

Deputation to Douro-Dummer Council
November 5, 2024

Protecting the Kawartha Lakes'
Health and Value

The Shoreline Conservation Initiative
A Committee of the
Environment Council for Clear, Stoney and White Lakes

Presenting today: Roz Moore , Lois Wallace

Importance and Benefits of Natural Shorelines

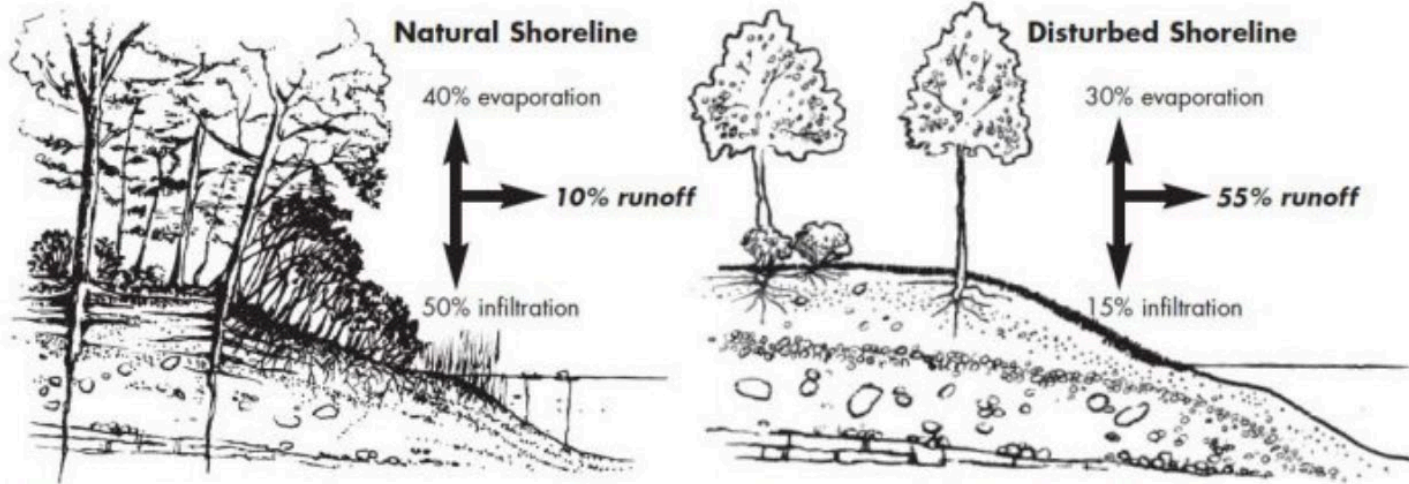
Shorelines and shorelands defined as first 30 meters back from water's edge
... “the riparian zone”

- protects surface and ground water quality
- slows growth of aquatic 'weeds' and algae
- protects fish and wildlife habitat
- protects against and reduces erosion and impacts of climate change- extreme weather events, drought, heavy rainstorms, damaging winds
- maintains long-term property values and municipal tax base
- strengthens the lake-based economy

Natural or Altered ?

- **Natural shorelines** include undisturbed vegetation- grasses, shrubs and trees, wetlands, marshes, water inlets and undisturbed soils in the 30 meter setback zone...protect water quality and stabilize soil to reduce runoff
- **Altered shorelines** include removal of natural features, stripping of soil, grading and filling, creation of stone walls, lawns, sand beaches, large docking and boat launch areas

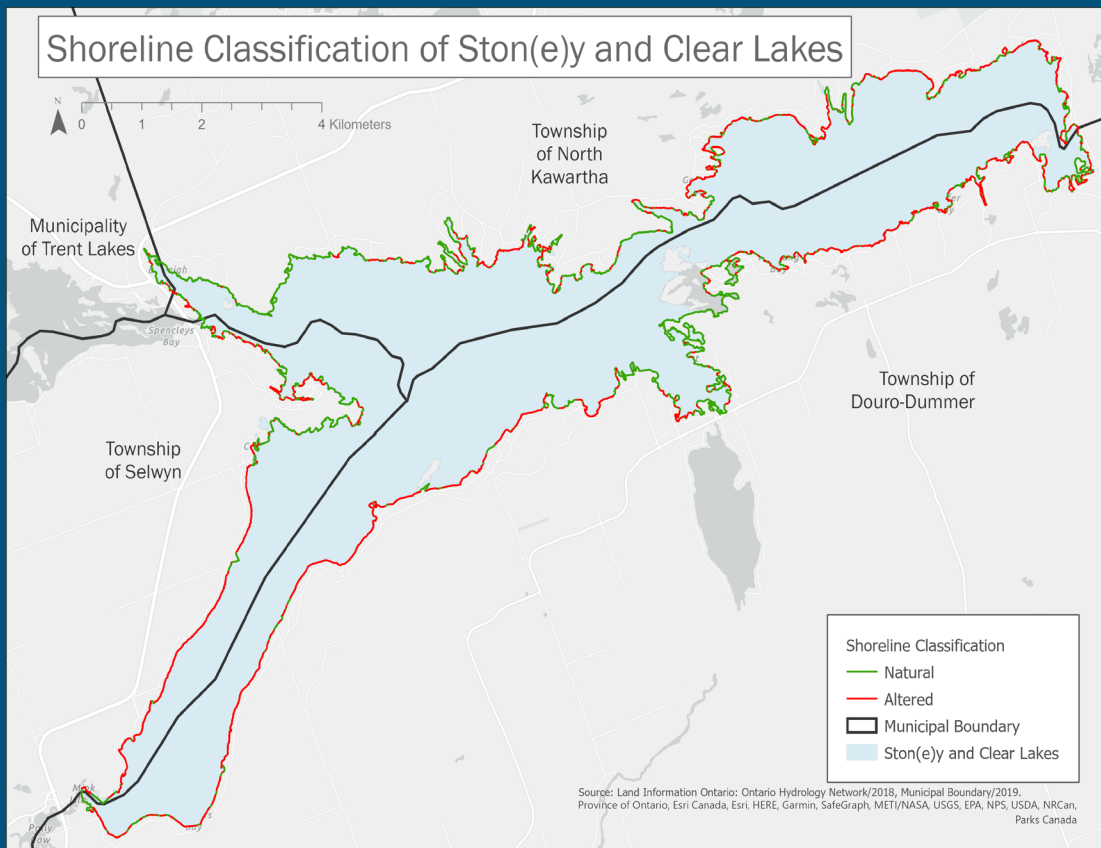
Natural Shorelands protect water quality, require no maintenance and are drought resistant



