

A LANDOWNERS' GUIDE TO

Managing Your Shoreline Property



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INTRODUCTION

The Township of the Archipelago respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on traditional Anishinabek lands and the territory covered by the Robinson-Huron Treaty and Williams Treaties. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work here and we thank all the generations of people, in particular the Ojibway, Chippewa, Odawa, and Pottawatomi peoples, who have cared for these lands and waters for thousands of years. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place. We also recognize the contributions of other First Nations, Métis, Inuit peoples, in shaping and strengthening this community and our country as a whole. This recognition is part of our collective commitment to our ongoing learning and reconciliation in the Archipelago community.

The Township of The Archipelago is situated in the middle of the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, designated as a world biosphere reserve by UNESCO. It is comprised of many islands in Georgian Bay and a number of inland, freshwater lakes, all of which are used for recreational purposes. The impetus for creating the Township originated from a strong desire by its inhabitants and the Province to preserve the natural environmental and recreational land use in the area.

The shoreline of the Georgian Bay in the Township, the numerous islands, and inland lakes provide a highly desirable recreational waterfront community.



OUR VISION

The Township of The Archipelago, in partnership with its community, will ensure the continued guardianship of the lakes and watershed areas within the Georgian Bay Mnídoo Gamii Biosphere.

OUR MISSION

To continue to preserve the unique and high-quality natural environment, in collaboration with the Georgian Bay Mnídoo Gamii Biosphere, leading to an experience that is both relaxing and aesthetically appealing to all, and as members of the community, we share the responsibility of attaining this mission.

OUR GOALS

The Township's goals, in directing how growth and development will occur over the next 20 to 30 years, is to:

Preserve the unique and high quality of the natural environment which leads to a recreational experience that is both relaxing and aesthetically appealing to property owners and visitors who use the area and is designed to make both property owners and visitors realize that they share equally in the responsibility of maintaining the ecological integrity within a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Shoreline management, as one pillar of environmental stewardship of the land and water, connects to each of the Township’s strategic priorities:



Protect and Preserve

Adhere to the Township's mission and values centred on the continued preservation and protection of the Georgian Bay shoreline, inland lakes and watershed areas through environmental initiatives including prevention and removal of invasive species, responsible land use and controlled development all within the Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere.



Sustainable and Cost-Effective Services

Deliver services and maintain infrastructure to meet the needs of the community in a manner that is responsible, sustainable, efficient and cost effective while maintaining the established mission, vision, values and beliefs of the Township of The Archipelago.



Effective Relationships and Partnerships

Continue to strengthen and maintain relationships with internal and external stakeholders including neighbouring municipalities, Indigenous communities and partners, community associations, other levels of government and organizations.



Leadership and Communications

Provide strong leadership through good governance, responsible decision making and open communication to encourage collaboration and develop solutions that are mindful of collective interests and aligned with the values and beliefs of the Township of The Archipelago.

By working together as good stewards of the environment, we can preserve the Township’s natural charm and recreational character and protect the natural environment for future generations to enjoy.

PURPOSE OF THE HANDBOOK

This handbook is intended to provide landowners, residents, and developers with information about best management practices for managing the shoreline as good stewards of the natural environment:



Prioritizing Shoreline Protection

Understanding how naturalized buffers, natural shoreline processes, and riparian ecosystems function as part of the ecosystem



Promoting Lake System Health

Protecting water quality and water quantity based on “environment first” principles



