

**LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP\***

**AGENDA**

**THURSDAY, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**7:30 – 8:30 PM**

\*Educational resources posted by this committee are available on the Township of McKellar Website here:

<https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf>

**Here is the Zoom Link for the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Topic: Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee of McKellar Township

Time: October 12, 2023

**Join Zoom Meeting**

Jennifer Ghent-Fuller is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Availability of in-person attendance is pending.

Topic: Lake Stewardship and Education Committee

Time: Oct 12, 2023 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87539754179?pwd=TzdZVzV4eEFxS0xWdjJUMDJHenhZZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 3975 4179

Passcode: 103577

One tap mobile

+16475580588,,87539754179# Canada

+16473744685,,87539754179# Canada

Dial by your location

• +1 647 558 0588 Canada

• +1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 875 3975 4179

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87539754179>

Item	Time	<b>Please note: These are ongoing agenda items. Only items marked with an * will be discussed at the next meeting.</b>
1. *		Land Acknowledgement: In the spirit of reconciliation and co-operation, we wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Mississauga people. Its boundaries fall within the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and the Williams Treaty of 1923. We are grateful to live here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years. To honour the suffering of Indigenous people and the love and wisdom they have carried for thousands of years, we pledge to work in community and harmony with each other and the environment we inhabit and work towards Truth and Reconciliation.

2. *	<p><b>Roll Call*:</b> Tony Best (); Ross Crockford (); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (); Melanie Jeffrey (); Al Last (); Axy Leighl (); Carl Mitchell (on LOA); Suzanne Poff (); Nick Ryeland ().</p> <p>We need 5 committee members to have a quorum ()</p> <p>Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are welcoming a new member, Ross Crockford, this evening. His application to join our committee was approved at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Council. We also have two new candidates for the committee whose applications are scheduled at the October 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, Peter Duffey and Rick Speers. Welcome to all!</li> </ul>
3. *	<p>Motion to accept the minutes of July 6th, 2023. (attached). Note: the August meeting was cancelled and the September meeting had no quorum.</p> <p>Moved:            Seconded:            Approved: ( )</p> <p>Amendments:</p>
4. Goals	<p><b>General Updates on Current Issues.</b></p>
4.1 *	<p><b>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection –</b></p> <p><b>October 5, 2023</b> – Jennifer sent committee members a draft policy in the past few days for review (Sixth revision attached) and additional material to be used to evaluate it.</p> <p><b>We will be seeking a motion to approve this proposed policy and forward it to Council as an amendment/replacement for the current Tree Canopy Policy 2019-12 (attached).</b></p> <p><b><i>Please review this draft Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy and bring forward your suggested amendments, note any errors, and suggest any improvements or additions.</i></b></p> <p>References used to write the amended policy include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Shorelines and their Role in the Protection of Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat: State of the Science Report. Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Limited, Aug 18, 2021.</li> <li>The Science Behind Vegetated Shoreland Buffers: Why the Ribbon of Life Matters, Watersheds Canada, 2022.</li> <li>Shoreline Buffers and Water Quality, South Carolina Native Plant Society, 2020.</li> <li>Lakeshore Capacity Assessment Handbook: Protecting Water Quality in Inland Lakes, Ontario Government, retrieved October 10, 2022.</li> <li>A Shoreline Owner’s Guide to Healthy Waterfronts, Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association, 2019.</li> <li>Planning for our Shorelands, Watersheds Canada, 2022.</li> <li>Lake Protection Workbook: A Self-Assessment Tool for Shoreline Property Owners, Lake Links (Watersheds Canada) 2022.</li> <li>A Regulatory Guide to Achieving Environmental Net Gain at the Waterfront, Watersheds Canada, 2022.</li> </ol> <p>July 6, 2023 – Axy will send out a draft policy by July 17<sup>th</sup>. We will review it at our next meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> and decide whether it is ready to share with Council at that time. Council members have expressed interest.</p>

	<p>April 13, 2023 - Axy &amp; Jennifer have been working on expanding the Tree Canopy Policy to include Shorelands. The first draft of this proposed policy as well as some references are attached. We need to decide how to proceed with the fine tuning and public education/familiarization with this new policy.</p> <p>Discussion included a need to use more plain language.</p> <p>The question was raised about the cost to the township of implementing this. There may be some initial publicity costs, but there is no need for enforcement expenditures as it is a by-law to establish a policy of best practices for maintaining tree canopy and natural vegetation and will serve as a guide for residents.</p> <p>The Haliburton by-law has a question and answer section. Something similar might be helpful.</p>
4.2*	<p><b>Water Sampling</b></p> <p><b>October 5, 2023</b> Three rounds of sampling for E. coli and for Phosphorus and Calcium have been completed for the season. Profile data was also collected for 16 sites three times this summer. Data will be sent to the Township for posting. Sampling and profile data were collected for Manitouwabing, Armstrong, Grey Owl, Mary Jane, McKellar and Moffat Lakes.</p> <p><b>July 6</b> – MLCA samplers have completed the June 2023 sampling for E. coli and results are posted with MLCA and the Township.</p> <p>The six largest lakes in McKellar Township were also sampled for phosphorus and calcium. For five of those lakes this was the first time. The sites of the 2021 Lake Capacity study were used, and a comparison sample collected at the five Lake Partner Program sites on Lake Manitouwabing. Posting of these results is pending.</p>
4.3	<p><b>Septic Education –</b></p> <p>July 6 – A flyer entitled “Help Your Septic System and Our Lakes” has been printed and delivered to the Township Office. The invoice has been submitted and paid to Aquagraphics. It was included in the tax mailing at the end of July.</p> <p>A question was raised about septic inspection by a member of the public. Jennifer has made a preliminary call to the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Association and will follow up, as will Nick.</p> <p>A call was received in June from a McKellar Township resident who will be remaining anonymous. There was a release of raw sewage into Lake Manitouwabing from a burst septic tank on April 15 that was visible on the melting ice. The North Bay Mattawa Conservation Association (NBMCA) was contacted, but by the time they were called, the ice had melted and the sewage was gone so they were not able to take any further action. E coli tests were completed in the area in June. The site level was slightly elevated and was over the provincial standard of 200 CFU/100 ml downstream. There is no mandated septic inspection in McKellar Township. This committee investigated the possibility a few years ago, but the cost of acquiring each septic registration in the township from NBMCA, the cost of paying the salary of a septic inspector (even one shared by other area municipalities) and the process to set the system up was agreed to be beyond the capacity of the Township at that time. Discussion included the diesel spill in the spring at which the health department, the Ministry of the Environment and the police attended, and this was contrasted to the government response to the sewage spill. We also discussed the possibility of asking the Township if one of its employees could go out to witness a future sewage spill and report it on behalf of the Township as quickly as possible.</p>

