

Give Your Shoreline a Make-over!



before

- 1** Cleared, manicured lot – lacks shade and privacy; loss of native plants leads to more erosion, runoff and work for you!
- 2** Runoff – flows over solid surfaces accelerating erosion; pollutants and excess silt degrade habitat for aquatic life.
- 3** Chemical fertilizers and pesticides – degrade water quality, are hazardous to your health, can be deadly for fish and other wildlife.
- 4** Lawn to the water's edge – lacks deep roots required to stabilize bank.

- 5** Hardened shoreline – can deflect erosion downstream, eliminates "natural filtering" of pollutants and sediment, degrades habitat.
- 6** Artificial beach – requires ongoing sand replacement, reduces water quality, degrades aquatic habitat.
- 7** Old 2-stroke engine – dumps 25–40% of fuel, un-combusted, into water and air.
- 8** Solid crib dock – destroys aquatic habitat, alters currents, can deflect erosion downstream.
- 9** Malfunctioning septic system – allows phosphorus and bacteria to leach into adjacent waterways.
- 10** Harmful household chemicals and cleaners – damage septic system and degrade water quality.



after

- 1** Prune trees rather than removing them; plant low maintenance native trees and shrubs to reduce erosion and absorb runoff.
- 2** Replace solid surfaces with porous materials where possible; redirect runoff into settling areas, away from the water's edge.
- 3** "Mow it high and let it lie" – leave grass 8 cm (3") high to retain moisture, mulch clippings for fertilizer.
- 4** Start a buffer – leave some grass uncut along the water's edge; restore with deep rooting native plants.
- 5** "Soften" your shoreline – improve erosion protection with native trees, shrubs, grasses and aquatic plants.

- 6** Create a "dry land" beach above the high water mark; let imported sand erode away naturally and native plants grow back.
- 7** Use a well maintained electric motor, or a 4 or 2-stroke engine that meets or exceeds EPA 2006 guidelines.
- 8** Remove solid dock – try a pipe, cantilever or floating dock, avoid treated wood; use public access where possible.
- 9** Replace and properly maintain your septic system – consult an expert.
- 10** Use environment-friendly products, or alternatives like baking soda and vinegar.