



## THE HEALTHY SHORE LIST

HOW DOES YOUR WATERFRONT CHECK OUT?



### PLANT A BUFFER ZONE OF NATIVE VEGETATION CLOSE TO SHORE

— The tangle of roots filters impure runoff from your cottage and slows erosion of the soil

### SWEAR OFF PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

— They end up in the water and are bad news for aquatic life

### OPT FOR A FLOATING OR PIPE DOCK

— It causes the least disturbance to the shoreline lakebed

### MOOR THE SWIM RAFT FARTHER OUT TO SAVE SHORE PLANTS

— Birds nest and fish spawn in those things you call “weeds.” Don’t tear them out

### “SOFTEN” HARD WALKWAYS AND DRIVES

— Unlike asphalt, pea gravel or wood chips soak up runoff

### PRESERVE YOUR PROPERTY’S MATURE TREES

— Their deep roots stabilize the slope down to the water

### FORGO FERTILIZERS/UPGRADE YOUR LEAKY SEPTIC SYSTEM

— Both send phosphorus into the lake, fuelling algae growth and depleting oxygen

### LEAVE FALLEN TREES AND BRANCHES IN THE SHALLOWS

— Wood nourishes all sorts of underwater critters and provides cover for fish



### KEEP OIL AND GAS WELL AWAY FROM THE WATER’S EDGE

— Even a minor spill has big consequences for vulnerable lake dwellers

### USE UNTREATED WOOD FOR SHORELINE STRUCTURES LIKE DOCKS

— Preservative-free materials, such as cedar, are pricier but much safer for aquatic inhabitants

### KICK THE COTTAGE LAWN HABIT

— Turf lets up to 55 per cent of rainfall wash away

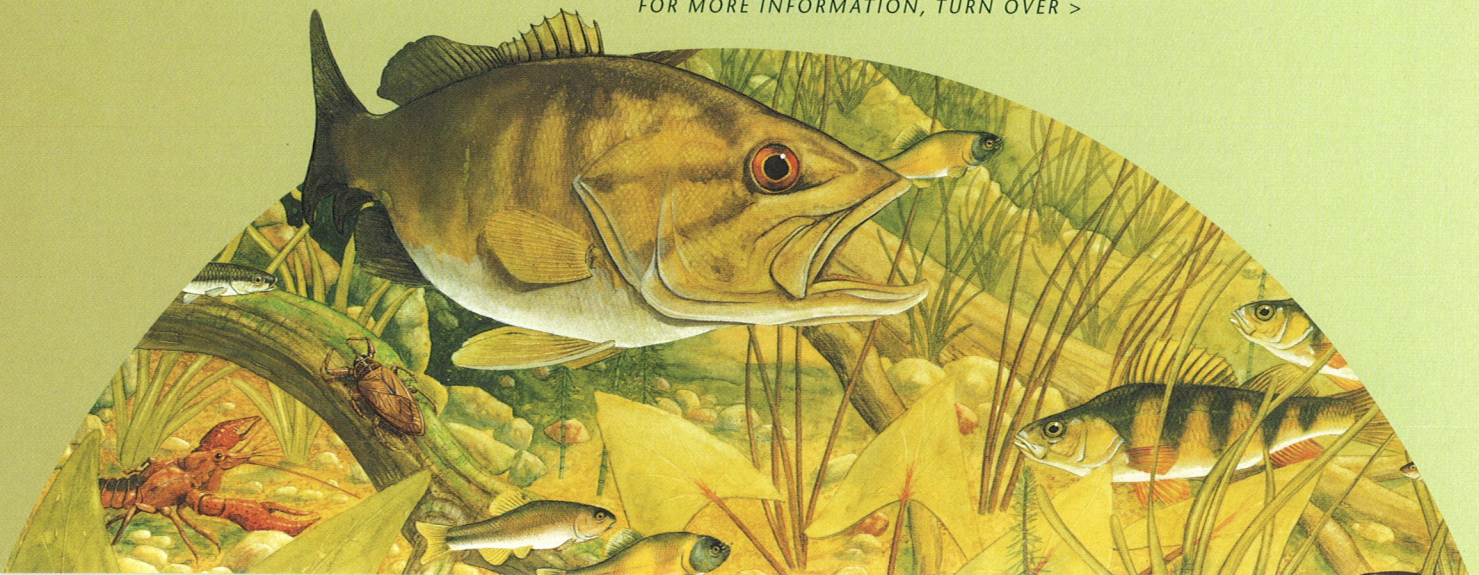
### REPLACE THAT CRUMBLING CONCRETE BREAKWALL

— A gently regraded slope withstands waves and looks a lot nicer

### SHARE YOUR WATERFRONT WISDOM WITH NEIGHBOURS

— Healthy-shore practices benefit everybody, from cottagers to fish

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TURN OVER >



## WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE HEALTHY SHORE?

**GETTING APPROVALS for a shore project:** Whether you're replacing a dock or restoring a shoreline, you want to be sure your project suits your waterfront's needs (and doesn't go against the *Fisheries Act*!). That means giving the authorities a plan of your grand scheme. Start with the Conservation Authority or Parks Canada; they'll tell you if you need a permit or more input from the Ministry of Natural Resources or Fisheries and Oceans Canada. (For more info on the approvals process, check out *The Shore Primer* or *The Dock Primer*, listed below.)