	<p>Perhaps a hotline could be set up and/or the By-Law officer could be involved. Currently, individual residents are relied upon to do the reporting; they are assured of anonymity by the NBMCA, but that does not extend to a possible court case. Individuals may suffer from personal harassment for reporting a neighbour and this is not acceptable. The committee also discussed a need to devise/discover a reporting mechanism for 24/7 reporting and advertise this to residents.</p> <p>The main concern is that a majority of township residents draw household water from the lake and treat it with various methods before drinking it. Discussion was also had on the need to advertise free tap water testing by the health unit and the water testing, likely at a cost, by Water Depot in Parry Sound. <b>Nick</b> will investigate the service available from Water Depot. We have a video on water testing available online.</p> <p>June 8<sup>th</sup>:  Resolution 2023 #4  Motion: that we rescind Resolution 2023 #1 of March 9 2023, as follows:</p> <p>*Resolution 2023 #1 - The LSEC will print 100 copies of the Septic Smart booklet distributed last year and make them available at the Township office and the Library for new residents  Moved: Axy Seconded: Al Approved yes</p> <p>Motion to rescind: Moved: Sue Seconded: Tony Approved (Yes)</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #5  Resolved that we approve the flyer entitled Wise Septic Use (4<sup>th</sup> draft attached), have 2000 copies printed at an approximate cost of \$1,500 and request that Council authorize* its distribution with the next tax mailing.  Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue Approved: (Yes) With changes: none  *Council authorized this distribution with the next tax mailing.</p>
4.4	<p><b>Presentations</b> - YouTube videos from this committee are posted here:  <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf</a> along with other videos</p> <p>Our <b>postings</b> (listings and a table of contents) are uploaded on the township web page under "Residents/Environment." Jennifer has been gradually updating the page with Mary Smith's help.  <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</a></p> <p><b>July 6</b> - The request was made to put this link at the top of our agenda/minutes and to generally advertise it.</p>
4.5	<p><b>Microplastics/Microfibres/ Washing Machine Filters</b> – video on our YouTube channel posted</p>
4.6	<p><b>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes –</b></p> <p>October 5, 2023 – Melanie will let us know when she is ready to do a presentation on recycling.</p> <p>July 6 - The "Clean Up Our Lakes" sign is badly damaged.</p> <p><b>Recycling</b> was raised as an issue. There should be clear guidelines as to what plastics are successfully recycled and whether to remove labels etc in order to maximize the success of plastic recycling in our area. Melanie is an expert in this issue and offered to give a presentation at a future meeting. Request was made to record this session to be included in our resources.</p>

		<p>The Clean Up our Lakes campaign is scheduled annually for the end of April to end of May – suggestion was made to include roads and add it to the slogan – “Clean up our Lakes, Rivers and Roads” for publicity this spring.</p> <p>June 8 2023 - Moved that We hold the Clean Up Our Lakes campaign in 2024 without ordering bins.  Moved: Tony    Seconded: Sue    approved</p>
4.7		<p><b>Fishing / Wildlife –</b>  <b>Sept 14</b> – Lumber and some T bars have been given to this group by committee members in addition to their independent receipt of township funds.  <b>July 6</b> –  AI requested help with <b>bird boxes for raptors</b> that are on the decline. Sue and AI will work together on this. Steve Bradley has built a bird nesting boxes for raptors in response to a request from Tianna Burke.</p> <p>Additionally, it would be a good idea to build <b>turtle nesting protection boxes</b>.  AI will draw up a list of materials needed, and we will all draw on the stores in our garages to fulfill the needs. Tony will work with AI on this.</p> <p><b>Loon counts.</b> MLCA carried out a loon count over the July long weekend. Responses came in with loon sightings in various areas of the lake. Jennifer will be working with one of the respondents to summarize the input for this and for the next two long weekends. The plan is to submit information to Birds Canada and eBird.</p> <p><b>Canada Geese</b> – Minerva Park has become difficult to use because of the amount of goose guano on the ground. We will make the suggestion to the Township to leave a fringe of unmowed lawn about 2 – 3 feet wide on the land at the water’s edge to take advantage of the reluctance of geese to enter an area with long grass that they cannot see through.</p>
4.8		<p><b>Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake</b> - are up at Armstrong Lake beach.  <b>June 1 2023</b> – sign is well back from the portable outhouse and visible.</p>
4.9		<p><b>Catch and Release Signs</b> are up at township launch sites. Copies of the Catch and Release sign are on the back of the Safe Boating flyer and were printed for distribution by the Township with the tax mailing to all households at the end of February 2023.</p>
4.10 *		<p><b>Benthic Study –</b>  <b>Sept 14<sup>th</sup></b> – The property at 85 Cole Point Trail, which has been used as a sampling site for the benthic studies for the past 4 years has been sold. Jennifer has spoken with Katrina at GBB and will write to the Clerk to inquire about the new owner to inquire whether they will allow GBB to continue to use that property as a sampling site. 2023 sampling has been completed and the report will be issued by GBB shortly.  May 11<sup>th</sup> – funding is included in the 2023 budget  March 9, 2023 Jennifer distributed an evaluation of the value of the 2022 Benthic report along with a suggestion that LSEC recommend to Council that this research be continued. Proviso: that the data from the Lake Manitouwabing studies be posted on an existing publicly available website at no extra charge to the township or the MLCA. We passed a resolution supporting the continuation of Benthic sampling by the GBB.</p>

4.11	<p><b>Pesticides/Fertilizers –</b>  July 6<sup>th</sup> – an example of a brochure that would include pesticides Turtle nesting protection boxes. Built for people to use and store. Committee members liked the idea of promoting the planting of rain gardens and filter strips mentioned in the brochure below = to decrease the amount of nutrients seeping into the lake. <a href="https://www.skaneateleslake.org/CCE_Lawn_Care_for_Water_Quality_Brochure_2020.pdf">CCE Lawn Care for Water Quality Brochure 2020.pdf (skaneateleslake.org)</a></p> <p>Pesticides – we will fold a discussion of pesticide use on lawns into the work/education on waterfront vegetation. Melanie and Jennifer.</p>
4.12 *	<p><b>Invasive Species –</b>  <b>Sept 14<sup>th</sup></b> – Sampling was completed in August for detecting the presence of two invasive plants: European water chestnut and water soldier by eDNA, through the auspices of FOCA.</p> <p>July 6<sup>th</sup> - Al Last, assisted by Jeremy Sintzel, has been putting up the new Invasive Species signs from FOCA at the boat launches.</p> <p>June 8<sup>th</sup> – Council approved replacing the old Protect our Lakes from Invasive species signs and replacing them with the new signs from FOCA. We also need to map and list where the signs are placed in the township. Need someone to place signs again.</p>

4.13	<p><b>Dark Skies –</b>  From Oct 13/ minutes on planning:  Sue and Jennifer will continue the work on Dark Skies.</p>
4.14	<p><b>Water Levels –</b> A paper detailing previous work on water levels is posted on our section of the web page.</p>
4.15 *	<p><b>Pollinator Patches / Gardens–</b>  <b>Oct 5<sup>th</sup></b> – Tony watched the geese to identify how they access Minerva Park and Jennifer has written to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to request permission to plant low shrubs in those areas. Sue and Jennifer met with Greg Gostick to discuss locations for the plants and the buried power cables. Planting took place Sept 28<sup>th</sup> at 0900. We had nine plants and will need to complete planting in the approved areas with more plants in the spring. Thanks to <b>Anna Michieli</b> for volunteering to help plant and weed!</p> <p>July 6<sup>th</sup> – The Pollinator Patch Garden at the Community Center has been reconditioned; GBB personnel were invited to come. They are now taking over the care and tending of this garden again. Sue received a request to do some clean up at the Minerva Park Garden. We wrote to the Township Clerk to say we would do this. We have funds to fill out the plants. We will book a day in September and advertise for volunteers to work on this garden in addition to removing some deadwood now. We need to be certain that no other organization has this responsibility.</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #6  Moved that we use the funds intended for the Butterfly Garden to make purchases to clean up and augment plants at the Minerva Park Garden. Sue and Jennifer wrote to the Clerk that we agreed to do it – all others welcome and we may post a notice to bring in Volunteers.  Moved: Al            Seconded: Sue            Approved: Yes</p>