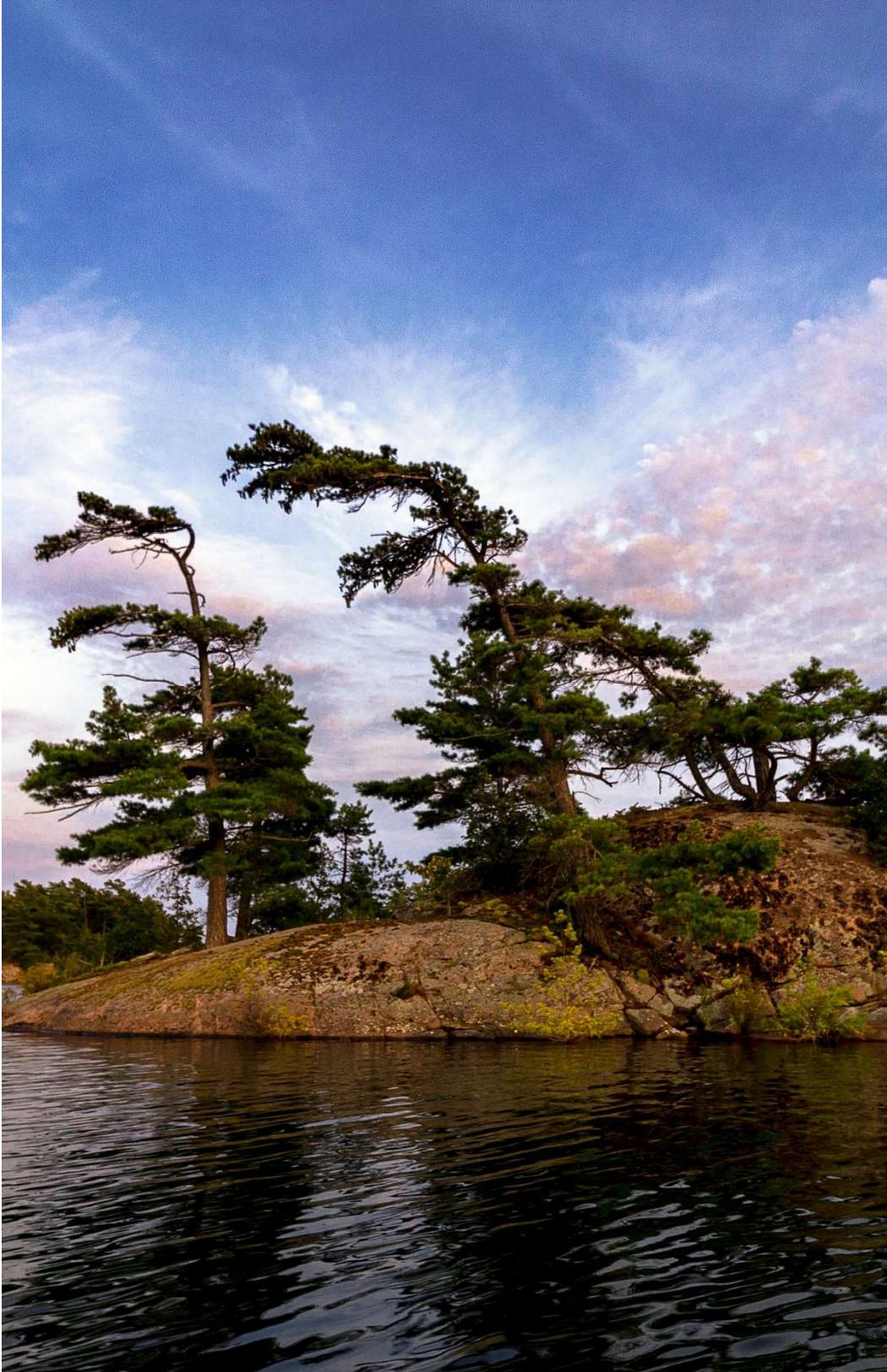
Protecting Your Property from Natural Hazards

Understanding the risks of natural hazards to public health and safety and property, as well as recognizing the importance of efforts to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate



Supporting Conservation Efforts

Taking action in our own backyards to support the Township’s ongoing efforts to safeguard the natural environment and understanding the policies in place to protect shorelines in The Archipelago.



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

PRIORITIZING SHORELINE PROTECTION

The Archipelago is a showcase for the Precambrian Shield, having an area of rocky shores, islands, shoals, varying depths of water, large inland lakes and a vast amount of undeveloped and inaccessible land. The land, where soil exists, is heavily treed by mixed forests with a moderately broken topography - all of which results in one of the most beautiful areas of the Province. Tree cover can provide screening and buffering of the built form from the waterways, so as to blend the built form into the scenic surroundings of the natural environment and ensure development does not detract from the area's natural beauty.

From an ecological perspective, shoreline properties managed by private landowners for year-round or seasonal use, are located within a larger watershed system that provides an ecosystem for a variety of aquatic and land-based species, flora, and fauna. These unique natural features also support a vibrant tourism economy and provide countless opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy high quality recreational activities.

Before making significant changes to your property, check to see if what you're planning is permitted by the Township's Site Alteration By-law and Tree Preservation By-law, or if a site-specific exemption might be required before proceeding with your project.

In prioritizing shoreline protection, consider how you can take action to support:

Naturalized
Buffers

Natural Shoreline
Processes

Riparian
Ecosystems



NATURALIZED BUFFERS

Natural shorelines are a valuable part of the aquatic and land-based ecosystems that support flora and fauna alike. Often described as the “ribbon of life” a naturalized buffer between the land and the water recognizes the complex and rich natural environment that is critical to lake health. Maintaining a natural shoreline is the best multi-purpose approach to protecting the water’s edge from erosion or flooding hazards and promoting overall lake system health.

The Township’s Tree Preservation By-law uses a two-zone approach to apply an enhanced level of preservation and protection for native vegetation located within the first 7.5m (25ft.) of a shoreline property. Beyond this shoreline buffer area, the by-law includes relaxed regulations that prohibit the clearcutting of trees on the whole of a property zoned for residential use, environmental sensitivity, or natural state conservation.

