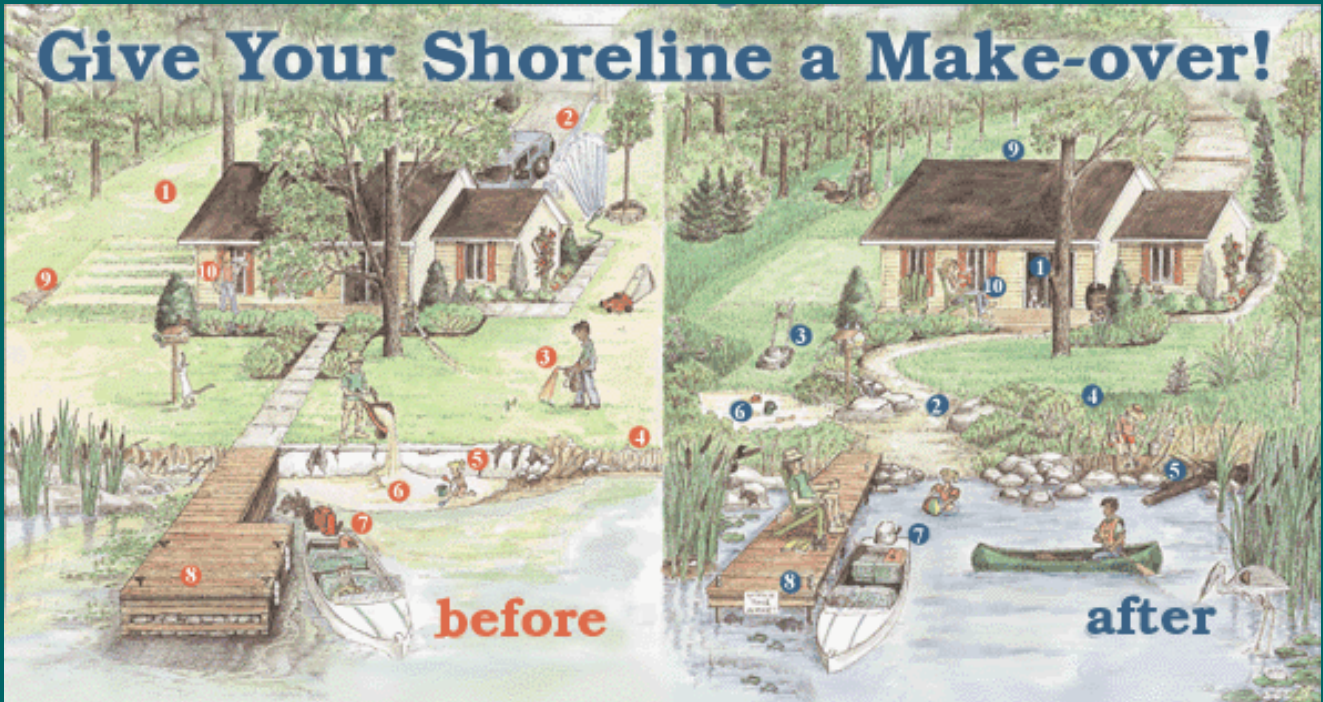


The Living by the Water Project

Working towards healthier human and wildlife habitat along the shorelines of Canada



before	after
<p>1. Cleared, manicured lot - lacks shade and privacy; loss of native plants leads to more erosion, runoff...and work for you!</p>	<p>1. Prune trees rather than removing them; plant low maintenance native trees and shrubs to reduce erosion and absorb runoff.</p>
<p>2. Runoff - flows over solid surfaces accelerating erosion; pollutants and excess silt degrade habitat for aquatic life.</p>	<p>2. Replace solid surfaces with porous materials where possible; redirect runoff into settling areas, away from the water's edge.</p>
<p>3. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides - degrade water quality, are hazardous to your health, can be deadly for fish and other wildlife.</p>	<p>3. "Mow it high and let it lie" - leave grass 3" high to retain moisture, mulch clippings for fertilizer.</p>
<p>4. Lawn to the water's edge - lacks deep roots required to stabilize bank.</p>	<p>4. Start a buffer - leave some grass uncut along the water's edge; restore with deep rooting native plants.</p>
<p>5. Hardened shoreline - can deflect erosion downstream, eliminates "natural filtering" of pollutants and sediment, degrades habitat.</p>	<p>5. "Soften" your shoreline - improve erosion protection with native trees, shrubs, grasses and aquatic plants.</p>
<p>6. Artificial beach - requires ongoing sand replacement, reduces water quality, degrades aquatic habitat.</p>	<p>6. Create a "dry land" beach above the high water mark; let imported sand erode away naturally and native plants grow back.</p>
<p>7. Old 2-stroke engine - dumps 25-40% of fuel, un-combusted into water and air.</p>	<p>7. Use a well maintained electric motor, or a 4 or 2-stroke engine that meets or exceeds EPA 2006 guidelines.</p>

<p>8. Solid crib dock - destroys aquatic habitat, alters currents, can deflect erosion downstream.</p>	<p>8. Remove solid dock - try a pipe, cantilever or floating dock, avoid treated wood; use public access where possible.</p>
<p>9. Malfunctioning septic system - allows phosphorous and bacteria to leach into adjacent waterways.</p>	<p>9. Replace and properly maintain your septic system - consult an expert.</p>
<p>10. Harmful household chemicals and cleaners - damage septic system and degrade water quality.</p>	<p>10. Use environment-friendly products, or alternatives like baking soda and vinegar.</p>



The Living By Water Project
 C/O [Nature Canada](http://naturecanada.ca)
 Email: info@naturecanada.ca
 Phone: 613-562-3447

The information contained in this website has been adapted from
On the Living Edge: Your Handbook for Waterfront Living.
 Sarah Kipp, lead author & Clive Callaway, co-author