

## Work Permit Application Guide for Shoreline Projects

**Are you planning to dredge, construct a breakwall, dock or boathouse?** The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) reminds landowners that a work permit may be required before working in the water or along your shoreline. Shoreline areas are important habitats for fish, birds and other wildlife. Most work performed along waterfront properties requires a permit from the MNRF.

### What is a Work Permit?

A **work permit** is issued under the authority of the *Public Lands Act*, R.S.O. 1990 to authorize activities on public lands and shore lands. **Public lands** mean any lands under the control and management of the MNRF, including the beds of most lakes and rivers in Ontario. **Shore lands** are defined as lands covered or seasonally inundated by the water of a lake, river, stream or pond and may include both patented (i.e. private) and Public lands.

A work permit ensures that specific activities on public lands and shore lands have regard for the environment, other users and neighbouring landowners. This guide only deals with work permit requirements for shoreline activities.

If you are in doubt on whether a [work permit](#) (Appendix 1) is required; please contact the MNRF Parry Sound District office at 705-746-4201.

### A work permit is required when your project involves:

- Filling shore lands – constructing erosion protection, (e.g., break walls, sheet steel or armour stone groynes, retaining walls; rip rap revetments) or cribs larger than 15 m<sup>2</sup>;
- Dredging shore lands (includes crib removal);
- Constructing or placing a structure(s) (e.g., dock, boathouse) where the total area in contact with the shore lands exceeds 15 square metres (161 square feet);
- Removal of aquatic vegetation.

### The following activities do not require a work permit:

- Installing a water line, service cable or heat loop for private residential use;
- Removing a dock or boathouse that does not involve dredging;
- Constructing or placing structures that have 15 square metres or less in physical contact with the shore lands fronting your property (e.g., docks, single-storey boathouses)

### Docks and Single-Storey Boathouses

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the MNRF no longer requires occupational authority for docks and single-storey boathouses with 15m<sup>2</sup> or less in physical contact with the shore land.

A work permit is still required for structures with more than 15 m<sup>2</sup> of new crib physical contact with shore lands, for example, a crib based structure. Single-storey boathouses with living accommodations, and non-boat storage related uses, for example, saunas, bathrooms, bars etc., and two-storey boathouses require occupational authority from the MNRF for which there is a fee.

### Provided that you follow MNRF O. Reg. 239/13, the following activities do not need a Permit:

- O. Reg. 239/13  
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/130239>
- Dredge shore lands previously dredged <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/dredging-shore-lands-previously-dredged>
- Maintain, repair or replace erosion control structures on shore lands <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/maintain-repair-or-replace-erosion-control-structures-shore-lands>
- Relocate rocks on shore lands <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/relocate-rocks-shore-lands>

### What legislation applies to shoreline work?

- **Public Lands Act** – Except for federal canals and harbours, the beds of most lakes and streams in Ontario are public lands. A work permit may be required before working in the water or on shore lands.  
<http://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p43>
- **Conservation Authorities Act** – Construction in waterways and on floodplains, alteration of watercourses or placement of fill in designated areas may require a permit from the local Conservation Authority. <http://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90c27>
- **Endangered Species Act** – Provides protection for threatened and endangered species and their habitats. Projects which will kill, harm, harass, damage or destroy a species/its habitat are not permitted without additional authorization. <http://www.canlii.org/en/on/laws/stat/so-2007-c-6/latest/so-2007-c-6.html>
- **Environmental Assessment Act** – Provides for the protection, conservation and wise management of the environment. All work permit applications are screened to determine the potential for negative impacts. <http://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90e19>
- **Federal Fisheries Act** – All projects in/around water that may disrupt, destroy or harmfully alter fish habitat will need to be referred to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. **Applicants are responsible for obtaining DFO comments to support a work permit application.**  
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/f-14/>
- **Species at Risk Act** – Federal legislation to prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct and to provide for their recovery.  
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/>
- **Navigation Protection Act** – Any works that may interfere with the public right of navigation may require approval from the Canadian Coast Guard.  
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-22/>