NATURAL SHORELINE PROCESSES

Shoreline areas are continuously shaped by natural processes such as wave action, fluctuating water levels, precipitation, and wind, all of which influence erosion, flooding, and overall shoreline stability. Consider the following recommendations as you plan works in shoreline areas to help minimize potential negative impacts while working with, rather than against, natural shoreline dynamics and processes:



Use native vegetation for bank stabilization and erosion control, as it helps maintain natural shoreline integrity.



Maintain a vegetated understory as part of the shoreline buffer to reduce erosion risks and enhance water quality.



Plan shoreline access points and structures carefully to avoid disturbing floating or emerging vegetation, which are critical for maintaining a healthy shoreline ecosystem.



Minimize alterations to drainage patterns along the shoreline to limit disruption to natural water flow, which can exacerbate erosion and flooding.

RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS

The transitional zone between water and land is a biologically rich and productive area that supports a variety of plant and animal species. These vital ecosystems provide habitat and contribute to food webs for:



Aquatic
Species



Amphibious
Species



Terrestrial
Organisms

Consider the following recommendations to balance the ecological integrity of these important areas with human activities:

- ✓ **Limit removal of natural and organic debris** within the shoreline to preserve habitat and avoid the importation of fill or other materials that can disrupt the natural ecosystem.
- ✓ **Minimize the removal of native vegetation and preserve tree canopy** coverage whenever possible to support biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- ✓ **Use untreated construction materials** for any work along the shoreline and avoid applying pesticides or fertilizers, which can harm sensitive ecosystems and water quality.
- ✓ **Avoid disruptions to natural inputs** in the shoreline area, such as the flow of organic matter and nutrients, which are essential for ecosystem health.
- ✓ **Time any necessary shoreline work to avoid sensitive periods**, such as fish spawning or early life stages of species, to minimize the impact on local wildlife.

Image source (right): Federation of Canadian Municipalities



PROMOTING LAKE SYSTEM HEALTH

IMPORTANCE OF NATIVE VEGETATION

A native plant is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem. There are many benefits of landscaping and gardening with native plants:



Conserving water



Protecting soil from erosion



Creating habitat



Providing food for wildlife

Planting native species isn't just good for the ecosystem - it can also be a great way to connect with the land, to socialize with your neighbours, and be active in your own backyard. Plant species that are native to the area, and adapted to the diverse weather and soil conditions, are found here in the lakes, rivers, streams, and shorelines that make The Archipelago a unique and cherished place to call home. The use of non-native species may result in the aggressive spread of plants that will out-compete native species, which in turn can result in loss of habitat and food sources for wildlife.

When you're planning your next landscaping project, consider:

- ✓ A **naturalized approach** to landscape planning that involves conservation of native vegetation and re-naturalization wherever possible.
- ✓ Using **native** trees and shrubs, perennial flowers, and shade-tolerant groundcover when making landscaping changes to your shoreline property.
- ✓ Supporting **local nurseries** that specialize in native plant species in the Georgian Bay biosphere and getting their help to select the best types of plants for your landscaping.

- ✓ Researching the **best times of year** to plant the trees, shrubs, perennial flowers, or groundcover that you've selected for your shoreline property.
- ✓ Selecting a **variety of plants**, including trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, that range in size, form, growth rate, requirements for light or shade, seasonal blooming, colours, and food or cover for wildlife species.
- ✓ Including both **deciduous trees** and **coniferous trees** to provide food or cover for wildlife species and other ecological functions in both winter and summer months.
- ✓ Planting **large-growing trees away from existing buildings** or structures where root development could damage your foundation or where large trees could risk damage to persons or property during extreme weather events.
- ✓ Being aware of and properly removing **invasive species** that can establish in or around your property before they can displace or aggravate more sensitive or diverse native plant species.





LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Protecting our waterways, reducing flooding risks, and increasing our community’s resiliency to climate change starts with actions that individual landowners can take to lessen the impact of development on the natural environment. Low impact development, as one of several approaches to “green” infrastructure, uses techniques that mimic the natural environment and allow stormwater to be absorbed where it falls. Examples include rain gardens, green roofs, rainwater harvesting, and other approaches that can minimize the harmful impacts of stormwater runoff.

Improving stormwater management through low impact development ensures that water resources and ecosystems are safeguarded for **future generations**.