		<b>ICECAP</b> – This item removed. Council will communicate directly with GBB about this.												
4.16		<b>EV Chargers</b> –												
4.17		<b>Organic Waste Planning</b> investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future May 11 <sup>th</sup> Another company is coming to Council with a proposal on Food Cyclers (attached). There is also a brand called LOMI which is very similar. Food Cycler will sell reuseable filters to purchasers whose community participates.												
4.18		From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning: <b>Sept 14<sup>th</sup></b> – There are new guidelines for communities <b>without</b> Drinking Water Source Protection under the Clean Water Act. Jennifer has been collecting links and information (attached in September mailings) for a future discussion on this topic. Mandatory septic inspection is included in the Drinking Water Source Protection Zones established under Ontario’s Clean Water Act. <b>McKellar Township is not included in this program.</b>  Oct. 13/2022 Jennifer will start to research the background on <b>Drinking Water Source Protection</b> with a view to eventually having McKellar Township included in such a program. This will likely be a multi-year project as it involves working with other townships and communities in the local watersheds and finding a Conservation Association willing to manage the program.												
5.		<b>Budget</b> – Our suggestions LSEC Our revised budget for 2023 was accepted by Council in April.												
6.		<b>Next meeting date and time is Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm on zoom. This meeting will not be available in the Community Centre.</b>  LSEC meetings will continue at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month in <b>2023</b> : <table border="0"> <tr> <td><del>January 12<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td><del>July 13<sup>th</sup></del> Meeting changed to July 6<sup>th</sup>.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>February 9<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td><del>August 10<sup>th</sup></del>-meeting was cancelled</td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>March 9<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td><del>September 14<sup>th</sup></del>-quorum was not achieved</td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>April 13<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td>October 12<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>May 11<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td>November 9<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>June 8<sup>th</sup></del></td> <td>December 14<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> </table> Next meeting November 9th 7:30 pm.	<del>January 12<sup>th</sup></del>	<del>July 13<sup>th</sup></del> Meeting changed to July 6 <sup>th</sup> .	<del>February 9<sup>th</sup></del>	<del>August 10<sup>th</sup></del> -meeting was cancelled	<del>March 9<sup>th</sup></del>	<del>September 14<sup>th</sup></del> -quorum was not achieved	<del>April 13<sup>th</sup></del>	October 12 <sup>th</sup>	<del>May 11<sup>th</sup></del>	November 9 <sup>th</sup>	<del>June 8<sup>th</sup></del>	December 14 <sup>th</sup>
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7.		Motion to adjourn. Moved:      Seconded:      Approved: Time:      PM												

**LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP\* †**

**Draft Minutes**

**THURSDAY, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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<https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf>

† There are openings for additional members of this committee. Please email lsec.mckellar@gmail.com for assistance with the application process.

Item	Time	
1.	7:35 PM	In the spirit of reconciliation and co-operation, we wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Mississauga people. Its boundaries fall within the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and the Williams Treaty of 1923. We are grateful to live here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years. To honour the suffering of Indigenous people and the love and wisdom they have carried for thousands of years, we pledge to work in community and harmony with each other and the environment we inhabit and work towards Truth and Reconciliation.
2.		<b>Roll Call:</b> Tony Best (X); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (X); Melanie Jeffrey (X); Al Last (X); Axy Leighl (X); Carl Mitchell (on LOA); Suzanne Poff (X); Nick Ryeland (X); Lynda Taylor (Absent). We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (Yes)  Declarations of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof? None.
3.		Motion to accept the minutes of June 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2023. (attached). Moved: Sue           Seconded: Nick           Approved: ( Yes )  Amendments: None
4. Goals		<b>General Updates on Current Issues.</b>
4.1		<b>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection –</b>  <b>July 6, 2023</b> – Axy will send out a draft policy by July 17 <sup>th</sup> . We will review it at our next meeting on August 10 <sup>th</sup> and decide whether it is ready to share with Council at that time. Council members have expressed interest.  April 13, 2023 - Axy & Jennifer have been working on expanding the Tree Canopy Policy to include Shorelands. The first draft of this proposed policy as well as some references are attached. We need to decide how to proceed with the fine tuning and public education/familiarization with this new policy. Discussion included a need to use more plain language. The question was raised about the cost to the township of implementing this. There may be some initial publicity costs, but there is no need for enforcement expenditures as it is a by-law to establish a policy of best practices for maintaining tree canopy and natural vegetation and will serve as a guide for residents. The Haliburton by-law has a question and answer section. Something similar might be helpful.



4.2	<p><b>Water Sampling</b>  <b>July 6</b> – MLCA samplers have completed the June 2023 sampling for E. coli and results are posted with MLCA and will be shortly with the Township.</p> <p>The six largest lakes in McKellar Township were also sampled for phosphorus and calcium. For five of those lakes this was the first time. The sites of the 2021 Lake Capacity study were used, and a comparison sample collected at the five Lake Partner Program sites on Lake Manitouwabing. Posting of these results is pending.</p>
4.3	<p><b>Septic Education –</b>  <b>July 6</b> – A flyer entitled “Help Your Septic System and Our Lakes” has been printed and delivered to the Township Office. The invoice has been submitted and paid to Aquagraphics. It will be included in the tax mailing at the end of July.</p> <p>A question was raised about septic inspection by a member of the public. Jennifer has made a preliminary call to the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Association and will follow up, as will Nick.</p> <p>A call was received in June from a McKellar Township resident who will be remaining anonymous. There was a release of raw sewage into Lake Manitouwabing from a burst septic tank on April 15 that was visible on the melting ice. The North Bay Mattawa Conservation Association (NBMCA) was contacted, but by the time they were called, the ice had melted and the sewage was gone so they were not able to take any further action. E coli tests were completed in the area in June. The site level was slightly elevated and was over the provincial standard of 200 CFU/100 ml downstream. There is no mandated septic inspection in McKellar Township. This committee investigated the possibility a few years ago, but the cost of acquiring each septic registration in the township from NBMCA, the cost of paying the salary of a septic inspector (even one shared by other area municipalities) and the process to set the system up was agreed to be beyond the capacity of the Township at that time. Discussion included the diesel spill in the spring at which the health department, the Ministry of the Environment and the police attended, and this was contrasted to the government response to the sewage spill. We also discussed the possibility of asking the Township if one of its employees could go out to witness a future sewage spill and report it on behalf of the Township as quickly as possible. Perhaps a hotline could be set up and/or the By-Law officer could be involved. Currently, individual residents are relied upon to do the reporting; they are assured of anonymity by the NBMCA, but that does not extend to a possible court case. Individuals may suffer from personal harassment for reporting a neighbour and this is not acceptable. The committee also discussed a need to devise/discover a reporting mechanism for 24/7 reporting and advertise this to residents.</p> <p>The main concern is that a majority of township residents draw household water from the lake and treat it with various methods before drinking it. Discussion was also had on the need to advertise free tap water testing by the health unit and the water testing, likely at a cost, by Water Depot in Parry Sound. <b>Nick</b> will investigate the service available from Water Depot. We have a video on water testing available online.</p> <p>June 8<sup>th</sup>:  Resolution 2023 #4  Motion: that we rescind Resolution 2023 #1 of March 9 2023, as follows:</p> <p>*Resolution 2023 #1 - The LSEC will print 100 copies of the Septic Smart booklet distributed last year and make them available at the Township office and the Library for new residents</p>