**Note:** Other municipal (e.g., Building Permit), provincial or federal agency approvals may also be required.

### Work Permit Application Checklist

**Form 1 and Form 3** – Complete the work permit application (Appendix 1). A contractor may act as an agent for the landowner but an agent MAY NOT sign the Part 1 application as the landowner. Form 1 must be signed by the landowner

**Agent Sign Off Form** – For privacy protection reasons, we require that the landowner sign-off on the agent form (if applicable) to allow the agent to correspond with the MNRF on behalf of the landowner

**Copy of Deed or PIN (obtained from Land Registry Office)** – Supports proof of ownership

**Neighbours' Comments** – adjacent neighbours (each side) must be notified of proposed work. Discuss your project with your neighbours and ask them to sign off on the notification form

**Municipal Comments** – are required if your property is located within an organized municipality

**Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Review** – MNRF requires applicants confirm whether their project requires DFO review. Please review the self-assessment information for “Projects Near Water” by visiting <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>. **Please check the appropriate box below.**

Project falls under self-assessment criteria and applicant will follow recommended measures to avoid harm

Project requires formal DFO review. Project details have been submitted to DFO and comments will be forwarded when received.

**Photographs** – Current, snow-free photographs of work site and existing shoreline

**Location Map** – Provide GPS coordinates, if possible

**Dredging Projects** – Complete the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change checklist attached to the work permit application

**Survey or accurate sketch** of your property showing:

- Property boundaries and dimensions
- Buildings (cottage, boathouse), structures (docks, fences) in relation to the property boundaries and existing water's edge.

**Work plan drawing details and requirements\***

The drawings you include allow MNRF staff to appropriately review your proposal. It is very important to ensure they are complete and accurate.

- Draw your plan(s) to scale
- Sign and date all work plans
  - Include as much information as possible
  - Use a ruler or a computer to create your drawings

\* For **ALL PROJECTS** you must include a *minimum* of **2 drawings** (sample drawings are included in Appendix 1):

- **Site Plan Drawing (bird's eye view)**
  - Clearly indicate where the work will take place in relation to lot lines and water's edge.
  - Include a measurement to a permanent landmark feature or benchmark (such as the corner of a house, well, etc.) to the work location
  - Include dimensions of work footprint
- **Project Specific Cross-Section Drawing**
  - Drawings specific to the type of work you are proposing. See details below for specifics.
  - Include a detailed side-view (cross-cut) drawing of the proposed work.

Note that engineer drawings, technical reports and/or supporting documentation may be required for complex projects. Groynes and breakwalls will require a coastal engineer's report.

**Who do I submit my application to?**

Please send your application to the following address:

Parry Sound District Office  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
7A Bay Street

Parry Sound, ON P2A 1S4

Or, email as a PDF to: [psdistrict.mnrf@ontario.ca](mailto:psdistrict.mnrf@ontario.ca)

**How will my work permit application be reviewed?**

- Once a completed application is received, it is reviewed by local MNRF staff. Depending on your project, you may be required to obtain other agency approvals
- **Reviews will not start until all items on the checklist are received. If further clarification is required, the review will not start until all requested items are received. Incomplete applications will be returned.**
- MNRF staff may visit the site for inspection during the course of review. Field inspections are normally between June 15<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> (in order to identify terrestrial wildlife or aquatic values)
- Review periods typically take 12 weeks to complete, however review periods may be extended if there are site specific conditions that require additional review or consultation
- If the project is approved, a work permit will be issued by the MNRF
- Read the permit carefully and make sure you can comply with all of the conditions outlined permit
- Keep a copy of the work permit at the site

### **When can I start my project?**

If your project is approved, you will receive a work permit.

MNRF staff set timing restrictions to protect fisheries and species at risk during critical periods (e.g., fish spawning, egg incubation, hibernation etc.). Each MNRF district office provides site specific timing guidelines. Your work permit will be issued for the time you can undertake your project.

