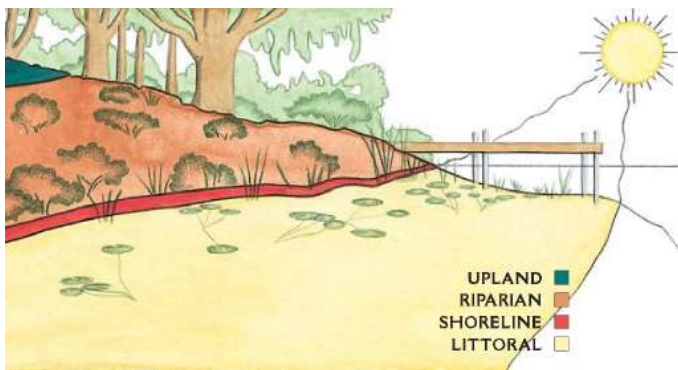


Shoreline Work & Permitting

Care should be taken when planning and undertaking work along the shoreline due to the potential to cause negative effects on the natural environment, including fish and wildlife habitat. Some examples of shoreline work are re-arranging, adding or removing rock, rubble, gravel or sand in or adjacent to the water, installing breakwalls, boat launches, docks, dredging, filling and the removal of aquatic vegetation. If you intend to undertake shoreline work, the Natural Resources Department must be contacted.

The shoreline refers to the transitional zone between land and water. There are components to your lake front which play an important role in the health of the lake. They include the near-shore littoral zone in the water, the shoreline, the riparian zone and the upland zone (depicted below).



Under the Fisheries Act “no one may carry out any work that causes death of fish ...” or the “harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat”. Following guidelines and regulations can make a difference to the impacts on shorelines. Nipissing First Nation follows the timing windows recommended by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) because restricting activity around shorelines at certain times of the year helps protect fish and fish habitats.

In order for this to work, we need the co-operation of everyone who enjoys the use of Lake Nipissing and its surrounding shorelines.

Silt or sediment can be harmful to fish and fish habitat. Silt that enters the watercourse (e.g. working in the riparian zone) can have devastating effects on fisheries and spawning sites. Silt causes breathing difficulties in adult fish, smothers fish eggs and dislodges eggs stuck to rocks or vegetation making them easy prey to other fish.

Nipissing First Nation is not exempt from federal laws and regulations. Band members must abide by these laws as well as any other persons living on, working with, or making use of the shorelines. The Fisheries Act defines fish habitat as “*water frequented by fish and any other areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly to carry out their life processes, including spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas (habitat).*” Please remember the reason you chose to live at the waterfront. If possible, look for a property that already matches what you desire in an effort to minimize your interest in undertaking harmful alterations to a shoreline.



Depending on the work being proposed, changes to the shoreline can weaken fish and wildlife habitat. One example of important fish habitat would be areas containing dense aquatic

vegetation known to be important for spawning fish such as northern pike. In the spring, pike migrate into shallow areas along the shoreline. Grasses and sedges are preferred, but other vegetation may be used. Removing material in shallow areas can expose embryos to siltation from wave action and currents. Dense vegetation is important for survival as young pike grow.

Aquatic plants such as cattails are important for wildlife and a great stabilizer for shore substrate; birds use materials for nests or as nesting areas. Snapping turtles prefer slow moving water with an abundance of aquatic vegetation for foraging. Snapping turtles are listed as Special Concern under the Species at Risk Act (SARA), which means they may become threatened. Species at risk and their habitats are protected under Federal and Provincial laws. As land owners and leasers, you can help by protecting natural vegetation.



Walleye spawning habitat is present along the north shore of Lake Nipissing. Ideal walleye spawning sites consist of clean coarse rock and cobble, interspersed with gravel in relatively shallow depths.



The NFN Natural Resources Department requires that all residents (i.e. members and non-members) apply for a permit when working in or around water.

1. Please contact the Natural Resources Department prior to commencing any shoreline activity at 705-753-2050.
2. A site visit is recommended. This will provide a better understanding of what work is being proposed.
3. Complete the application for work permit and application to do work on shorelands of Nipissing First Nation.
4. Make a plan for the work you are proposing to complete fronting your shoreline property. Include sketches/drawing/survey plans.
5. Application may require the comments of at least two immediately adjacent neighbours' on your proposed work.
6. Approval from the Natural Resources Department. If approved, all work is to be confined to the area indicated on your application.

For more information contact:

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