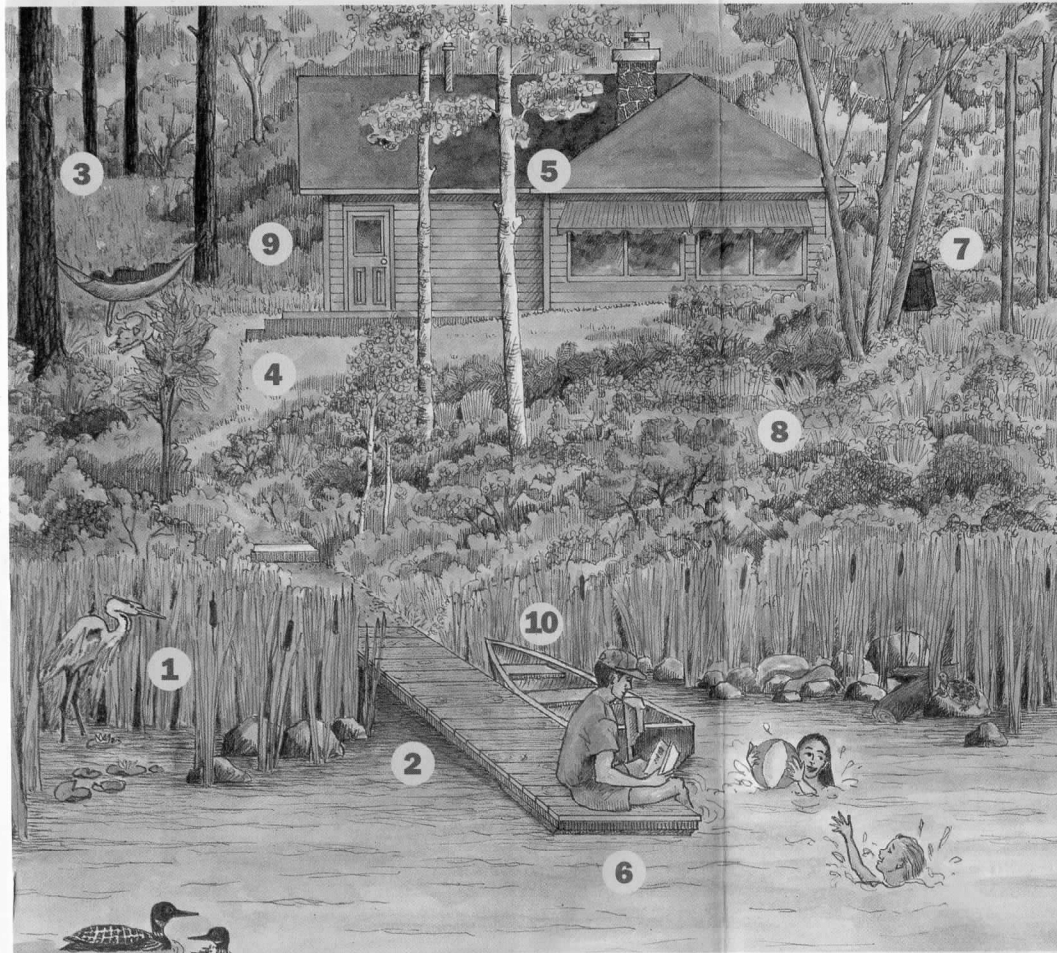


Waterfront *Living*

simple tips, lasting benefits

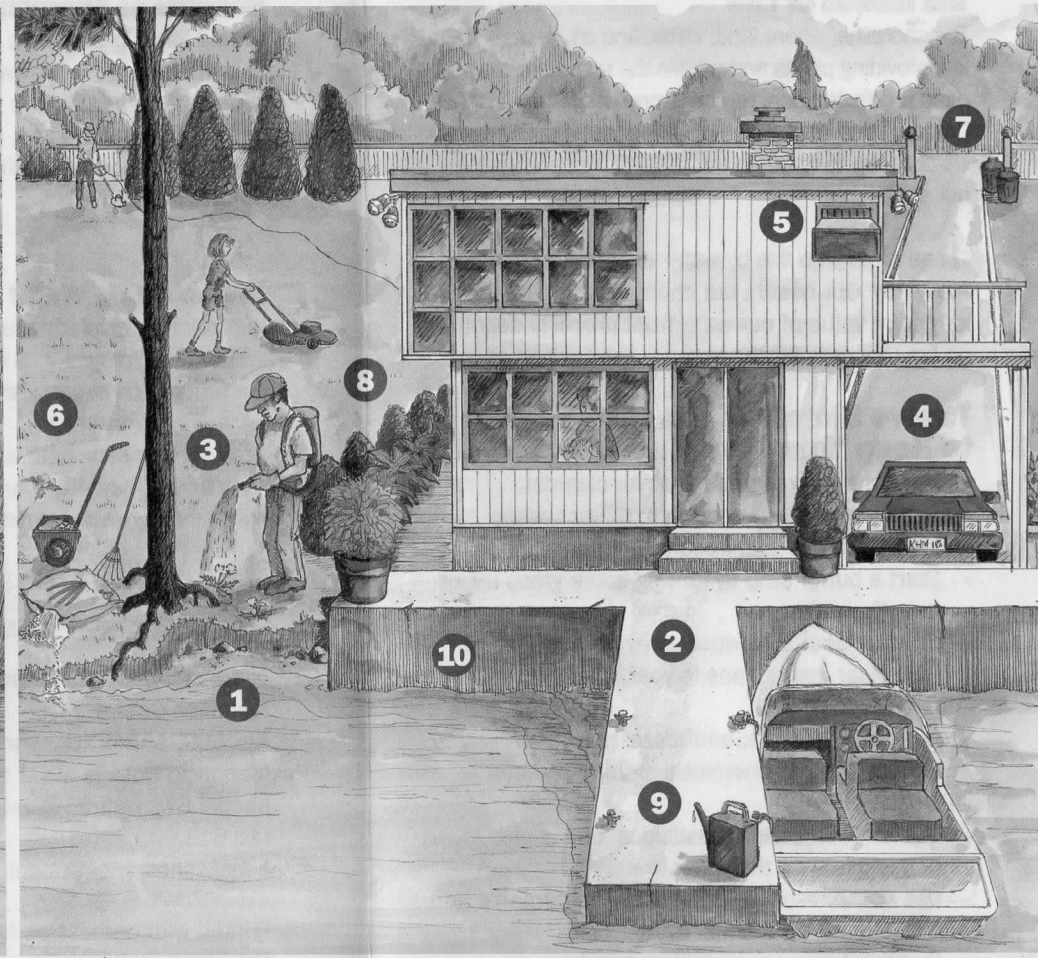


Waterfront Living



Let's Enjoy

1. Natural shoreline — great wildlife habitat.
2. Small floating dock — low impact on "ribbon of life."
3. Septic system far from the shore — reduces water pollution.
4. Narrow, gravelled footpath — less chance of erosion.
5. Trimmings trees and adjustable awnings — natural air conditioning with view maintained.
6. Work less — relax more!
7. Kitchen compost — improves your soil's quality.
8. Low-maintenance native plants — provide shoreline buffer.
9. Building — set back from shore and in character with setting.
10. Well-maintained motor — electric, or modern 4-stroke outboard, operated with low wake near shore.



Let's Talk

1. Bare shoreline — subject to erosion.
2. Solid dock — destroys wildlife habitat, alters currents, causes erosion elsewhere.
3. Fertilizer spills and chemical run-off from lawn — damage water quality.
4. Paved lane — pollution-laden runoff flows to water.
5. No shade trees — overworked air conditioner adds to electric bill.
6. Removal of natural vegetation — more work for you and more runoff.
7. Collecting lawn clippings — deprives soil of nutrients.
8. Ornamental shrubs — require chemicals and extra work.
9. Poor fuel management — spills are deadly.
10. Hardened shoreline — eliminates "natural filter," degrades water quality, and blocks wildlife access.

The Ribbon of Life

The shoreline, where land, water, and air meet, is a vital link providing plants and wildlife the resources they need for life. We, too, rely on shorelines for sustenance. Communities have grown up along the water's edge and we continue to return to the shore to rest and restore our spirits.