<http://www.ontario.ca/document/water-work-timing-window-guidelines>

## **APPENDIX 1**

**1. Applicant Information**

Applicant (e. g., landowner, licensee, permittee, etc.) (Cannot be a subcontractor)

Last Name			First Name		Middle Initial
Business Telephone Number ext.			Residence Telephone Number		
Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name			PO Box
City/Town			Province		Postal Code

**2. Site Contractor or Person in Charge**

Last Name			First Name		Middle Initial
Business Telephone Number ext.			Residence Telephone Number	Radio Contact Available Yes No	
Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name			PO Box
City/Town			Province		Postal Code

**3. Type of Work Proposed**

Indicate and complete the appropriate additional part(s)

Building Construction      Work on Shore lands      Work within a waterbody      Roads, Trails, or Water crossings

**4. Location of Work Permit Area**

Township, Municipality, Basemap No. or Lot and Concession, Location, Subdivision or Mining Claim or U.T.M. No.

Other (i.e. Waterbody) describe

Camp Location	Number or Workers on Site
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**5. Private Land**

Private Lands of –Applicant

Yes   No      Other (please specify)

**6. Effective Dates (s)**

Start Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Finish Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
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**7. Equipment Information**

Equipment to be used (specify)

**8. Signature**

Personal Information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 13 of the *Public Lands Act*, R.S.O. 1990 and Ontario Regulation 453/96 as amended and Ontario Regulation 975 as amended, and the information will be used for the purposes of the Act and Regulations. Questions about this information should be directed to the local MNRF office. MNRF office addresses and phone numbers are listed on the reverse of this form. I/We hereby agree to rely solely upon the terms and conditions of the written work permit issued pursuant to this application. Any changes, amendments to the written work permit must be approved in writing by MNRF.

I certify the information given in this application is true. Signature of Applicant	Position	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
Signature of Contractor (if applicable)	Position	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
Date Application Received in Office (yyyy/mm/dd)		

Note: The issuance of this permit does not relieve the applicant from the responsibility of acquiring any other agency, board, government, or other approvals as may be required. If an applicant requires a copy of this application, the applicant should retain copy prior to submitting.

Regional Office	Address	Telepho
Northwest Regional	435 S. James St, Suite 221, P7E 6S8	807
Atikokan	108 Saturn Avenue, P0T 1C0	807
Dryden	479 Government Road (Hwy.17), Box	807
Fort Frances	922 Scott Street, P9A 1J4	807
Geraldton	208 Beamish Avenue Box 640, P0T	807
Ignace	Box 448, P0T 1T0	807
Kenora	808 Robertson Street, Box 5080, P9N	807
Nipigon	5 Wadsworth, Box 970, P0T 2J0	807
Red Lake	227 Howey Street Box 5003, P0V 2M0	807
Sioux Lookout	49 Prince Street, Box 309, P8T 1A6	807
Thunder Bay	435 S. James St, Suite B001, P7E	807

## Northeast Region

Regional Office	Address	Telephone
Northeast Regional Office – South Porcupine	Ontario Government Complex Hwy 101, Postal Bag 3020, PON 1H0	05-235-1157
Blind River	62 Queen Avenue, P0R 1B0	705 356-2234
Chapleau	190 Cherry Street, P0M 1K0	705 864-1710
Cochrane	Cochrane District 2-4 Hwy. 11 South, PO Box 730, P0L 1C0	705 272-4365
Hearst	613 Front Street, Box 670, P0L 1N0	705-362-4346
Kapuskasing	Hwy 11 W., Box 2, P5N 2X8	705 335-6191
Kirkland Lake	Box 910, 10 Government Rd., P2N 3K4	705 568-3222
Manitouwadge	Box 309, P0T 2C0	807 826-3225
Moosonee	Revillion Road, Box 190, P0L 1Y0	705 336-2987
North Bay	3301 Trout Lake Road, P1A 4L7	705 475-5550
Sault Ste. Marie	64 Church Street, P6A 3H3	705 949-1231
Sudbury	3767 Hwy. 69 South, Suite 5, P3G 1E7	705 564-7823
Timmins	Ontario Government Complex, Hwy 101 East, Postal Bag 3090 South Porcupine, P0N 1H0	705 235-1300
Wawa	48 Mission Road, Box 1160, P0S 1K0	705 856-2396

