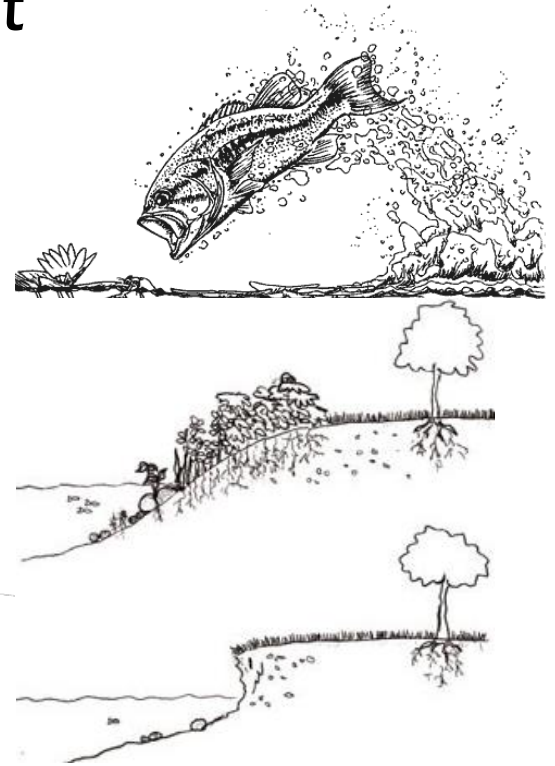
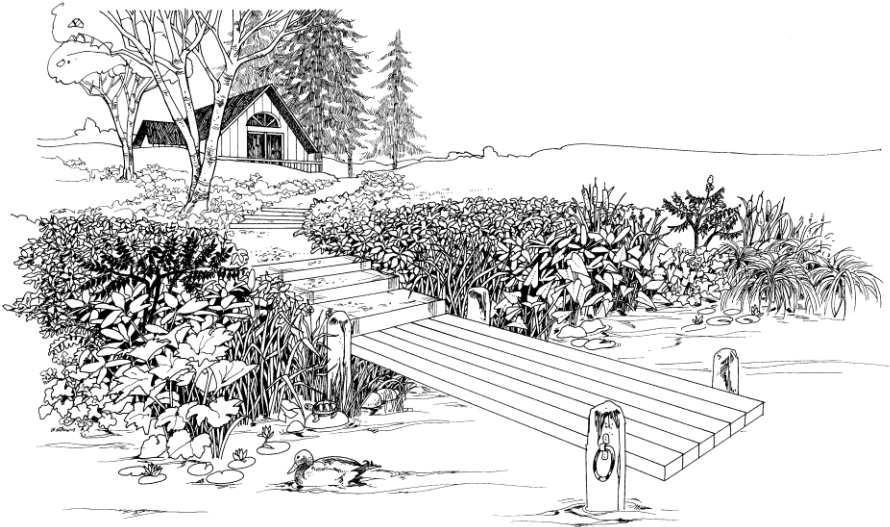


Stormwater Best Management Practices for Camp Owners in Northeastern Ontario



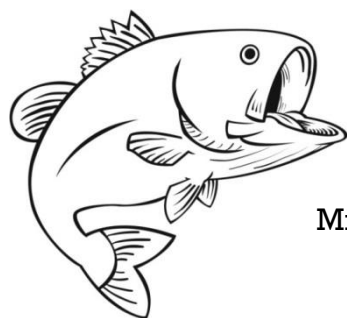
With a few simple strategies you can help preserve the very things that likely attracted you to lakefront living in the first place – clean water, abundant wildlife, good fishing and access to recreation!

Major threats to our lakes from development are increased erosion, input of nutrients from increased runoff, and impacts from spills or other human-made contaminants

What can you do? Prevention is key!

- Maintain a minimum no-development setback distance from the lake of 30m (including the setback to sewage systems); increase setbacks where known natural heritage features exist (eg. Fish spawning areas)
- Where natural vegetation exists at the shoreline, it should be maintained. Where it doesn't occur naturally or has been lost due to development, a vegetative buffer (riparian zone) of shrubs and ground cover can be planted along a shoreline bank. The natural shoreline buffer should extend as least 30m from the water's edge. This will provide site stability and valuable habitat for fish and other animals.
- Reduce lot grading and limit the creation of impervious surfaces (ie: roads, roofs, parking areas, patios, etc.) to reduce stormwater runoff and encourage natural infiltration
- Consider using infiltration practices to reduce surface runoff; examples include rain gardens, infiltration trenches instead of rain gutters, grassed swales and vegetated filter strips

- Design your landscape so that it slows stormwater and increases the time stormwater stays onsite. Slower moving water mimics runoff patterns of an undisturbed forest landscape
- Maintaining native vegetation as ground cover instead of a lawn is especially beneficial since it does not require the application of pesticides or phosphorus-rich fertilizers that can add to water quality problems
- Avoid the use of fertilizers that can be easily transported into nearby water bodies through runoff and can lead to algae blooms
- Do not bring in sand to create a beach; this will cause an unstable shoreline prone to erosion and runoff issues
- Utilize docks and swim platforms for access to the lake instead of clearing aquatic and shoreline vegetation
- Bathe on land, far away from the shore; adding suds directly to the water, even if the soaps are biodegradable, can kill off wildlife species and create algae blooms
- Consider joining MECP's Lake Partner Program to get more involved in monitoring the health of your lake (<http://desc.ca/programs/lpp>)



For more information on ways
you can help keep your lake
healthy contact your local MECP
office or check out some of
the useful resources below.

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Northern Region, Technical Support Section
Surface Water Unit
705-564-3237



Resources:

- The Shore Primer (Fish Habitat Management Division, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2011)

Other Resources available on MECP's website:

(<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-environment-conservation-parks>)

- Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual (2003)
- Lakeshore Capacity Assessment Handbook (2010)