Those of us who live by water experience its magic every day. Our health, our children's health, and the long term value of our waterfront property depend on how we care for the shore — the "ribbon of life."

Twelve Simple Steps to Keep Your Paradise Intact

- Keep the lot well-treed — never clearcut.
- Protect shoreline vegetation; replant areas lacking shrubs and trees with native species.
- Start a buffer strip by leaving some grass uncut near the water.
- Build at least 30 metres away from the shore
- Give clear instructions to your contractors and monitor their work.
- Avoid spilling fuels, antifreeze, paint thinner or other chemicals on land or water — clean up fast!
- Don't use fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides near the water.
- Use only phosphate-free soaps, detergents and cleaners in your home.
- Pump out your septic tank regularly — every two to three years.
- Extend the life of your septic system by avoiding tank additives and minimizing water consumption.
- Refuel your boat with care — don't spill a drop.
- Watch your boat's wake — it causes erosion!

Note: Always check with your local Conservation Authority or Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources office before building or making changes to your shoreline.

Save
time and money . . . naturally!

Benefits of Shoreline Care

Caring for your shoreline means less work, not more! You will help preserve water quality and safeguard your family's health. You will also help protect the beauty of your paradise, maintaining its investment value. Extra benefits include more time to relax and enjoy!

The Living By Water Project – Ontario

Watch for more information and products on Living By Water as the project gets rolling in Ontario.

For more information visit:

www.livingbywater.ca

www.shorelines.lronline.com

www.muskokaheritage.org/watershed

www.kearneywatershed.ca



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