## Southern Region

Regional Office	Address	Telephone
Southern Regional Office – Peterborough	300 Water Street, 4th Floor, South Tower, K9J 3C7	705-755-2001
Aurora, Greater Toronto Area (GTA)	50 Bloomington Road, L4G 0L8	905 713-7400
Aylmer	615 John Street North, N5H 2S8	519 773-9241
Bancroft	106 Monck Street Box 500, K0L 1C0	613 332-3940
Bracebridge	1350 High Falls Road, P1L 1W9	705 645-8747

Guelph	1 Stone Road West, N1G 4Y2	519 826-4955
Kemptville	10 Campus Road, Postal Bag 2002, Concession Road, K0G 1J0	613 258-8204
Kingston	Ontario Government Building, Beachgrove Complex 51 Heakes Lane, K7M 9B1	613 531-5700
Midhurst (Huron)	2284 Nursery Road, L0L 1X0	705 725-7500
Minden	Hwy. 35 By-pass, Box 820, K0M 2K0	705 286-1521
Niagara	Box 5000, 4890 Victoria Avenue North, L0R 2E0	905 562-4147
Owen Sound	1450 7th Ave. East, N4K 2Z1	519 376-3860
Parry Sound	7A Bay Street, P2A 1S4	705 746-4201
Pembroke	31 Riverside Drive, K8A 8R6	613 732-3661
Peterborough	300 Water Street, 1st Floor South Tower, K9J 3C7	705 755-2001

018-2369E (2014/08)



**Instructions**

1. Complete applicable sections.
2. Include proof of ownership (e.g. copy of deed and, if available, a copy of survey plan) or indicate property lines.
3. Include sketches/drawings/survey plans as indicated on the reverse of this form.

**Note: Application will not be processed unless the sketches have been completed and attached to the application.**

4. Applications may be required to include evidence that notice of the work has been provided to at least the two immediately adjacent neighbours and that they have been provided reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed work.
5. Include municipality's comments of the project, where applicable, (i.e. for dredging or constructing improvements).

**1. Filling**

a. Purpose

b. Dimensions of Area to be Filled	Length	Width	Depth of Water
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c. Type of Material to be Used

Sand   Earth   Gravel   Armor Stone   Rock Rubble   Other (please specify)

d. Manner of Preventing Erosion or Silting

**2. Dredging**

a. Purpose

c. Area to be Dredged	Length	Width	Average Water Depth
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c. Type of Material (select check box and indicate approximate %)

Sand   %   Marsh   %   Silt   %   Gravel   %   Clay   %   Rock   %

d. Indicate Disposal Location of Dredged Material

e. Proposed Method of Siltation/Erosion Protection (i.e. straw bales, silt curtain, etc.)

**3. Boat Launch/Ramp**

a. Dimensions

b. Material to be Used

**4. Construction of Dock, Boathouse, Breakwall**

a. Purpose

c. Dimensions	Length	Width	Height
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c. Materials Used in Construction (if material has a preservative, also indicate what type)

d. Construction Details (i.e. type of support - concrete, wooden crib)

**5. Other Works**





**Ministry of Natural Resources  
and Forestry**

## **Sample Plans**

### **For Illustration Purposes Only**

These sketches may not apply to your specific proposal. However, they do show the type of information required to process your application. Applicants must provide their own plans.

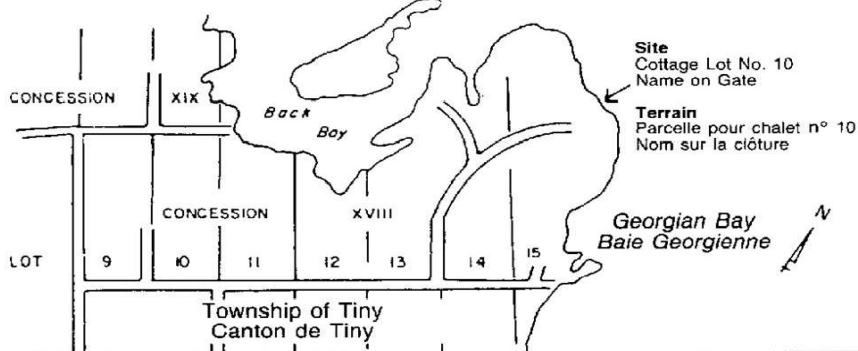
**Ministère des  
Richesses naturelles et des Forêts**

