

Love Your Lake, Share the Responsibility



Few places in the world capture such a stunning diversity of landscapes: forests, mountains, lakes and rivers. Kootenay Lake has it all!

Photo: Ryan van der Marel, 2011

Shoreline Guidance Document for Kootenay Lake

Since 2010 local government, federal and provincial agencies and First Nations have partnered to better manage Kootenay Lake. By summer 2013 this effort will produce a Shoreline Guidance Document (SGD) which is based on an extensive scientific study of the lake's foreshore.

The SGD allows for clarity and cooperation in maintaining and protecting the important upland, foreshore and near-shore values on Kootenay Lake such as productive fish habitat, recreational opportunities and First Nations cultural uses.

The Kootenay Lake Partnership and the Friends of Kootenay Lake are dedicated to lake management planning by producing sound scientifically-based policy. By reducing the negative impacts and increasing stewardship, we can all do our part for the lake.

Once the Shoreline Guidance Document has been released public open houses will be held in various locations on the lake.

Your Kootenay Lake

What is the foreshore and why is it important?

In simplest terms, the foreshore is the area along the lake between the low and high water mark and is deemed Provincial Crown land. Since Kootenay Lake is technically a reservoir with controlled inflows, these levels are set in accordance with the International Joint Commission Order.

The foreshore is extremely important ecologically, culturally and economically:

- It is the interface between water and land and attracts high biodiversity in both areas – it

provides habitat for fish-rearing, nesting waterfowl, breeding amphibians, shorebirds and more;

- First Nations have used the foreshore since time immemorial and continue to do so – important archaeological sites may be found there;
- Erosion, flooding, exposed beaches, wave action – all occur to the foreshore. Damage to property can be minimized by following development guidelines and retaining foreshore vegetation and natural components such as rocks and logs.

Find out more:



Friends of
Kootenay Lake

www.friendsofkootenaylake.ca



Kootenay
Lake
Partnership

www.kootenaylakepartnership.com

Declare your love:

I ♥ My Lake

www.ilovemylake.ca

**“Responsible stewardship
requires everyone’s
involvement”**

– Ray Warden, Director of the
Ktunaxa Lands and Resource
Agency



Do your part to protect the lake. If you have concerns about works in and about the water or shoreline, please contact the R.A.P.P. hotline.

Negative change to the lake can occur slowly and incrementally, with unknown combined impacts to aquatic and riparian ecology.

These changes, known as *cumulative effects* are difficult to detect until it is too late. Think of future generations that would like to enjoy the lake too.



Above: a mismanaged shoreline; below: an ecologically friendly waterfront.



Working towards a lake management plan

Did you know that increased growth and development are not the only threat to our freshwater lakes? Invasive aquatic species, increased nutrient inputs and climate change are among other top concerns. A 2009 study showed that at least 60% of the West Arm of Kootenay Lake has already been adversely impacted.

Lake management planning is already occurring in the Shuswap, the Okanagan and in the East Kootenays. The SGD model has been successfully applied to 9 other lakes regionally.

The integrated and collaborative approach to lake management planning on Kootenay Lake provides a scientific baseline to improve coordination and decision-making at all levels including planners, developers, residents and enforcement agencies. Effective management is made possible by assigning value to each segment of shoreline which determines the risk of various activities.

Support for Kootenay Lake's shoreline guidance documents provided by:



Considering work or alterations to your shoreline?

Consider the consequences first. Non-compliance of the necessary development applications or lack of permits may result in a Provincial *Water Act* or even a Federal *Fisheries Act* violation. Asking a few simple questions could prevent a fine or charge.

1. The first step in planning any shoreline work is to consult with FrontCounter B.C. Call their toll free number at: **1-877-855-3222** or visit their website: www.frontcounterbc.ca

2. Several other resources are available online:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada:
www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/habitat/index-eng.htm

Province of B.C. Water Stewardship:
www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/

3. Improvements and restoration are encouraged – below are some tips for a shoreline make-over adapted from the *Living By Water Project* (www.livingbywater.ca):

Give Your Shoreline a Make-over!

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean, manicured lot - loss of native plants leads to erosion, runoff . . . and more work for you! 2. Runoff flows over solid surfaces accelerating erosion; pollutants and silt degrade aquatic habitat. 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 un-combusted fuel in water and air. 8. Solid crib dock – destroys aquatic habitat, alters current, deflects erosion. 9. Malfunctioning septic systems – allow phosphorous and bacteria to leach into adjacent waterways. 10. Harmful household chemicals and cleaners – damage septic systems and degrade water quality. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plant low maintenance native trees and shrubs to reduce erosion and absorb runoff. 2. Replace solid surfaces with porous materials where possible; redirect runoff to settling areas away from water's edge. 3. Leave grass 8 cm (3") high to retain moisture, mulch clippings for fertilizer. 4. Start a buffer – leave some grass uncut along shoreline; 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 native plants grow back. 7. Use a well-maintained electric motor, or a 4/2-stroke that exceeds EPA 2006 standards. 8. Remove solid dock – try a pipe, cantilever or floating dock, avoid treated wood; or use public access. 9. Replace and properly maintain your septic system – consult an expert. 10. Use environmentally-friendly products, or alternatives like baking soda and vinegar.
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