

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 regional, provincial, and federal government regulations before building or making changes to your shoreline.

Benefits of Shoreline Care

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

Who owns the waterfront?

The shoreline below the average high water mark is owned by the crown. For information regarding alterations to the foreshore, download the Quick Guide for Waterfront Land Owners and Developers from <https://bit.ly/3k9iSNR> Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources.

Original brochure developed in 2000 by the **LivingBy Water Project** who have kindly agreed to its reproduction.

For more information on provincial lake stewardship and monitoring, please contact:

BC Lake Stewardship Society

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www.bclss.org

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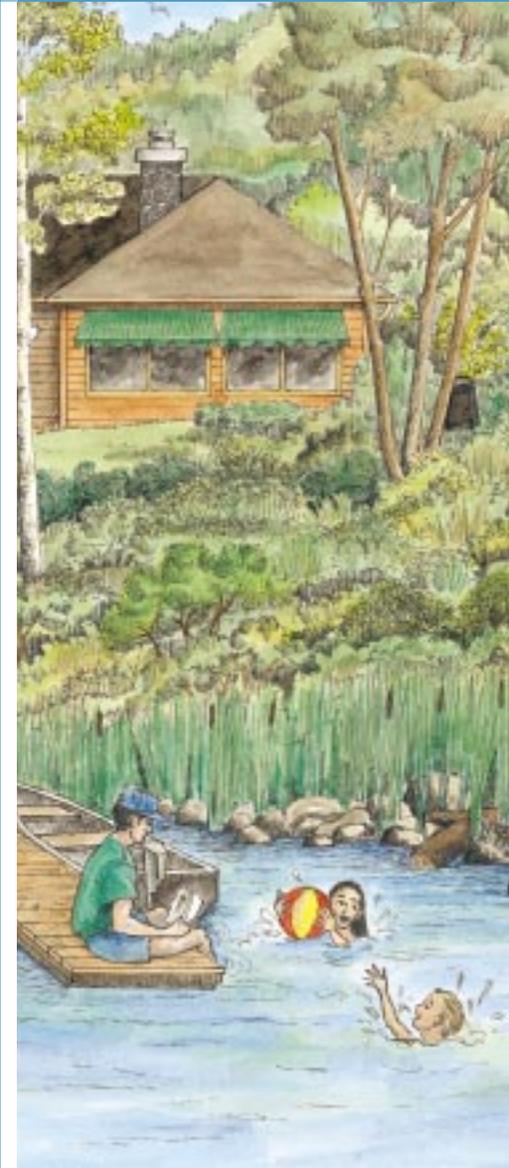


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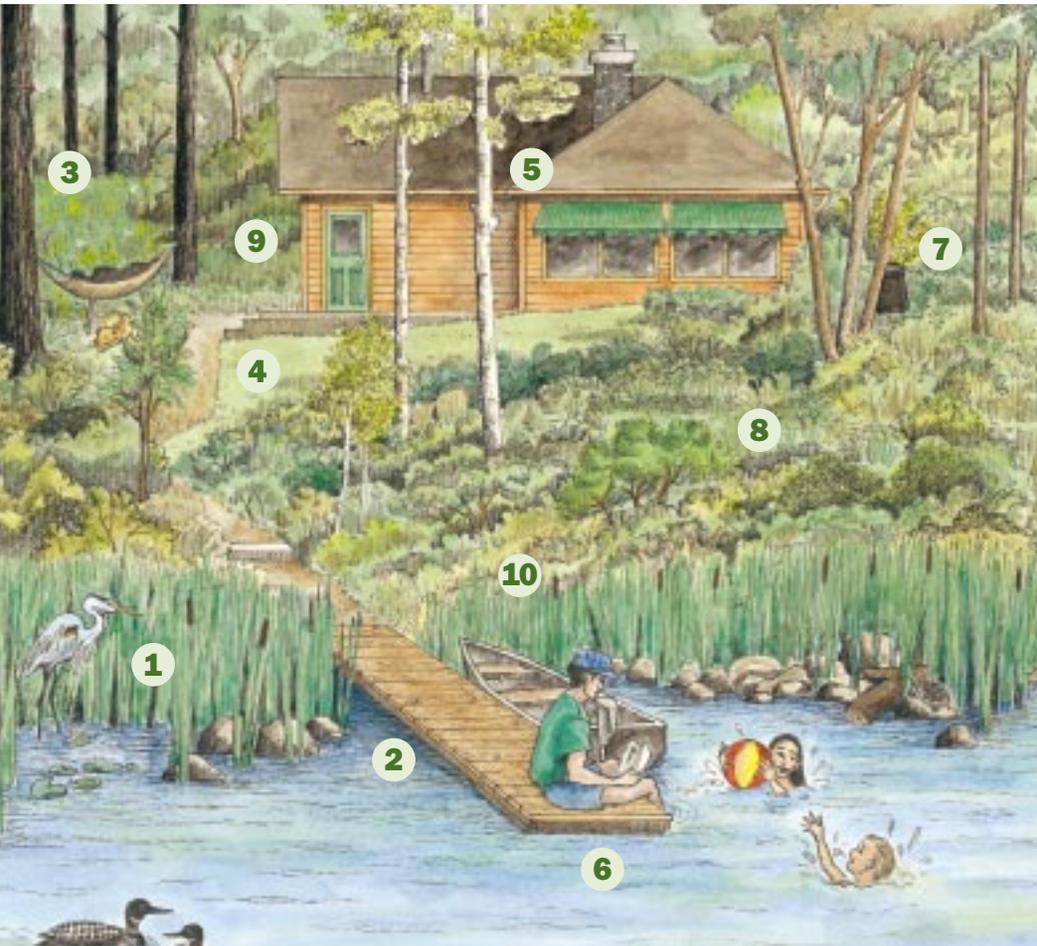
The BCLSS acknowledges that the lake stewardship activities of our staff, directors, and volunteers take place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of First Nations Peoples throughout British Columbia. We recognize that Indigenous Peoples have stewarded these lands and waters for generations and we are grateful to the Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and youth that implement their knowledge and traditional laws to preserve water and life for the benefit of all.