## **Exemples de plans**

### **Données à titre d'exemple seulement**

Ces croquis peuvent ne pas s'appliquer à votre projet. Ils donnent cependant le type de renseignements nécessaires au traitement de votre demande. Il incombe aux demandeurs de fournir les plans de leurs propres projets.

## Location Plan/Plan de situation



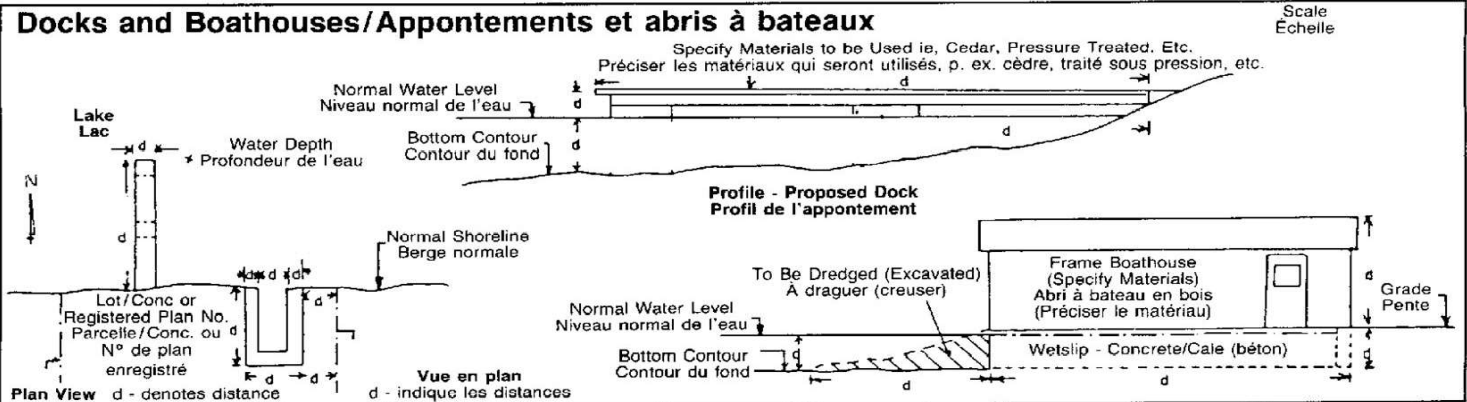
### Please Note:

The site of your proposal will be visited therefore, instructions on how to locate your property must be accurate. Any features which may help to identify your property should be indicated.  
ie. white cottage, blue roof, name on gate, white picket fence, etc.

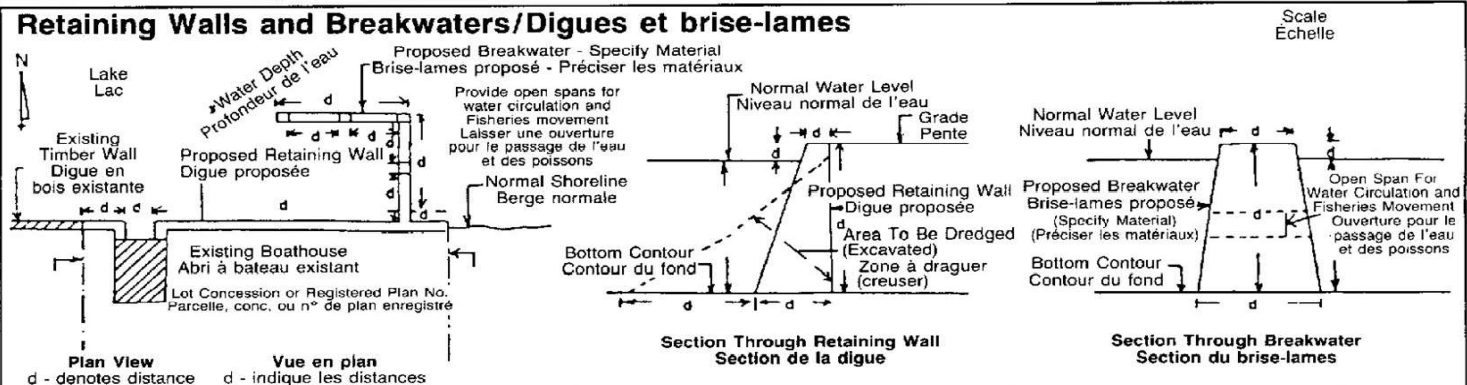
### Remarque :