- Rain Gardens** {

 - Shallow depressions in the ground planted with various native plants to treat and capture stormwater runoff

- Porous Pavements** {

 - Permeable surfaces to allow precipitation to soak into the ground, rather than allowing water to quickly run off as with regular paving

- Naturalized Infiltration Basins** {

 - Depressions in the ground that provide temporary storage and infiltration of stormwater runoff

- Streambank or Floodplain Restoration** {

 - Grading streambanks to make them less steep, planting trees and other native vegetation, and restoring wetlands

- Rainwater Harvesting** {

 - Capturing and reusing stormwater runoff collected through a simple rain barrel attached to the gutter downspout or a more complex system of underground storage tanks and cisterns

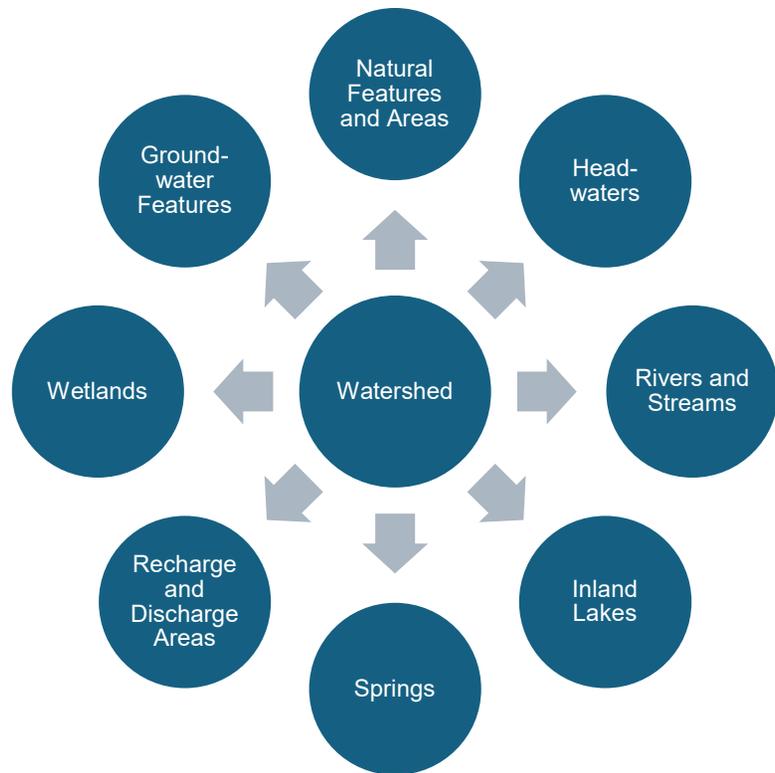
For more information about low impact development, green infrastructure, or how you can manage stormwater on your shoreline property, visit the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) draft Low Impact Development Stormwater Management Guidance Manual or the MECP website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-environment-conservation-parks>

SAFEGUARDING WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

How you use and enjoy the lakes, rivers, streams, or ponds that are near your property has direct and indirect impacts on the quality of water that feeds into and supports the watersheds' overall health.

The strength of a watershed lies in the linkages that exist between:



These features and areas, and the linkages between them, must be maintained, restored, or improved to support the long-term ecological functions of the watershed.

As good stewards of the natural environment, we can each play a role in protecting, enhancing, or restoring water resources, including the quality and quantity of water within a watershed following major storm events or the day-to-day care, maintenance, and enjoyment of your shoreline

property. Working together as engaged citizens and responsible stewards of the land and water will become increasingly important as our community adapts to the impacts of a changing climate.

When managing your shoreline property, consider the actions that you can take to improve the health of the watershed in your own backyard:

- ✓ Plant gardens with groundcovers that require **minimal irrigation** and can work to **slowly** allow rainfall to permeate the ground's surface (i.e., reducing ponding or flooding on your property).
- ✓ Plant **stormwater gardens** with native plant species that can filter stormwater runoff before it permeates the ground's surface (i.e., improving the quality of runoff entering the lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds near your property).
- ✓ Avoid using **pesticides** or **fertilizers** that can harm natural vegetation, impact the quality of water that feeds into lakes, ponds, or rivers near your property, and expose wildlife to potentially hazardous materials.
- ✓ Avoiding **bathing** or **using soaps** in the lake. Instead use an indoor shower/bath or outdoor shower fitted with a system to collect and treat greywater in accordance with the Ontario Building Code requirements.
- ✓ Make sure that any **greywater** derived from plumbing fixtures (including toilets, showers, sinks, dishwashers, or washing machines) is **treated to a safe level** by a sewage system that returns the treated effluent to the groundwater system in accordance with the Ontario Building Code requirements.
- ✓ Collect and use **harvested rainwater** to tend to your gardens instead of watering from a hose or other water source.