Waterfront *Living*

simple tips, lasting benefits

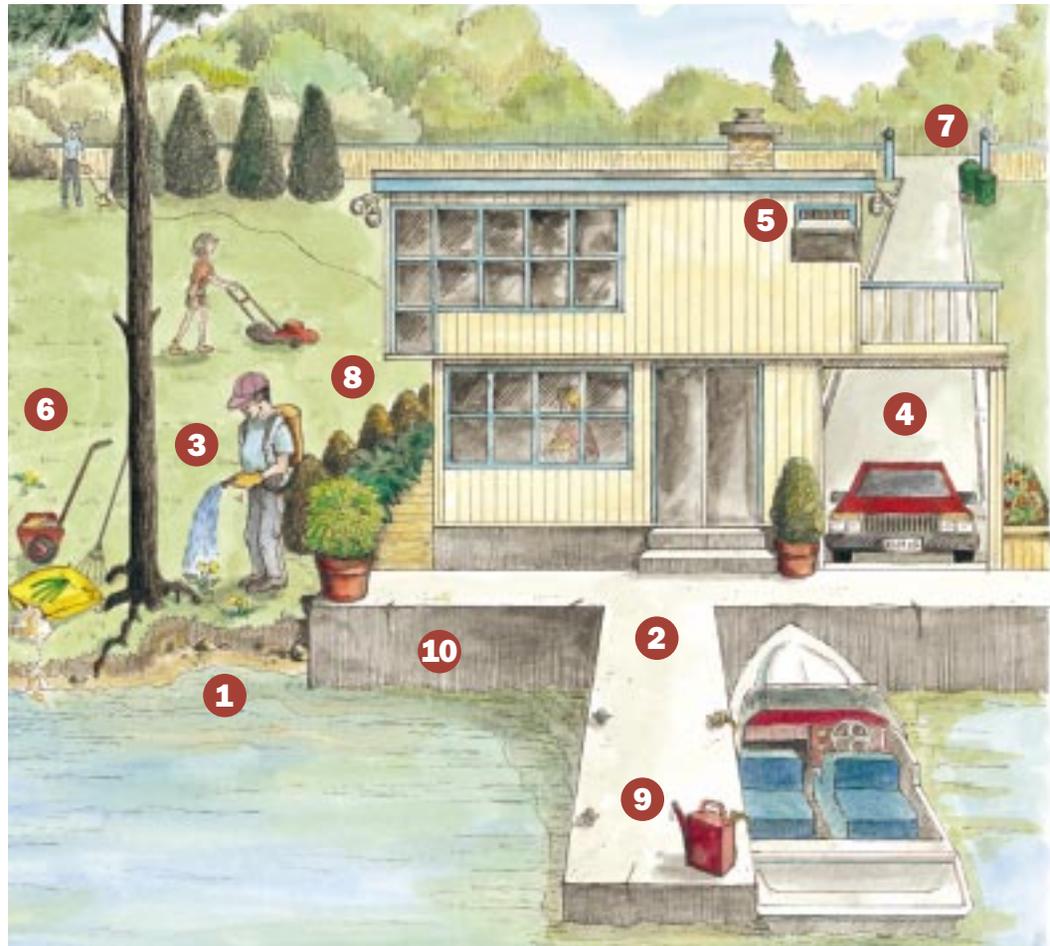


Waterfront Living



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. Trimmed trees and adjustable awnings — natural air conditioning with view maintained.
6. You 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.