### HELPFUL CONTACTS

#### [www.fish-habitat.com](http://www.fish-habitat.com)

for quick access to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada, Conservation Ontario, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

#### Fisheries and Oceans Canada Ontario – Great Lakes Area

Fish Habitat Management Program  
867 Lakeshore Rd.  
Burlington ON L7R 4A6  
Tel: (905) 336-6424  
Fax: (905) 336-6285  
[www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/canwaters-eauxcan](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/canwaters-eauxcan)  
(You can find Fisheries and Oceans Canada publications on this website. Just click on the "Infocentre" link.)

#### Conservation Ontario

120 Bayview Pkwy., Box 11  
Newmarket ON L3Y 4W3  
Tel: (905) 895-0716  
Fax: (905) 895-0751  
Website: [www.conservation-ontario.on.ca](http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca)  
(You can find contact info for Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities on this website. Just click on the "Corporate Profile" link.)

#### The Living By Water Project

5524 Dickinson St., Box 599  
Manotick ON K4M 1A5  
Tel: (613) 692-3571, ext. 122  
Fax: (613) 692-2806  
Email: [shorelines@lrconline.com](mailto:shorelines@lrconline.com)  
Website: [www.livingbywater.ca](http://www.livingbywater.ca)

#### Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)

156 Duncan Mill Rd., Ste. 18  
Toronto ON M3B 3N2  
Tel: (416) 429-0444  
Fax: (416) 429-4944  
Email: [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca)  
Website: [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca)

#### Parks Canada – Ontario

111 Water St. E.  
Cornwall ON K6H 6S3  
Toll-free: 1-800-839-8221  
Fax: (613) 937-1331  
Email: [information@pc.gc.ca](mailto:information@pc.gc.ca)  
Website: [www.parks canada.gc.ca](http://www.parks canada.gc.ca)

#### Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Lands and Water Section

300 Water St., Box 7000  
Peterborough ON K9J 8M5  
Tel: (705) 755-2000  
Fax: (705) 755-1677  
Email: [mnr.nric@mnr.gov.on.ca](mailto:mnr.nric@mnr.gov.on.ca)  
Website: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca)  
(You can find a copy of the 2003 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources fishing regulations on this website. Just click on the "Fish and Wildlife" link.)

*On the Living Edge: Your Handbook for Waterfront Living*, by The Living By Water Project. Produced by Conservation Ontario and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Order from: The Living By Water Project (see "Helpful Contacts").

*Keeping Your Lake Great* (annual lake stewardship newsletter), by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations. Order from: FOCA (see "Helpful Contacts").

### SHORELINE LINGO

**BUFFER ZONE:** a replication of nature's riparian zone (see below) by conscientious cottagers, using native plant species. The wider the buffer, the better for your lake.

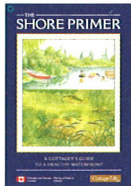
**LITTORAL ZONE:** the thriving strip of water closest to shore, where up to 90 per cent of lake species either lives or passes through.

**NATIVE PLANT SPECIES:** vegetation indigenous to your cottage area. Born of local soil and climate, they're hardier, managing without pesticides and fertilizers.

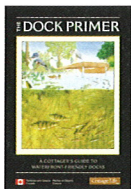
**PHOSPHORUS:** a "nutrient" occurring in nature, but also in human products, such as fecal matter and fertilizers. Too much phosphorus in runoff force-feeds algae and disrupts the aquatic balance.

**RIPARIAN ZONE:** the thriving strip of trees, shrubs, and plants at the water's edge. It acts as a "buffer," purifying runoff and securing soil, and provides shelter for shoreline wildlife.

### FURTHER READING



*The Shore Primer*, by Ray Ford.  
Produced by Cottage Life  
and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



*The Dock Primer*, by Max Burns.  
Produced by Cottage Life  
and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Order free copies of *The Shore Primer* and *The Dock Primer* from: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (see "Helpful Contacts"). Both primers are also posted on [www.cottagelife.com](http://www.cottagelife.com) and [www.fish-habitat.com](http://www.fish-habitat.com).



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(FOCA) Federation of Ontario  
Cottagers' Associations



Conservation  
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The Living By Water  
Project