To learn more about water quality and quantity management, visit the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) website at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-environment-conservation-parks>

For more information about the proper design, installation, or maintenance of a sewage system, visit the Township's website: <https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/building-1>



PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY FROM NATURAL HAZARDS

Adapting to the impacts of a changing climate means taking steps to improve our community's resiliency to changes in weather patterns at local and regional levels, including extreme weather events and increased climate variability. This includes taking steps to protect yourself and your property from areas of natural hazards where there is a higher risk to public health or safety or of property damage, as well as collective action to avoid creating new hazards or aggravating existing hazards.

FLOODING AND EROSION HAZARDS

Flooding along the rivers, lakes and streams in our backyards can occur at any time of the year, though the likelihood of extreme weather and flooding will increase with a changing climate. Even small changes in watershed conditions, such as increased water in soil, wetlands and lakes, can increase flooding risk.

Flooding Hazard

- Areas adjacent to a shoreline, river or stream system which become inundated under storm conditions and are not ordinarily covered by water

Erosion Hazard

- Loss of land, due to human or natural processes, that poses a threat to life and property, determined using the average annual rate of recession, an allowance for slope stability, and an erosion allowance

Dynamic Beach Hazard

- Areas of inherently unstable accumulations of shoreline sediments along the Great Lakes and large inland lakes, consisting of the flooding hazard plus a dynamic beach allowance

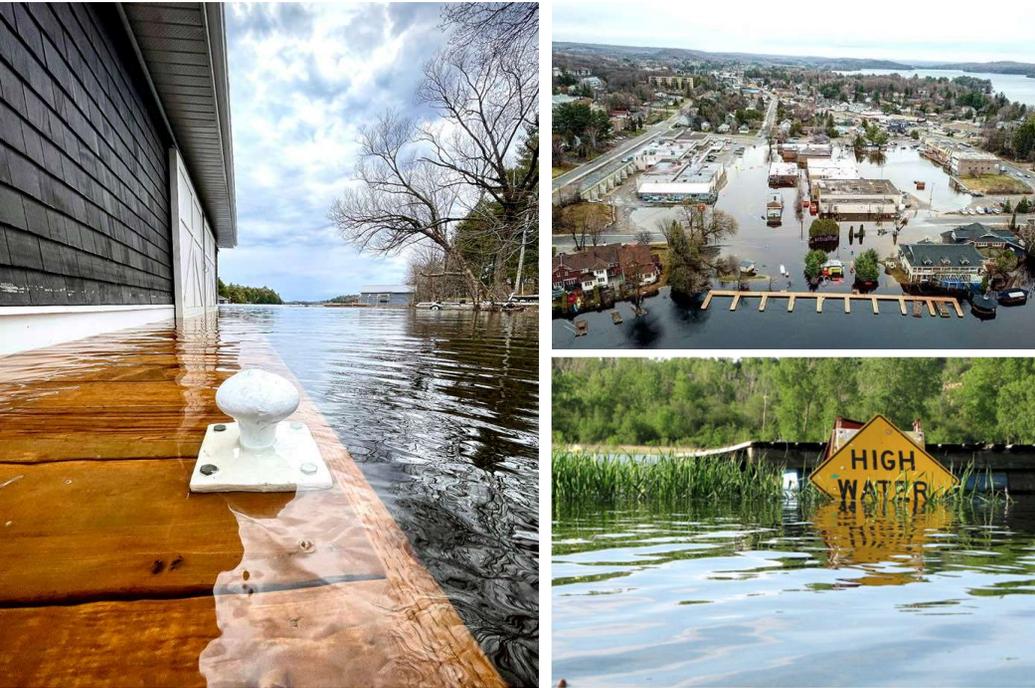


Image Source (left to right): Thelma Jarvis, Dan Pinckard (top), Dreamstime Photo (bottom)

Individuals, including property owners, residents, cottagers, and visitors, have an important role to play in lessening the impacts of flooding on people and property.

Understanding flood risks, taking steps to reduce potential losses and being prepared in the event of a flood emergency are effective measures in which everyone can participate.

In partnerships between the Township, the Province, the federal government, private landowners, industry, and neighbouring Indigenous communities, we all have a role to play in managing risk.

In managing your shoreline property, consider where you can take action to do your part:

- ✓ Direct **site alteration activities** (e.g., grading, excavation, and placing fill in a way that changes the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site) and development away from lands prone to **flooding, erosion, or dynamic beach** hazards along Georgian Bay, inland lakes, rivers or streams.
- ✓ If your property is affected by flooding or erosion hazards, **make a plan** for how you will get to safety in times of flooding, erosion, or other emergencies, whether by boat, by car, or other means.
- ✓ Once you have a plan in place, make sure to **tell your friends, family, and any visitors** about your plan and post it in a place that will be **easily accessible** during an **emergency**.
- ✓ **Floodproof** any buildings or structures near to Georgian Bay, large inland lakes, or river systems which may be affected during times of flooding.
- ✓ After a flooding emergency, focus recovery efforts on the “**build back better**” principle – rebuilding any affected structures to a higher floodproofing standard and locating buildings and structures away from lands affected by flooding hazards near the shoreline.