	<p>Moved: Axy Seconded: Al Approved yes</p> <p>Motion to rescind: Moved: Sue Seconded: Tony Approved (Yes)</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #5 Resolved that we approve the flyer entitled Wise Septic Use (4<sup>th</sup> draft attached), have 2000 copies printed at an approximate cost of \$1,500 and request that Council authorize* its distribution with the next tax mailing. Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue Approved: (Yes) With changes: none *Council authorized this distribution with the next tax mailing.</p>
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4.6	<p><b>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes –</b></p> <p><b>July 6</b> - The “Clean Up Our Lakes” sign is badly damaged.</p> <p><b>Recycling</b> was raised as an issue. There should be clear guidelines as to what plastics are successfully recycled and whether to remove labels etc in order to maximize the success of plastic recycling in our area. Melanie is an expert in this issue and offered to give a presentation at our next meeting. Request was made to record this session to be included in our resources.</p> <p>The Clean Up our Lakes campaign is scheduled annually for the end of April to end of May – suggestion was made to include roads and add it to the slogan – “Clean up our Lakes, Rivers and Roads” for publicity this spring.</p> <p>June 8 2023 - Moved that We hold the Clean Up Our Lakes campaign in 2024 without ordering bins. Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue approved</p>
4.7	<p><b>Fishing / Wildlife –</b> <b>July 6 –</b></p> <p>Al requested help with <b>bird boxes for raptors</b> that are on the decline. Sue and Al will work together on this. Steve Bradley has built a bird nesting boxes for raptors in response to a request from Tianna Burke.</p> <p>Additionally, it would be a good idea to build <b>turtle nesting protection boxes</b>. Al will draw up a list of materials needed, and we will all draw on the stores in our garages to fulfill the needs. Tony will work with Al on this.</p>

		<p><b>Loon counts.</b> MLCA carried out a loon count over the July long weekend. Responses came in with loon sightings in various areas of the lake. Jennifer will be working with one of the respondents to summarize the input for this and for the next two long weekends. The plan is to submit information to Birds Canada and eBird.</p> <p><b>Canada Geese</b> – Minerva Park has become difficult to use because of the amount of goose guano on the ground. We will make the suggestion to the Township to leave a fringe of unmowed lawn about 2 – 3 feet wide on the land at the water’s edge to take advantage of the reluctance of geese to enter an area with long grass that they cannot see through.</p>
4.8		<p><b>Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake</b> - are up at Armstrong Lake beach.  <b>June 1</b> – sign is well back from the portable outhouse and visible.</p>
4.9		<p><b>Catch and Release Signs</b> are up at township launch sites. Copies of the Catch and Release sign are on the back of the Safe Boating flyer and were printed for distribution by the Township with the tax mailing to all households at the end of February 2023.</p>
4.10		<p><b>Benthic Study – proceeding</b>  <b>May 11<sup>th</sup></b> – funding is included in the 2023 budget  March 9, 2023 Jennifer distributed an evaluation of the value of the 2022 Benthic report along with a suggestion that LSEC recommend to Council that this research be continued. Proviso: that the data from the Lake Manitouwabing studies be posted on an existing publicly available website at no extra charge to the township or the MLCA. We passed a resolution supporting the continuation of Benthic sampling by the GBB.</p>
4.11		<p><b>Pesticides/Fertilizers –</b>  <b>July 6<sup>th</sup></b> – an example of a brochure that would include pesticides  Turtle nesting protection boxes. Built for people to use and store.  Committee members liked the idea of promoting the planting of rain gardens and filter strips mentioned in the brochure below = to decrease the amount of nutrients seeping into the lake.  <a href="https://www.skaneateleslake.org/CCE_Lawn_Care_for_Water_Quality_Brochure_2020.pdf">CCE Lawn Care for Water Quality Brochure 2020.pdf (skaneateleslake.org)</a></p> <p>Pesticides – we will fold a discussion of pesticide use on lawns into the work/education on waterfront vegetation. Melanie and Jennifer.</p>
4.12		<p><b>Invasive Species –</b>  <b>July 6<sup>th</sup></b> - Al Last, assisted by Jeremy Sintzel, has been putting up the new Invasive Species signs from FOCA at the boat launches.</p> <p>June 8<sup>th</sup> – Council approved replacing the old Protect our Lakes from Invasive species signs and replacing them with the new signs from FOCA. We also need to map and list where the signs are placed in the township. Need someone to place signs again.</p>
4.13		<p><b>Dark Skies –</b>  From Oct 13/ minutes on planning:  Sue and Jennifer will continue the work on Dark Skies.</p>
4.14		<p><b>Water Levels</b> – A paper detailing previous work on water levels is posted on our section of the web page.</p>



**CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MCKELLAR**

**BY-LAW NO. 2019-12**

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**Being a By-law to Adopt a Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy**

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**WHEREAS** Subsection 270(1) of the *Municipal Act 2001 S.O. 2001, c.25*, as amended, requires municipalities to adopt and maintain a policy with respect to the manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality by March 1, 2019;

**AND WHEREAS** Council has deemed it expedient to formally adopt a Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar enacts as follows:

1. THAT the Township of McKellar Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy is hereby adopted as set out in Schedule “A” attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;
2. THAT this By-law shall come into force and effect on the date of final passing thereof.

READ a FIRST and SECOND time this 4th day of February, 2019.

*Original signed by Peter Hopkins, Reeve*

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Reeve

*Original signed by Tammy Wylie, Clerk*

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Clerk

READ a THIRD time and PASSED in OPEN Council this 4th day of February, 2019.

*Original signed by Peter Hopkins, Reeve*

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Reeve

*Original signed by Tammy Wylie, Clerk*

---

Clerk

## **TOWNSHIP OF MCKELLAR**

### **TREE CANOPY AND NATURAL VEGETATION POLICY**

#### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Section 270 (1) (7) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 requires a municipality to adopt a plan which describes how to protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation.

The purpose is to offer a summary understanding of local vegetation, conservation considerations and promote best practices for a sustainable tree canopy in the Township's settlement areas as well as on its shorelines and rural residential properties.

#### **WHO IS IT FOR?**

This policy applies to all properties and development, on public and private lands, in the Township of McKellar. It is a resource which can be referred to and utilized as guiding principles for residential, commercial and Township purposes.

#### **WHAT IS A TREE CANOPY?**

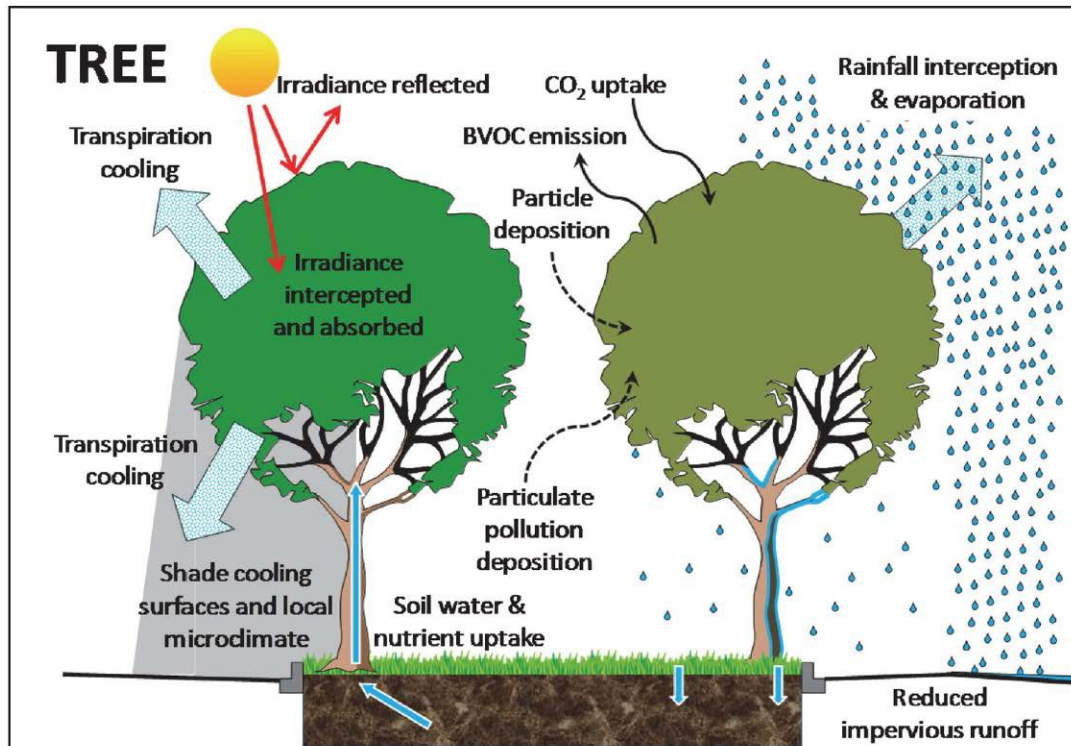
"Tree canopy" or "tree cover" includes all areas of coverage by plant material exceeding 1.5 metres in height, and the extent of tree canopy in excess of 10 years maturity. The canopy includes the layer of leaves, branches and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above.