Native vegetation protects water quality from polluted runoff, and helps soil absorb water.

Hard surfaces and reduced vegetation increase runoff and erosion potential, and decrease absorption by the soil.

Assessment of shorelines - natural and altered



Project Goal:

Collection and mapping of satellite and ground-truthed data to identify natural and altered features on our lakes for preservation and restoration purposes

Mapping project partners:

Environment Council, Kawartha Land Trust, 3 Fleming College GIS students (credit for product)
2 summer students – (short-term employment), community support

Consultants:

MNRF GIS Specialists- Sylvia Strobl, Steve Voros,
Ptbo. County Director of GIS Dept.- Tammy Sikma

Some development.....

...destroys shorelands by
removing most, if not all
of natural vegetation zone



Growing Support for Shorelands Regulation

- **"*The Future of Our Shores*"** Ontario region survey found that **"More comprehensive coverage of shoreland protection in Official Plans and Zoning By-laws is required"**.
- This year 300+ families donated over 1.5 million to protect natural shoreline and forest on Stony Lake.... A clear sign that lake residents value natural lake shorelines
- **Cottage associations in Douro Dummer** support the need for shoreland protection and regulation:
 - Stony Lake (ASLC) - Upper Stoney (USLA)
 - Birchcliff (BPOA) - White Lake (WLCA)

Do We Have Strong Enough Tools for Lake Protection at Present?

1. A quick answer ... Not yet!
2. Existing policy, plans and by-laws are inadequate.
3. Education alone is insufficient.



What's Needed?

- 1 - Stronger shoreline protection of shoreline vegetation and landscape on individual waterfront properties where most damage occurs.
- 2 - Keep the 30 m. setback requirement in the County/township Official Plan and in your Comprehensive Zoning by-law
- 3 - Township by-law regulation and enforcement to protect trees, other natural vegetation and the natural landscape in 75% of shorelands (Environment Canada guidelines) within the riparian setback zones
- 4 - Maximize Township protection under new provincial policy:
Provincial Policy Statement 2024, Chapter 4 Section 2; *Wise use and Management of Resources* (natural heritage and water) and ,
Planning Act Sub Section 41(1.2), Ontario regulation 254/23 allow site plan control to be applied to all properties within 120 meter of watercourse

Current examples of Municipal Regulations

Haliburton : *Shoreline Preservation By-Law* , 2023

Muskoka Lakes: *Tree Preservation and Site Alteration by-laws*, 2008, updated 2022

Georgian Bay: *Tree Cutting and Site Alteration By-laws* 2014

Innisfil : *Community Planning Permit By-law*, 2017

Lake of Bays: *Development Permit By-law*, April 2024

Rideau Lakes: *Vegetated Shoreline Buffer Policy*, 2019

Call to Action

- **Shoreline damage is increasing ... Township protection is urgently required**
- **Immediate action:**
- Pass a motion today recognizing the need for new, stronger shoreline regulation, and asking staff to recommend to Council an effective regulatory approach for protecting all residential essential shorelines - (a Shoreline Preservation By-law)
- **Other supporting measures:**
- Revise your Site Plan Control By-law to apply to all waterfront properties
- Include protection of natural shorelines in the Action Plan to support your Strategic Plan
- Keep and strictly enforce the 30 m setback zone. For rebuilds, require that new structures be moved back from the water 30 m or as far as the lot will allow. Require naturalization of 75% of the new setback area

Conclusion

- Funding for additional planning and enforcement resources will be required
- Now is an opportune time to budget for the work of developing and implementing regulation
- Waterfront properties provide 1/3 of the Township's tax base
- More of this revenue is required to protect lake health including humans, fish, wildlife and natural vegetation
- Healthy lakes are one of the Township's most valuable economic assets