

## Overview of MRC Shoreline Regulations (MRC 2018-325)

### **A Lake or River is Only as Healthy as its Shorelines**

Your protection of the shoreline is critical to protect the water quality of our lakes and rivers. Shoreline conservation and restoration are important conditions for the health of waterways. Protection of the shoreline or littoral zone provides many functions:

- Protects against soil and shoreline erosion
- Acts as a filter against water pollution
- Provides a barrier against sediment input to bodies of water
- Acts as a regulator of the hydrological cycle (water cycle)
- Provides a habitat for fauna and flora
- Provides a screen against excessive water heating
- Provides a natural windbreak

The MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, as well as the local municipalities adopted Regulation 2018-325. **Non compliance may result in fines.** Here is a summary of two critical shore regulations:

- 1) If the shore of your property is flat or sloped less than 30%, the natural vegetation of the shore must be protected over a distance **of at least 10 meters** calculated from high water. An opening of 5 meters can be provided to access the water.
- 2) If the shore of your property is sloping more than 30%, the natural vegetation of the shore must be protected over a distance **of at least 15 meters** calculated from high water. In addition, it is permitted to create a vegetated trail or staircase on piles or stilts to access the water, but they must measure a maximum of 1.2 meters in width.

Please Note, you will need a permit before undertaking any work on the shore of your lake. You should avoid the cutting of trees, shrubs, flowers and other natural plants, to avoid fines and the need to restore the vegetation.

**Please be advised that the municipalities in the Gatineau valley are applying the shoreline preservation policy and may fine those who don't respect the limit of 10 meters of NO CUTTING starting at the shoreline.**