#### **BENEFITS**

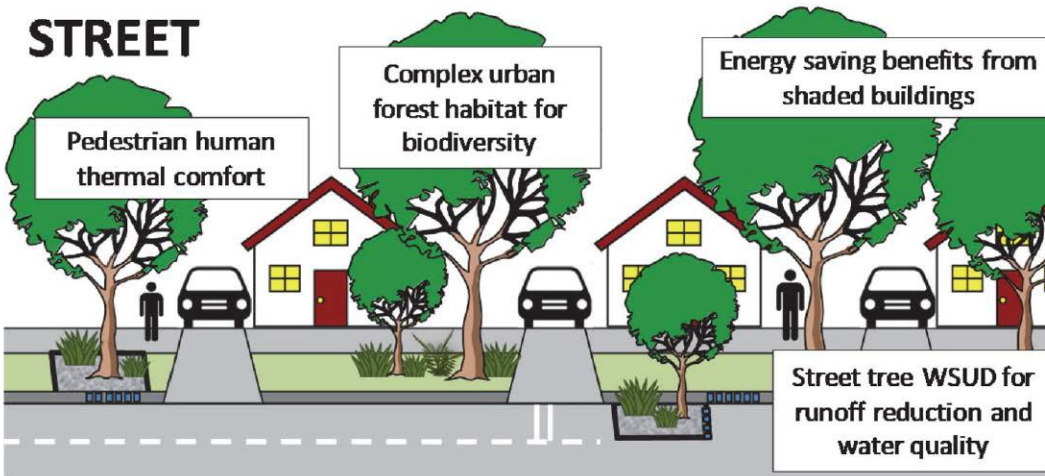
There are several benefits to an urban tree canopy, including:

- A mature urban tree canopy creates shade, which lowers energy consumption for a community. This is accomplished via the direct link of shading properties and the buildings therein;
- Reduces air pollution;
- Increases property value;
- Provides shelter for wildlife;
- Improves the usability of public parks;
- Improves the aesthetics of properties;
- Assists in stormwater management; and
- Prevents erosion, especially along slopes.

The following from Water the Journal of Environmental Quality illustrates the above:



*BVOC = Biological volatile organic compounds*



*WSUD = Water Sensitive Urban Design*

## NATIVE PLANTINGS

When planting any vegetation, local species/native vegetation should be utilized. Some examples of local species/native vegetation are included in Schedule “A”.

## WHERE TO PLANT

Consideration should be given to where trees and vegetation are planted. Prior to planting a tree, property lines, utilities (power lines, buried water/sewer laterals or other 'hard' infrastructure) should be considered. The location of a tree should take into context its future size as it relates to a building's foundation and roof.

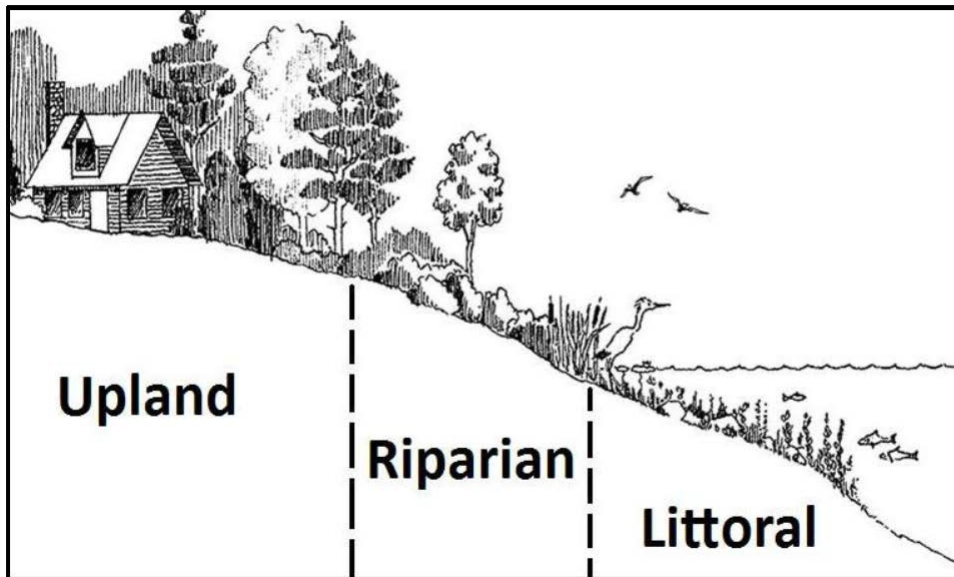
## SHORELINE VEGETATION

Vegetated areas adjacent to watercourses, lakes, rivers and wetlands are known as shoreline buffers. Shoreline buffers protect water from pollutants by filtering contaminants, providing habitat for native species and preventing shoreline erosion.

Shoreline buffers should be:

- At least 20 metres upland from the shore or greater as recommended by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.
- Be composed of natural vegetation with a broad corridor of undisturbed vegetation.
- Not be grassed.
- Avoid shoreline hardening.

The types of vegetation by zone are illustrated below.



Courtesy of the Muskoka Watershed Council 2013

## MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION

Trees and vegetation require special care and treatment. If it appears the vegetation is struggling, it is recommended you speak to a professional.



## **COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL USES**

In addition to this policy applying to single detached homes and smaller residential uses, it can also provide guidance to commercial/multiple residential developments.

In addition to the benefits listed previously, increased vegetative buffers help beautify commercial properties and match the natural beauty of the Township of McKellar.

Other benefits that can be considered:

- Green parking lots to reduce stormwater flows and the costs of stormwater maintenance.
- Vegetated aisles and parking islands to increase shaded areas and reduce micro climates.
- Green roofs to reduce total stormwater runoff and enhance the urban canopy.

## **DISCLAIMER**

This policy does not take priority over any By-laws, Resolutions or Agreements of the Township of McKellar Council.

