



REGIONAL DISTRICT  
of Fraser-Fort George

Development Services  
Planning



## ERSOSION: A Shoreline Living Series

### WHAT IS THE GREEN BUFFER?



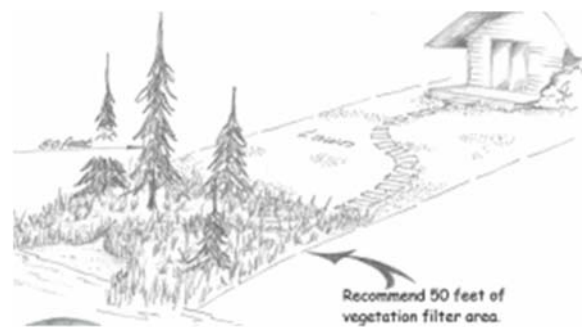
The green buffer is a strip of vegetation located along lakes, rivers and streams. This green buffer includes plants, shrubs and trees that thrive in wetter conditions.

The buffer provides many benefits to lakes and streams. It acts like a sponge to absorb excess water, and anchors stream and river banks from the abrasive effects of erosion. The buffer also filters out pollutants, such as fertilizers/pesticides, and regulates water temperature.

Shoreline erosion occurs when wave action undermines the bank, washes away, or saturates the soil. Erosion is furthered if there are exposed soils and mowed lawns up to the shoreline.

The rooting system of a lawn is not adequate to counteract wave action or the runoff of soils. Neutralize your shoreline with native grasses, shrubs and trees. Lawns are equivalent to a big plastic sheet or a bowling alley, so pollutants, such as fertilizers and pesticides, will be carried into the water and affect water quality.

If you would like to have a mowed lawn, try a 15 metre (50 feet) buffer to counteract against the lawn's runoff, and protect the bank against erosion.



Do not underestimate the power of a raindrop. On bare soils, a raindrop is equivalent to an atomic bomb. Rain will loosen the soil and make it move down slope. Exposed soils can be protected by planting vegetation and/or covering temporarily with straw.

**Regional District of Fraser-Fort George:**

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Remember, the more natural vegetation you leave, the better protection you have against bank erosion, and buffering the lake or stream from pollutants (i.e. pesticides and fertilizers). Use slit fences or hay bales to minimize any runoff on your lot.

Any time you plan on conducting work, in or near your shoreline, contact Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

## DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

Many lakes within the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George are within a Development Permit Area. This means that any land clearing, landscaping, land alteration and/or construction activities require a permit prior to work being started. The permitting area extends from the shoreline back 300 metres.

Remember – this permit is not a building or sewage disposal permit.

Development Permits exist to enhance views, maintain water quality, protect fish/wildlife habitat and conserve the green buffer. A Development Permit application requires a drawing showing the layout of the property, including existing and proposed vegetation, buildings and structures. Contact the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George for more information.



## OTHER RESOURCES

BC Lake Stewardship Society  
[www.bclss.org](http://www.bclss.org)

North America Lake Management Society  
[www.nalms.org](http://www.nalms.org)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
[www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource  
Operations and Rural Development  
[www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

Streamkeepers  
[www.pskf.ca](http://www.pskf.ca)

Wetlandkeepers  
[www.bcwf.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/wetland-keepers.html](http://www.bcwf.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/wetland-keepers.html)

Cottage Life  
[www.cottagelife.com](http://www.cottagelife.com)

Living by Water  
<http://www.bcnature.ca/projects/completed-projects/living-by-water/on-the-living-edge/>

Lakeshore Guidelines  
<http://www.rdffg.bc.ca/documents-resources/reports>

*Making an application does not guarantee approval. The decision rests with the Regional District.*

*This information has been prepared to provide convenient information only. It is neither a bylaw nor a legal document. If any contradiction between this information and the relevant bylaws and/or applicable codes arises, such bylaws and/or codes shall be the legal authority.*

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