To learn more, check out Ontario’s flooding strategy, containing actions to better protect people and property from the effects of flooding:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/protecting-people-property-ontarios-flooding-strategy>

For more information about protecting your property from natural hazards, visit the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks website at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change>



WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY

Wildland fires are part of a natural ecosystem and play a role in recycling nutrients, helping plants to reproduce, and creating a mosaic of vegetation that provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. The densely forested areas that make The Archipelago a special place to call home include some forest types that are at a higher risk of extreme wildland fire.

Across Canada, wildland fires, also referred to as wildfires or forest fires, are the second most frequent type of reported natural disaster, next to flooding. In areas of the Township where hazardous forest types are present, we can all do our part to manage our properties in line with best management practices for fire safety. Living where wildfires can occur puts your homes at risk, but it is possible to live safely and manage risk through good environmental stewardship and responsible building practices.

Ontario's **FireSmart program**, established in 1999, adopts standards to manage the risk posed by wildland fires in areas where residential development is located close to wildland or forested areas.

Some key actions you can take to reduce the risk of wildfire on your shoreline property include:

- Maintaining a developed property
- Developing a vacant property
- Planning or maintaining landscaping
- Having a plan in case of emergency and telling your friends and family

Above all, protecting public health and safety means **directing development to areas away from lands that are unsafe** due to the presence of hazardous forest types for wildland fire. Where hazardous types are present and development is permitted, everyone can play a role in managing the risk of wildland fires and having a plan when and if that risk becomes reality.

In **maintaining a shoreline property** already developed for seasonal or year-round residential use:

- Clear Combustible Debris

{

- Ensure that you regularly clear away any debris that may have accumulated on your roof, especially debris that is easily combustible.
- Maintain Nearby Vegetation

{

- Regularly trim and maintain any trees, groundcover vegetation, or other combustible debris located close to buildings or structures on your property (e.g., firewood, branches, grass, and leaves).
- Fire-Safe Building Materials

{

- Work with a qualified professional to select appropriate building materials for any renovations, expansions, or additions to your home or cottage in accordance with the Ontario Building Code requirements.

When developing a **vacant property** for seasonal or year-round residential use:

- Roof Design {
 - Consider a **simple roof design** that will reduce the number of locations on your roof where combustible debris and embers could accumulate.
- Fire-Safe Building Materials {
 - Work with a **qualified professional** to select appropriate building materials rated for fire safety in accordance with the Ontario Building Code requirements.
- Building Footprint {
 - Consider the **building footprint** of your home or cottage and how best to work with location of any trees or native vegetation that currently occupy the property.
- Adequate Separation {
 - Ensure an **adequate separation** between developed portions of your property and any tree overhang or groundcover vegetation that could put your home or cottage at an increased risk in the event of a wildland fire.

When planning or maintaining the **landscaping** on your shoreline property:

- Fire-Resistant Plants Near Buildings {
 - Near buildings on your property, select plants that have moist, supple leaves, that accumulate minimal dead vegetation, that produce a water-like sap with little odour or produce a low amount of sap or resin.
- Fire-Safe Building Materials {
 - Avoid selecting **highly flammable plants** close to any buildings or structures on your property - plants with aromatic needles or leaves, that accumulate fine, dry, or dead material, that contain resin or oils, or that have a loose papery or flaky bark.
- Gravel Mulch or Crushed Rock Gardens {
 - Select **gravel mulch** and **decorative crushed rock** in gardens located close to any buildings or structures on your property and avoid using bark or pine needle mulches that are highly combustible.

A sampling of suggested FireSmart plants also suitable for shoreland buffers (Ministry of Natural Resources, 2022)

Swamp Aster

- Low volume of total vegetation



Swamp Milkweed

- Grows in variety of wet habitats



Sedges

- Low growing, compact,



Bulrushes

- Adaptable



Meadowsweet

- Deciduous



Sensitive Fern

- Grows in a variety of wet habitats



Shooting Star

- Low volume of total vegetation



Boneset

- Grows in a variety of wet habitats



Blue Vervain

- Low volume of total vegetation, tolerant



SUPPORTING CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The Township of The Archipelago continues to support ongoing conservation efforts in partnership in senior levels of government, neighbouring municipalities, Indigenous communities, ratepayer associations, Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere (GBB), and members of our community.