The Corporation of the Township of McKellar

**Schedule "A"**

<b>Trees</b>	<b>Shrubs</b>	<b>Partial Shade</b>	<b>Full Sun</b>	<b>Shoreline</b>
<b>Riparian Zone</b> Balsam Fir Red Maple Tamarack Black Spruce Eastern Hemlock  <b>Medium Sized</b> Chokecherry Pin Cherry Serviceberry Striped Maple Ironwood Eastern White Cedar  <b>Large Sized</b> Bur Oak Red Oak Silver Maple Trembling Aspen White Birch Red Spruce Eastern White Pine Butternut Sugar Maple	Black Chokeberry Nannyberry Northern Bush Honeysuckle Pagoda Dogwood Red Osier Dogwood Smooth Wild Rose Swamp Rose Sweet Gale Winterberry Holly Common Elderberry Highbush Cranberry Lowbush Blueberry Meadowsweet Serviceberry Steeplebush	Bearberry Bloodroot Bunchberry False Solomons Seal Jack-in-the-pulpit Wild Columbine Foamflower Ostrich Fern	Black-eyed Susan Big Bluestem Grass Canada Goldenrod Common Milkweed Flat-topped Aster New England Aster Pearly Everlasting	Blue Flag Iris Blue Vervain Boneset Cardinal Flower Swamp Milkweed Joe Pye Weed White Turtlehead

Corporation of the Township of McKellar

Proposed bylaw 2023 - xx

Being a By-law to adopt a TREE CANOPY AND NATURAL VEGETATION  
POLICY

WHEREAS Subsection 270 (1.7) of the Municipal Act 2001 S.O. 2001, c.25 requires municipalities to adopt and maintain a policy for the protection and enhancement of the tree canopy and natural vegetation (see McKellar Township By-Law 2019-12),

AND WHEREAS a tree canopy and natural vegetation are important in a rural setting to protect wildlife habitat and the environmental quality of surface water in an era of climate warming,

AND WHEREAS healthy lakes and rivers in McKellar Township are of immeasurable benefit to everyone,

AND WHEREAS shorelines are highly productive habitats and highly attractive to human settlement,

AND WHEREAS, during settlement along a shoreline, the buffer zone between the land and water is often changed and the health of the waterway is degraded as a result,

AND WHEREAS preservation, replacement and maintenance of a vegetated shoreline buffer promotes better water quality, control of erosion and flooding, removal of sediment and pollutants and provision of insect and animal habitat,

AND WHEREAS, according to the Ontario Provincial government's Lake Capacity Assessment Handbook, a vegetated buffer is a best management practice for lake health,

AND WHEREAS A healthy Riparian Zone significantly mitigates the impact of human activity in the Upland Zone, bolstering the health of the Littoral Zone (see Figure 1),

AND WHEREAS development on the shoreline has been shown to change the number and variety of plant life and the number of species and quantity of fish in the littoral zone and the amount of nutrients entering the lake through runoff, and a healthy Littoral Zone is vital to the overall health of Manitouwabing Lake and other lakes in McKellar Township,

AND WHEREAS A healthy tree canopy in the upland zone provides cooling of the land, oxygen production in the atmosphere, and retention of rainwater in the ground and nutrient uptake from the rain runoff,

AND WHEREAS the Township of McKellar wishes to create performance measures designed to enhance McKellar

AND WHEREAS the presence and population of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) is an indicator of lake health and of value to the residents of McKellar; a count of the loon population may be used as an indicator of lake health in addition to standard measurements of lake profile data, including periodic E. coli, phosphorus and calcium measurements,

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar enacts as follows:

1. THAT the Township of McKellar Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy is hereby adopted as set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;
2. THAT this By-law shall come into force and effect on the date of final passing thereof. READ a FIRST and SECOND time this Xth day of MONTH, YEAR.

Sixth Revision of Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation By-Law for McKellar Township

Original signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

David Moore, Mayor

Original signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk

Ina Watkinson, Clerk

READ a THIRD time and PASSED in OPEN Council this \_\_\_\_ th day of

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

month                      year

TOWNSHIP OF MCKELLAR.

## TREE CANOPY AND NATURAL VEGETATION POLICY

### POLICY STATEMENT:

The Township of McKellar recommends the preservation, renewal and replacement of the tree canopy in the whole of McKellar Township. The Township of McKellar further recommends the maintenance and renewal of a vegetative zone of natural vegetation at the shoreline and wherever possible in the upland areas of the township. This policy applies to all properties and development, on public and private lands, in the Township of McKellar. It is a resource which can be referred to and utilized as a guiding principle for residential, commercial, and municipal purposes.

### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to offer a summary understanding of local vegetation, conservation considerations and promote best practices for the creation and preservation of a healthy tree canopy and naturalized vegetative buffers in the Township's settlement areas as well as on its shorelines and rural residential properties in compliance with section 270(1)(7) of the Act.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

This policy applies to all properties and development, on public and private lands, in the Township of McKellar. It is a resource which should be referred to and utilized as guiding principles for residential, commercial and Township properties, reflecting the significance of tree canopies and natural vegetation to provincial interests and the need for a co-ordinated cultural shift away from manicured, carpet-like grass lawns which became popular in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## WHAT IS A TREE CANOPY?

A tree canopy is the dense gathering of closely spaced trees and their branches.

In a rural setting, the greater the percentage of the ground that is covered by a tree canopy, the better the trees can

- mitigate ground, air and water temperature
- create shade for buildings as well as surface water
- reduce air pollution
- provide habitat
- improve the aesthetics and value of property
- assist in stormwater management
- improve retention of moisture in the soil
- prevent erosion
- sequester carbon, thereby decreasing air pollution
- absorb nutrients before they are washed into the surface water with rain run off
- help maintain a healthy lake as indicated by its trophic status (the Lakeshore capacity model (Ontario MOE) established a quantitative linkage between the level of shoreline development and the level of phosphorus in a lake.)
- create oxygen for the atmosphere

## WHAT IS A VEGETATIVE BUFFER?

A vegetative buffer is a living zone of plants and can be made up of any combination of trees, shrubs and herbaceous or grassy vegetation. A naturalized vegetative buffer contains a combination of ***indigenous*** vegetation as opposed to turf and introduced plant species. A buffer differs from a setback, which is the minimum distance required between a structure or infrastructure and a natural feature, although a

buffer may be included within a setback. Since setbacks are mandatory, vegetative buffers almost always make up at least a portion of the setback. Intuitively, the greater the setback, the greater the potential for a naturalized vegetative buffer. However, the maintenance of a vegetative buffer of any size maintained in an existing setback should be encouraged to provide greater protection of water quality and to decrease erosion at the shoreline.

Several qualities affect the effectiveness of vegetative buffers in the role of protecting the littoral zone from upland human activity. Buffer size, condition of buffer (i.e. density of vegetation, suitability of vegetation, soil status (disturbed / undisturbed)) and intensity of upland use are key factors that determine the effectiveness of a vegetative buffer.

Where the vegetative buffer is less than 10 m, factors such as the density of vegetation and substrate quality increase disproportionately in importance. The current view is that the vegetative buffers are effective when they are 15 m or greater.

Shoreline development is inescapable – development allows access for enjoyment. However, currently it often happens that for that developed portion of the shoreline, there is no vegetative buffer or if there is, it is mowed grass turf which is unsuitable as a rain water filter. In unsettled lake shorelines, the natural vegetation at the shore filters the rain water, removing and storing nutrients in the plants which would otherwise be excess in the lake water. Developed shoreline zones can be viewed as the weak links in a shoreline chain. Current development standards (Lake Protection Workbook, Watersheds Canada) allow for the development of 25% of a property's shoreline.

In addition to providing inadequate filtration of rainwater run-off into lakes and rivers, a mowed grass turf is favoured by Canada Geese and their excrement further adds to the excess nutrients flowing into the lake water.



Developed shoreline increases the importance of maintaining and creating effective vegetative buffers in the undeveloped zones and finding alternatives to turf in the developed zones that contribute to the health of McKellar Township's lakes as opposed to presenting threats to the health of our township's lakes and rivers and creeks.

