



Shoreline Resources

Amending Your Shoreline Slope

If you have a shoreline that has been hardened or otherwise has a slope to the waterline that you would like to amend in order to improve its functioning as the “Ribbon of Life”, there are many resources available to assist.

If you, or a previous owner, has altered the natural shoreline, and the conditions permit, you might want to consider strategies to “unharden” or “soften” the shoreline, including altering the slope to make it more friendly to the aquatic life that depends on the shoreline for habitat.

Erosion is a natural process that can be accelerated by both human and natural causes. Solutions to erosion issues will vary, depending on the extent and severity of the erosion, the characteristics of your shoreline (i.e. degree of slope, existing soil and vegetation conditions), and the resources you have available (both human and otherwise). The challenge with a shoreline property is to work with nature to retain as much as possible of the natural shoreline COMPOSITION, STRUCTURE and FUNCTIONS/PROCESSES.

Landowners are encouraged to take the time to OBSERVE what is going on their shorelines and to develop shoreline plans that encompass natural processes to achieve their goals.

It is also important to check out any government permit requirements before any shoreline work is started. See www.cohpoa.org and look for Permits for Shoreline Work for details:

References and Further Reading

- **Shoreline Vegetative Barriers, Muskoka Watershed Council, January 2013:**

<http://www.muskokawatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/ShorelineVegetativeBuffers-Jan2013.pdf>

- **Solutions for Shoreline Erosion: A Basic Guide to Bioengineering, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, April 2011**

[https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rvca.ca%2FPDF%2FSolutionsforShorelineErosion PDF EN1.pdf](https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rvca.ca%2FPDF%2FSolutionsforShorelineErosion%20PDF%20EN1.pdf)

- **Along the Shore: A Landowner’s Guide to Healthy Shoreline Management for Lake Simcoe, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), p. 12**

http://www.ourlakesimcoe.com/pdf/shoreline_publication.pdf

- **A Shoreline Owners’ Guide to Lakeland Living, Lakeland Alliance:**

[http://www.city.kawarthalakes.on.ca/property-development-by-law/land-management/Lakeland Living Guide.pdf](http://www.city.kawarthalakes.on.ca/property-development-by-law/land-management/Lakeland_Living_Guide.pdf)