

# Protect your Lake

## Preserve your Shoreline

The Municipality of Dysart et al, located in the heart of the Haliburton Highlands, is blessed with stunning freshwater lakes that are not only a source of natural beauty, but also vital ecosystems supporting diverse flora and fauna. As responsible stewards of this precious resource, it is crucial we all work together to protect and preserve the health of our lakes.

### Why Preserve Shorelines?

Shorelines serve as a vital interface between land and water, playing a crucial role in maintaining the overall health of freshwater ecosystems. Preserving shorelines is of utmost importance:

- 1. Water Quality:** Shorelines act as natural buffers, filtering pollutants and sediment from entering the lake, thereby maintaining water quality.
- 2. Erosion Control:** Vegetated shorelines with native plants stabilize the soil, preventing erosion and minimizing sedimentation in the lake, which can harm aquatic life.
- 3. Habitat Preservation:** Shorelines provide habitats for numerous species, including fish, birds, and amphibians. Protecting them ensures the preservation of biodiversity.
- 4. Natural Aesthetics:** A well-preserved shoreline enhances the visual appeal of the lake, benefiting residents, visitors, and local tourism.

### Recommendations to Protect Your Shoreline and Lake

- **Maintain a Natural Buffer Zone:** Preserve a strip of native vegetation along the shoreline to act as a buffer, filtering pollutants and reducing erosion. Avoid clearing vegetation within 30 meters of the water's edge.
- **Avoid Chemical Use:** Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers near the shoreline. These chemicals can negatively impact water quality and harm aquatic life.
- **Use Native Plants:** Choose native plants when landscaping near the shoreline. They provide essential habitat and require less maintenance, reducing the need for watering and fertilization.
- **Control Erosion:** Implement erosion control measures, such as using erosion-control blankets, terracing, or bioengineering techniques, to stabilize the soil along the shoreline.
- **Manage Stormwater Runoff:** Direct downspouts away from the shoreline and install rain barrels or rain gardens to capture and absorb stormwater runoff, preventing it from carrying pollutants into the lake.
- **Proper Septic System Maintenance:** Regularly inspect and maintain your septic system to prevent leaks or overflows that can contaminate the lake. Pump out the septic tank as recommended by professionals.
- **Responsible Boating Practices:** Adhere to boating regulations, including maintaining a safe distance from the shoreline to prevent propeller damage to aquatic vegetation and wildlife habitats.
- **Sustainable Fishing:** Follow local fishing regulations, practice catch-and-release, and avoid overfishing. Responsible angling ensures the long-term health of fish populations.
- **Dispose of Waste Properly:** Participate in waste diversion programs such as recycling for containers and papers, and drop-off household chemicals including paint and motor oil at annual Household Hazardous Waste Days. [dysartet.al.ca/hhw](http://dysartet.al.ca/hhw)
- **Educate and Engage:** Stay informed about local initiatives and participate in community efforts aimed at preserving shorelines and lakes.



Municipality of  
**Dysart et al**

[www.dysartet.al.ca](http://www.dysartet.al.ca)

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