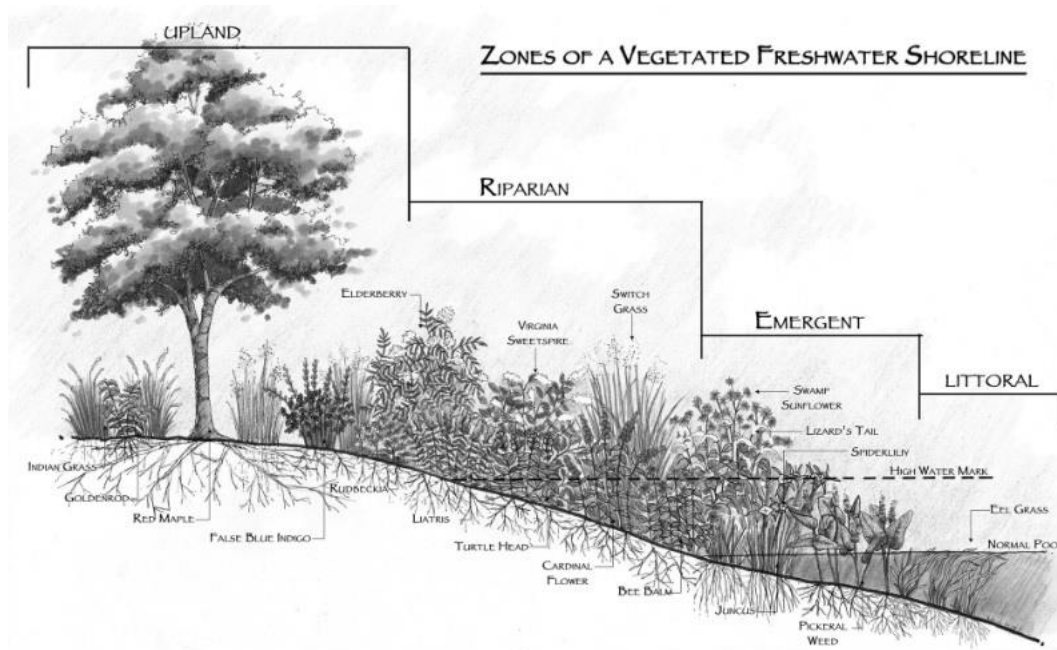


Figure 1

Riparian buffers shield the ground, prevent erosion, restrain runoff flows, and get the water underground where much of its excess nutrient load (such as substances that breed aquatic algae) can adhere to soil particles or be absorbed by living roots. Sediment is trapped up on the land, where it belongs, and runoff water, is guided into the soil, where nutrients can feed land plants and contaminants are filtered out. ("Shoreline buffers and water quality", [www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org) 2020)

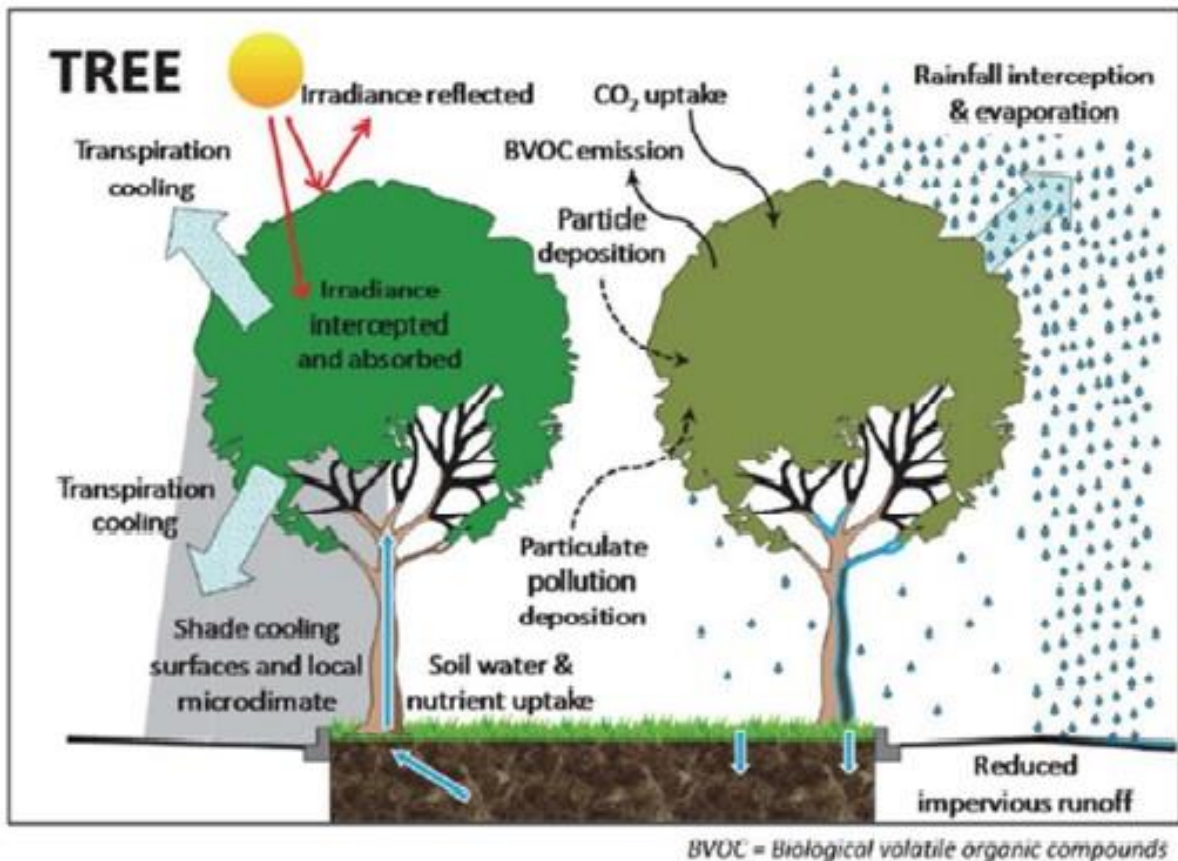


Figure 2 The above diagram from Water: The Journal of Environmental Quality illustrates the benefits of a tree canopy.

## SHORELINE VEGETATION

Vegetation in the riparian zone serves as a buffer between the Upland area and the surface water (lakes, rivers etc). Vegetative buffers may be a combination of trees, shrubs, and grassy or herbaceous vegetation. In general, maintenance and restoration of native plants in the shoreline buffer is preferred to use of non-native species, since native species are adapted to local conditions, support local biodiversity, and do not require the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, which can degrade water quality (Muskoka Watershed Council 2013).

The littoral zone, the land in the water from the shoreline to the deepest penetration of light to the bottom of the lake or river, is called the “ribbon of life” where 90% of the species in the lakes and rivers spend part of their life cycle, and is therefore extremely important to the health of the water body and the habitat of its fauna.