In partnership with GBB, the Township provides high quality and accessible environmental information sharing and programming. This programming helps to meet the mandate of a UNESCO (United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization) designated world Biosphere and more specifically, the strategic objectives of GBB. Local programs and resources are available on the Township's website and through GBB on a number of topics including:



Interactive Webinars hosted by The Archipelago and Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere, available on the Township's website, on topics ranging from forest health, advanced septic systems, forest pests, birds of the biosphere, and managing fish habitat.



Annual Environmental Reporting on a monitoring programs run in collaboration between The Archipelago, GBB, ratepayer associations, and numerous volunteers in areas along the coast and inland lakes, including programs to monitor water quality and forest health.



Community events, interactive educational programming for families, children, youth, and numerous educational resources on caring for the natural environment as good stewards.



PROGRAMS TO PROTECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Before undertaking a project on your shoreline property, understand the various policies and regulations in place to protect and preserve the natural environment:

PERMITS FOR PROJECTS ON SHORELINES OR CROWN LAND

The beds of most lakes and rivers in Ontario are "Crown land" managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) under the *Public Lands Act*. For in-water work on Crown land or shorelines in Ontario, you may need a work permit from the MNR before proceeding with your project. This applies to activities like building docks, boathouses, or structures on or over the water, or even repairing existing ones.

To learn more about the permitting process for projects on shorelines or Crown land, visit the MNR website at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-work-permits>

OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW

An Official Plan is a document that is prepared by every municipality in Ontario which contains policies on how land in a community should be used and is prepared with input from members of the community to ensure that future planning and development will meet their specific needs. The policies that form the Township’s Official Plan provide direction to the community and establish how to:



The Township’s Official Plan also sets direction for where, and in what order, different parts of the community will grow to meet the community’s long-term needs. The Township’s Zoning By-law in turn provides a mechanism to implement the vision and policies governing land use, growth, and development set out in the Official Plan.

Before developing your property for seasonal or year-round use, consult the Township’s Official Plan and Zoning By-law for information about:

- ✓ Permitted land uses, depending on the zone in which your property is located
- ✓ Where buildings and other structures can be located on your property, in relation to one another, to the shoreline, and to other property boundaries
- ✓ The types of buildings that are permitted and how they may be used for seasonal or year-round residential use or other accessory uses (e.g., a sleeping cabin, outdoor sauna, dock, or boathouse)
- ✓ The lot sizes and dimensions, parking requirements, building heights and densities, and setbacks from property boundaries that apply to new and existing buildings and structures

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

Along with ensuring that development occurs in line with the Official Plan and Zoning By-law, the Township is also responsible for enforcing the Ontario Building Code and issuing permits for:



For more information about developing your property, visit the Township’s website: <https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/building-1>



A COMPANION GUIDE TO THE SITE ALTERATION AND TREE PRESERVATION BY-LAWS

SITE ALTERATION BY-LAW AND TREE PRESERVATION BY-LAW

The Township's Site Alteration By-law and Tree Preservation By-law apply only to properties zoned for residential use, environmental sensitivity, natural state, or natural state conservation. Both the Site Alteration By-law and Tree Preservation By-law recognize the rights of property owners to use and enjoy their property by permitting minor and routine activities through "standard" exemptions. These activities are less likely to have a significant or negative impact on the natural environment.

The by-laws outline specific activities of everyday property maintenance, including changes to the grade of your property, native shoreline vegetation, and trees on your property, which are permitted without requesting a "site-specific" exemption from the Township, including:



Constructing a building or septic system with an approved Building Permit.



Installing a driveway to a building with an approved Building Permit.



Minor landscaping (e.g., yard maintenance, installing flower beds, food gardens, or other landscaping features) up to a 0.3m (1ft.) change in grade.



Removing trees severely damaged by flooding, fires, snowfall, storms, etc.



Installing a temporary access road (with appropriate remediation after access is no longer needed).



Maintaining or replacing existing features (e.g., landscaping, driveways, parking areas, patios, stairways, walkways, retaining walls, firepits, and picnic table platforms).



Removing native vegetation in the shoreline buffer area up to a maximum of 25% of the shoreline frontage or 25m, whichever is less.



The **Site Alteration By-law** provides an enhanced level of protection to safeguard against significant changes to the grading, topography, or natural drainage courses on your property.



Dumping Fill*



Removing Topsoil



Blasting or Removing Rock

* Fill material includes soil, bedrock, sod, turf, concrete, wood, stumps, rock, asphalt, granular material, etc.

The **Tree Preservation By-law** provides an enhanced level of protection to safeguard against:



Clearcutting Trees



Removing native shoreline vegetation*

* The shoreline buffer area includes the first 7.5 metres of the property, measured from the highwater mark.

