effective when used with native plants; it holds the soil while allowing plants to grow through it.

Loose Rock Buffer Zone

In some instances, loose rocks can be placed on a gradual slope and used to stabilize an eroding shoreline. Native shrubs and vines should be planted among rocks and will provide natural protection to absorb and dissipate wave action.

Bioengineering Techniques

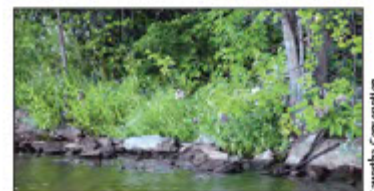
Bundles of branches, or "wattles," staked into the bank will protect the shoreline from eroding. (See photo at right) Live stakes or posts of willow or red osier dogwood also work to stabilize eroding shorelines. Brush layers can be used on steeper banks where deeper reinforcement of the soil is needed.

Consult with your local authorities whenever you plan to restore or alter a shoreline. For more information and advice, check with your local Conservation Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources, Trent-Severn Waterway or Rideau Canal office regarding permits for changes to your shoreline.

Other agencies that may be able to provide advice include the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, or your local stewardship council.



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Shoreline Construction Projects

Building a dock or boathouse along your waterfront can impact important shoreline habitat by covering fish spawning areas, removing rocks and logs that provide shelter, causing erosion from bank disturbance, removing vegetation, and even introducing toxic substances if improper building materials are used.

There are ways to limit disturbances to shoreline areas when construction projects are taking place. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has a series of "Operational Statements" which provide advice on activities including dock and boathouse construction, aquatic weed removal and beach creation. There is often no need for DFO to issue permits and review in-water projects provided the measures in the Operational Statements are followed.

Fish Friendly Dock Structures

One of the most common in-water construction projects that waterfront property owners undertake is dock building. The information and drawings below outline some of the most popular dock designs and their impacts on fish and aquatic habitat. Floating docks are among the most "fish friendly".



Floating Dock

- Simply designed and easy to build
- Causes minimal disruption of lake bed
- Minimal shading of aquatic plants
- Free flow of water underneath
- Least environmental impact



Pipe Dock

- Little contact with lake bed
- Minimal shading of aquatic plants
- Adjustable to water fluctuations
- Free flow of water underneath
- Minimal environmental impact





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Crib Dock

- Imported rubble and rock in crib bed
- Covers large area of submerged ground, smothering everything beneath
- May provide structure in otherwise sterile lake bed environments

Permanent Pile Dock

- Requires professional installation
- Minimal contact with lake bed
- Free flow of water underneath

Cantilever and suspension or lift dock

- Not suitable for areas with extreme water fluctuations
- Minimal impact of lake bed
- Sunlight to aquatic plants is restricted
- Installed properly can cause minimal shoreline damage

Work done in or around the water must not result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. To ensure the protection of fish habitat, contact your local Conservation Authority, MNR office or Fisheries and Oceans Canada if you are planning a construction project along your waterfront.

If your lot fronts onto the Trent-Severn Waterway or the Rideau Canal, please contact Parks Canada.



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Low Impact Lake Recreation

The ecological impacts of human activity on the water include wake effects, wildlife disturbance, noise and pollution. Here are a few tips to reduce the impacts of your actions while you enjoy the benefits of living by water.

Watch Your Wake!

Many animals respond to human disruptions by altering their behaviour and location. Breeding water birds nest at the water's edge where high wakes can drown nests and destroy eggs. Disturbances such as noise and frequent visits to nesting areas may mean that waterfowl abandon their nests or young chicks.

- Operate your boat below 10km/h whenever you are within 30 meters of the shore – it's the law!
- Always avoid waterfowl nests and other sensitive wildlife habitat.
- Always follow safe refueling guidelines to avoid polluting water.
- Consider using non-lead fishing tackle.
- Obey posted speed limits and "No Wake" zones and know your boat's wake-free speed.
- Remember that operating your boat on plane creates a smaller wake than when 'plowing' through the water at lower speeds

Following these tips will help ensure that your recreational activities aren't negatively impacting your human and wildlife neighbours!



Clean Marine

It is equally important to prevent avoidable pollution, such as oil and gas spills and chemical contamination, from entering our lakes. It is vital that boat operators take appropriate precautions and use the appropriate facilities when refilling tanks or discharging used water. Remember to use absorbent pads to soak up oil, fuel or anti-freeze spills before discharging your bilge water. Also consider installing a bilge filter. For more information regarding Ontario's Clean Marine program, visit the Ontario Marine Operators Association at www.omoa.com and look for the Eco-Rated Clean Marina nearest you.



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- fireplace
- stove
- gas dryer
- water heater
- furnace
- portable fuel heater

WHAT CAN ALARMS DO?

Only **working CO alarms** give you the warning of the presence of CO you need to keep your family safe.

Exposure to CO can **cause flu-like symptoms**.

If your CO alarm sounds and you or other occupants suffer from symptoms of CO poisoning, **get everyone out of the home immediately**. Call 9-1-1 or your emergency number from outside the building.



HOW DO I PROTECT MY FAMILY?

- ❖ Ensure all fuel-burning appliances and vents are inspected annually. Find a registered contractor at cosafety.ca.
- ❖ Install CO alarms outside all sleeping areas if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage.
- ❖ For best protection, install CO alarms on every storey of the home.
- ❖ Test CO alarms monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Replace alarms according to manufacturers' recommendations.

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