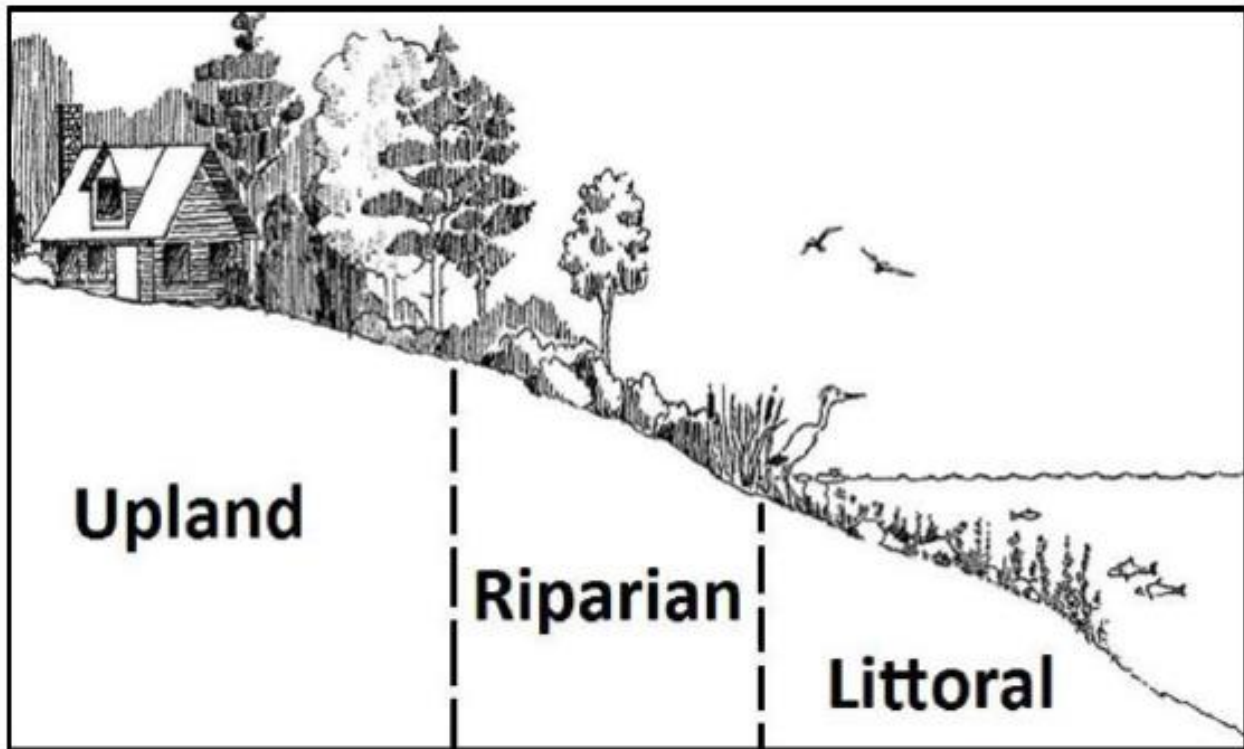
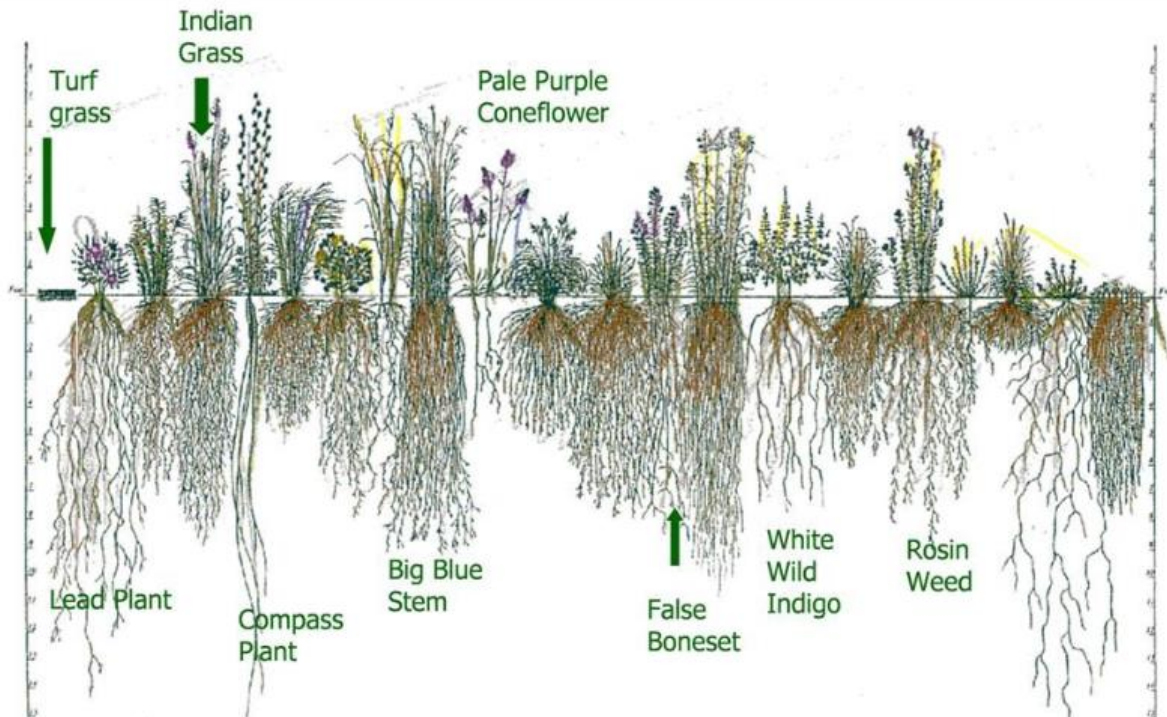


Figure 3 (Courtesy of Muskoka Watershed Council 2013)

In summary, shoreline buffers should be:

- At least 20 meters or more upland from the high water mark as recommended by the MNR
- Be composed of natural vegetation indigenous to the area with a broad corridor of undisturbed vegetation. Native vegetation does not require the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, provides improved habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species

- Be composed of plants with deep roots, not a grass lawn
- Shoreline hardening, or armouring could be avoided and/or replaced with naturalized shoreline
- The removal of shoreline vegetation on the land and water at the shore and the covering of the land immediately adjacent to the lake with sand, precludes any filtration of rainwater before it enters the lake and smothers the benthic organisms essential for a healthy food chain in the water body
- 75% of the shoreline, and 75% of the area of the property (including buildings) should be maintained in a naturalized state
- Pathways should be curved, and made of pervious material such as gravel, in order to impede the flow of rainwater run off into the lake (water movement below the surface tends to be slower than surface flow, thus creating more time for plants to take up the nutrient. (Hutchinson, p 17)



(naturenearby.org)

Figure 4. Plants with long roots capture nutrients before they get into the surface water of a lake or river, help prevent erosion and do not need fertilization or tending.

Beneficial compromises should be considered, namely:

- A buffer of any size is better than no buffer of naturalized vegetation, and
- Taking off the lower branches of a tree to open a view is preferable to removing the tree.

Types of Plants that can be maintained or replaced in the riparian zone include:

Schedule "A" 2023

Trees	Shrubs	Partial Shade	Full Sun	Shoreline
<b>Riparian Zone</b>	Black Chokecherry	Bearberry	Black-eyed Susan	Blue Flag Iris
Balsam Fir	Nannyberry	Bloodroot	Big Bluestem Grass	Blue Vervain
Red Maple	Northern Bush	Bunchberry	Canada Goldenrod	Boneset
Tamarack / Larch	Honeysuckle	False Solomon's	Butterfly weed	Cardinal Flower
Black Spruce	Pagoda Dogwood	Seal	Flat-topped Aster	Swamp Milkweed
Eastern Hemlock	Red Osier Dogwood	Jack in the	New England Aster	Joe Pye Weed
	Smooth Wild Rose	Pulpit	Pearly Everlasting	White Turtlehead
<b>Medium Sized</b>	Swamp Rose	Wild Columbine		
Chokecherry	Sweet Gale	Foamflower		
Pin Cherry	Winterberry Holly	Ostrich Fern		
Service Berry	Common Elderberry			
Striped Maple	Lowbush Blueberry			
Ironwood	Meadowsweet			
Eastern White Cedar	Serviceberry			
	Steeplebush			
<b>Large Sized</b>				
Bur Oak				
Red Oak				
Silver Maple				
Trembling Aspen				
White Birch				
Red Spruce				
Eastern White Pine				
Butternut				
Sugar Maple				

Figure 5 Plants indigenous to the McKellar area.

A note about prevention of fire damage due to encroachment of forest fires on settled lands:  
Notwithstanding the information provided above, residents whose properties are adjacent to forested areas are encouraged to consult the information at Firesmart Canada for guidelines on mitigating the possibility of their dwelling being involved in an adjacent forest fire by carefully choosing the plants that are immediately adjacent to the house. Notably plants in these areas should be those that show more fire resistance, such as: deciduous trees and shrubs, plants that retain water well, have low fuel volume, are low growing and non-resinous ground cover of succulents. Pathways and driveways should be composed of permeable gravel, rather than bark or wood chips in these areas.