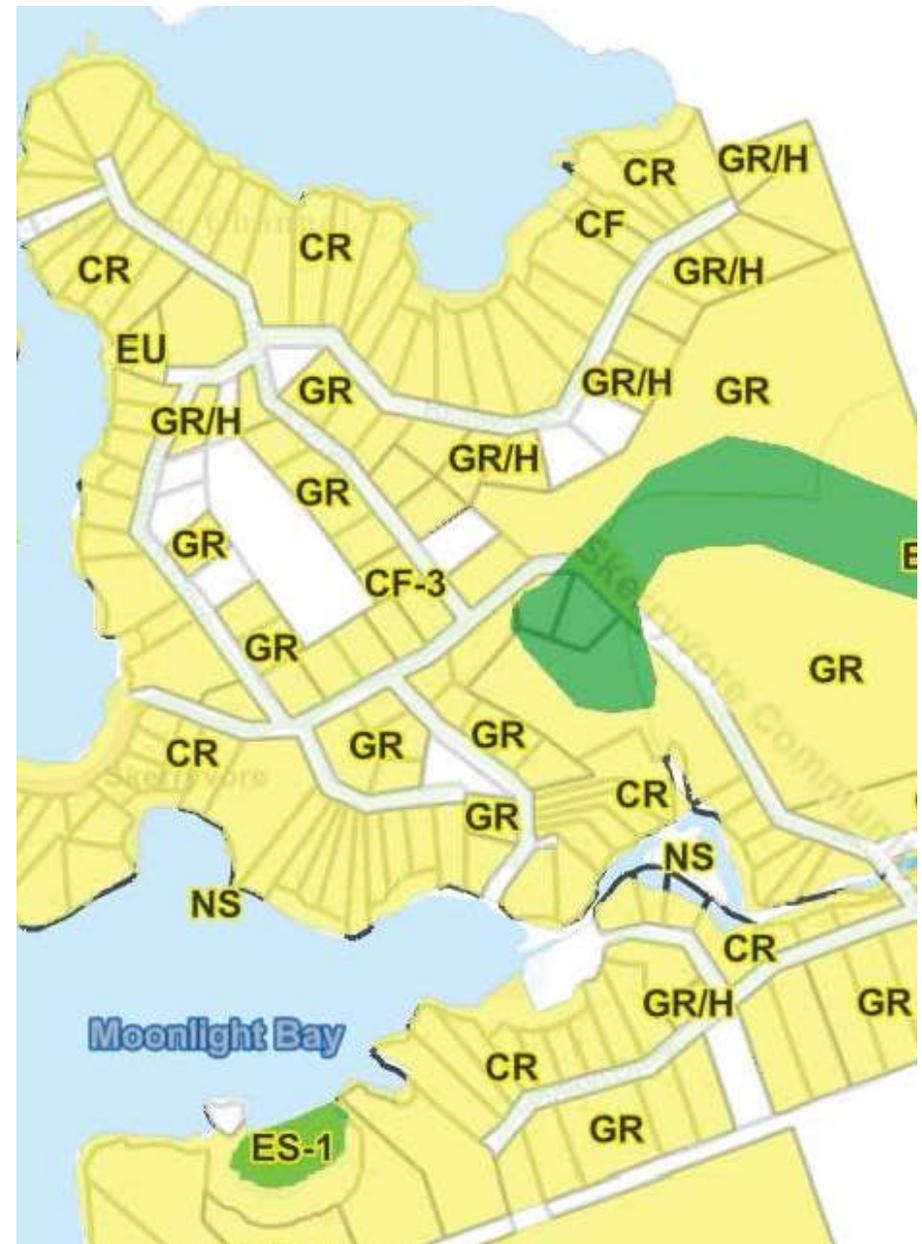
The Township's Site Alteration By-law and Tree Preservation By-law apply only to:

Residential Zones		
GR - General Residential	CR - Coastal/Inland Residential	IR - Inland Lakes Residential
Environmentally Sensitive Zones		
ES - Environmentally Sensitive	ES1 - Environmentally Sensitive One	ES2 - Environmentally Sensitive Two
Natural State and Conservation Zones		
NS - Natural State	NSC - Natural State Conservation	

To check the zoning on your property, search your address on:

West Parry Sound Geography Network, an online interactive GIS tool:
<https://www.wpsgn.ca/>

Example of Zones from the Township's Zoning By-law



If you're planning to make **significant** changes to the natural landscape – whether blasting rock, removing native shoreline vegetation, or clearcutting trees on your property – it is your responsibility to submit an application to the Township requesting a “site-specific” exemption to the by-laws.

Application Process for a Site-Specific Exemption



For more information, visit the Township's office, send us as an email, or give us a call:



Township of The Archipelago
9 James Street, Parry Sound, ON P2A 1T4
Tel: (705) 746-4243 Ext.304
Email: planning@thearchipelago.ca

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