

The following is the Executive summary extracted from the MOECC Lakeshore Capacity Planning Handbook. The Lakeshore Capacity Planning Handbook is the primary source of information being referenced by the County of Hastings planner as well as the Wollaston Township council. The executive summary emphasizes that the Lakeshore Capacity planning handbook is one aspect of water quality. Depending on the characteristics of specific lakes other important factors must also be considered in determining the development capacity of lakes.

Sources: MOECC Lakeshore Capacity Planning Handbook

Executive summary

Purpose

This handbook has been prepared by the Ministry of the Environment in partnership with the Ministries of Natural Resources and Municipal Affairs and Housing to guide municipalities carrying out lakeshore capacity assessment of inland lakes on Ontario's Precambrian Shield.

About lakeshore capacity assessment

Lakeshore capacity assessment (a generic term, but herein used to describe the Province's recommended approach) is a planning tool that can be used to control the amount of one key pollutant — phosphorus — entering inland lakes on the Precambrian Shield by controlling shoreline development. High levels of phosphorus in lake water will promote eutrophication — excessive plant and algae growth, resulting in a loss of water clarity, depletion of dissolved oxygen and a loss of habitat for species of coldwater fish such as lake trout. While shoreline clearing, fertilizer use, erosion and overland runoff can all contribute phosphorus to an inland lake, the primary human sources of phosphorus are septic systems — from cottages, year- round residences, camps and other shoreline facilities. Lakeshore capacity assessment can be used to predict the level of development that can be sustained along the shoreline of an inland lake on the Precambrian Shield without exhibiting any adverse effects related to high phosphorus levels.

It should be emphasized that lakeshore capacity assessment addresses only some aspects of water quality — phosphorus, dissolved oxygen and lake trout habitat. Municipalities and lake planners also need to consider other pollutants (such as mercury, bacteria and petroleum products) and other sources of pollution (including industries, agriculture and boats). It must also be emphasized that water quality isn't the only important factor that should be considered in determining the development capacity of lakes. Factors such as soils, topography, hazard lands, crowding and boating limits may be as or more important than water quality. Finally, it's important to emphasize that, to be effective, the technical process of carrying out lakeshore capacity assessment must be followed by implementation — in other words, the information obtained must be incorporated into municipal official plans and policies.

Benefits of lakeshore capacity assessment

Use of lakeshore capacity assessment by municipalities (along with proactive land-use controls) and enforcement of water-related regulations and bylaws will help to ensure that the quality of water in Ontario's inland lakes is preserved. The protection of water quality will also protect environmental, recreational, economic and property values.

Lakeshore capacity assessment enhances the effectiveness of the land-use development process in many ways:

5/ k: Protecting Water Quality in Inland Lakes

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/lakeshore-capacity-assessment-handbook-protecting-water-quality-inland-lakes> 3/77

- It incorporates the concept of ecosystem sustainability in the planning process It is consistent with watershed planning

- It promotes land-use decisions that are based on sound planning principles

- It addresses many relevant aspects of the Provincial Policy Statement (2005), which came into effect on March 1, 2005. The Provincial Policy Statement is issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act*.

- It encourages land-use decisions that maintain or enhance water quality

- It encourages a clear, coordinated and scientifically sound approach that should reduce conflict among stakeholder groups

- It encourages a consistent approach to lakeshore capacity assessment across the province It is cost effective

The net effect of lakeshore capacity assessment will likely be to shift development from lakes that are already well developed to those that are less developed.