



LOVE YOUR LAKE

SHORELINE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY REPORT 2019



Abbreviated version by the Long Lake Stewardship Committee

Shoreline Classifications

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|---------------------|---|
| <i>Natural</i> | 112 properties - a healthy buffer of vegetation and undisturbed shoreline |
| <i>Ornamental</i> | 328 properties - all natural vegetation removed/replaced by mowed lawns, other non-native vegetation, or structures (e.g. docks, decks, boathouses, boat ramps) |
| <i>Regenerative</i> | 59 properties - natural vegetation has been removed in the past, but is returning to a natural state |

Shoreline Summary

- 336 properties would benefit from shoreline naturalization.
- 212 properties (of the 336 properties) are a top priority.

Steps to More Naturalized Shorelines

- *Building Setbacks:* 67% of properties surveyed were closer than 30 metres to the shoreline (a new Ontario regulation), but older cottage buildings were permitted closer to the high water mark.
- *Septic System Installations & Maintenance:* Potential concerns exist with septic systems installed close to shore. Regular inspections and maintenance can help prevent excess nutrient loading. It is everyone's responsibility to help protect the quality of our lake.
- *Runoff:* Remember to have eave troughs with downspouts directed at natural stone catch basins or rain barrels. Use phosphate-free products.
- *Shoreline Development:* On average LL property owners have developed 66% of their shoreline within a few metres of water's edge. Small floating or non-permanent post docks are most environmentally friendly. For existing shoreline structures keep them clean & organized, and plant native species nearby.
- *Retaining Walls:* 46% or 231 properties have a retaining wall (rock, concrete, metal, gabion baskets). Wave action hitting the hard surfaces causes water turbulence that negatively affects lake-bottom sediment, shoreline habitat, and wildlife. Maintain vegetation around the wall. Plant native vegetated buffers. Consider removal or reduction of the retaining wall when you can - a work permit may be needed.
- *Aquatic plants:* Mainly submergent plants are found on Long Lake. Plant native species and natural aquatic vegetation (e.g. reeds).
- *Invasive species:* Help prevent the spread of EWM. Avoid boating and fishing in milfoil beds. Clean boats, motors and fishing gear before transferring between lakes.
- *Wildlife habitat:* LL has mostly overhanging vegetation. Leave fallen trees in place when safe to do so.
- *Lawns:* 27% of properties are mowed to water's edge (i.e. no buffer zone). Another 30% were mowed with some buffer. Half of the precipitation runs off lawns directly into the lake vs returning to a natural groundwater source. Allow lawns to regenerate to a more natural state and/or actively add native plants.
- *Note:* When naturalizing areas, choose only native species. Avoid exotic species that can spread and/or choke out natural plants and wildlife habitat. More info available at loveyourlake.ca

* Full 17-page *Love Your Lake* Summary Report available on our website longlakestewardship.com