

Guide to Understanding and Protecting our Shore Line

Since 2008, the municipality has invested resources into raising awareness among shoreline property owners regarding the importance of maintaining shorelines in a natural state. It is important to leave the vegetation intact on the shoreline.

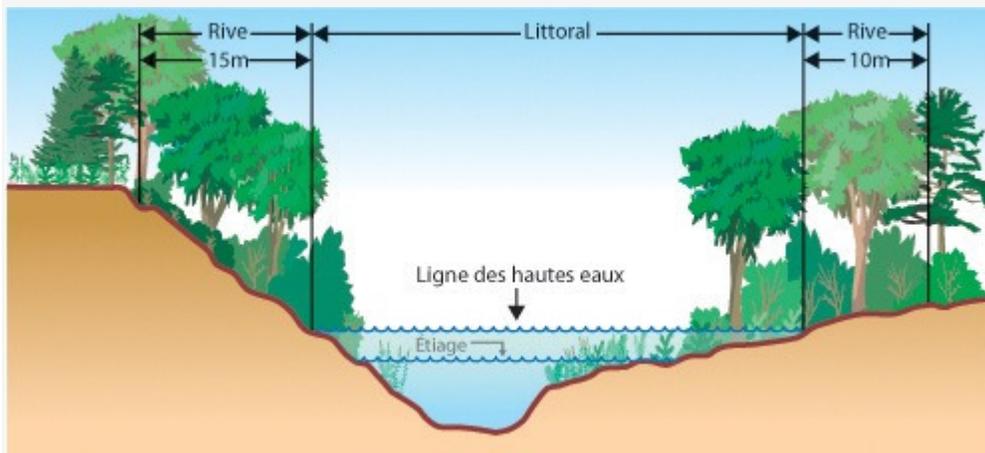
Indeed, the plants of the riparian filter fertilizers, pesticides, sediments and other pollutants that can contaminate water. Roots reduce the risk of erosion. They absorb rainwater and reduce the risk of flooding on the ground. Foliage reduces the exposure of the water to the sun and therefore reduces the water temperature. The shoreline provides habitat for fish and wildlife. For farmers, the shoreline protects crops from the wind, thus reducing soil erosion. The shoreline also improves the natural beauty of the landscape and provides a degree of privacy. It limits the spread of blue-green algae because plants absorb nutrients before meeting with the water. It is easy to see that the shoreline has several roles that are very important and that its protection necessary.

A strict bylaw concerning the control of the vegetation is now in force in the Municipality of the township of Potton and elsewhere in Québec.

The following section provides a summary of the applicable standards of the zoning #2001-291 concerning the development and stabilization of the bank. The full version of the standards is available at the end of the following summary.

The bank is a strip of land bordering lakes and rivers and extends inland from the high water line.

- The bank has 10 m (32.8 feet) measured horizontally when the slope is less than 30 % or when the slope is greater than 30% and has a bank of less than 5 m (16.4 ft) in height.
- The bank has 15 m (49.2 feet) measured horizontally when the slope is greater than 30 % or when the slope is greater than 30% and has a bank of more than 5m (16.4 ft) height.



All controls of vegetation are prohibited on a strip of 5 m on the shore measured from the high water line when the bank is 10 m (slope less than 30 %). The depth of this band is 7.5 m when the bank is 15 m (slope greater than 30 %).

Means of vegetation control include grass cutting; brushing; tree felling. However, this

prohibition does not apply in a 2 m strip adjacent to a building that is legally in the bank.

On the shore of lakes and rivers, no work, no construction or pit or septic system are permitted except:

- The work required to anchor docks and shelters for boats;
- The repairs to existing structures, provided that there are no more than 50% of this work to repair and that there is no change in the original size of the work done;
- Reforestation and planting;
- Work shoreline stabilization in the order and under the following conditions:
 - The restoration of vegetation and natural character of the shoreline when the slope, soil type and soil conditions permit it.
 - When the slope, soil type and soil conditions do not allow stabilization by vegetation:
 - The construction of riprap with vegetation;
 - The construction of riprap without vegetation;
 - The construction of gabions;
 - The construction of a retaining wall;

(The advice of a professional may be required to determine which technique to use.)

- The construction of an access road up to 5 m in width when the slope of the shore is less than 30 %. This path must be laid in angle through the bank. It should not follow the shore, without exception;
- Pruning required to create a window of 5 m width when the slope is greater than 30% and a flushed pathway or staircase of more than 1.2 m wide to provide access to the water. This path must be laid in angle through the bank. It should not follow the shore, with some exceptions.

It is permitted to have at most one private dock (stilts, pilings or floating), a boathouse and something to keep a boat out of the water by residence whose land is adjacent to the shoreline of the lake or river.

In case of non-compliance with the regulations, the offender (individual) would receive a fine ranging between \$ 500 and \$ 1 000 for a first offense, plus the costs related to the offense. In case of recidivism, the contravention may be fined between \$ 1 000 and \$ 2 000.

The owner or occupier is obliged to allow the person responsible for the application of the Rules of the field visit for verification between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., with respect to the execution or enforcement of the municipal regulation.

Reference: Zoning, Art. 13, 14, 64 and 65.

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- Links to websites on riverbanks: www.banderiveraine.org and www.rappel.qc.ca
 - Here's a link to the full regulation in French only:
<http://potton.ca/township/regulations-bylaws>
 - Link to the website of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change for the Protection Policy of lakeshores, Riverbanks, Littoral zones and Floodplains :
http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.php?type=2&file=/Q_2/Q2R35_A.htm