Le site des travaux que vous prévoyez sera inspecté. Donnez des précisions nous permettant de trouver votre propriété et des repères pour la situer, p. ex. Chalet blanc avec un toit bleu, nom sur la clôture, barrière blanche, etc.

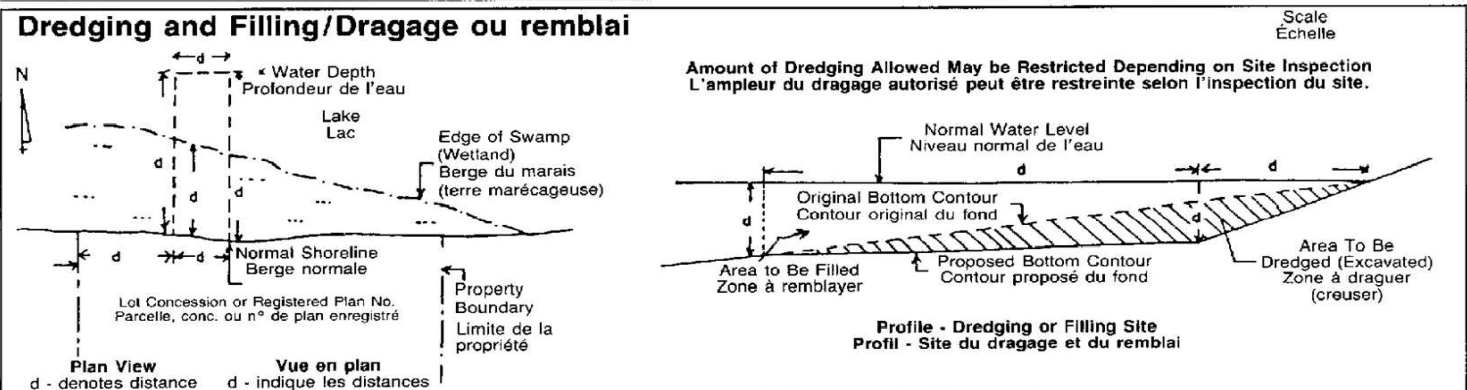
## Docks and Boathouses/Appontements et abris à bateaux



## Retaining Walls and Breakwaters/Digues et brise-lames



## Dredging and Filling/Dragage ou remblai



To Whom It May Concern:

is authorized to submit an application on our/my behalf for a

work permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and apply for other agency approvals as necessary.

Print: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINT**

**RESET**

## MUNICIPAL COMMENT FORM

### APPLICATION FOR A WORK PERMIT UNDER

Ontario Regulation 975, Public Lands Act

#### IN THE MATTER OF

an application for a work permit to do work on shore lands in front of:

We, the Municipality of:

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Have reviewed the proposal submitted by:

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And,

The intended use conforms to our planning policies

The intended use does NOT conform to our planning policies

(Please check appropriate box)

Comments:

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Name/Title of Municipal Official

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Signature

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Date



## NOTICE FOR ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

### Application for Work Permit under the Public Lands Act

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### TO BE COMPLETED BY NEIGHBOUR:

- ☐ have been provided with an explanation of my neighbours' project, including the  
☐ following: plan(s) showing the proposed work  
☐ why the work is being undertaken  
when the work is to be completed (spring, summer, fall,

winter) Comments:

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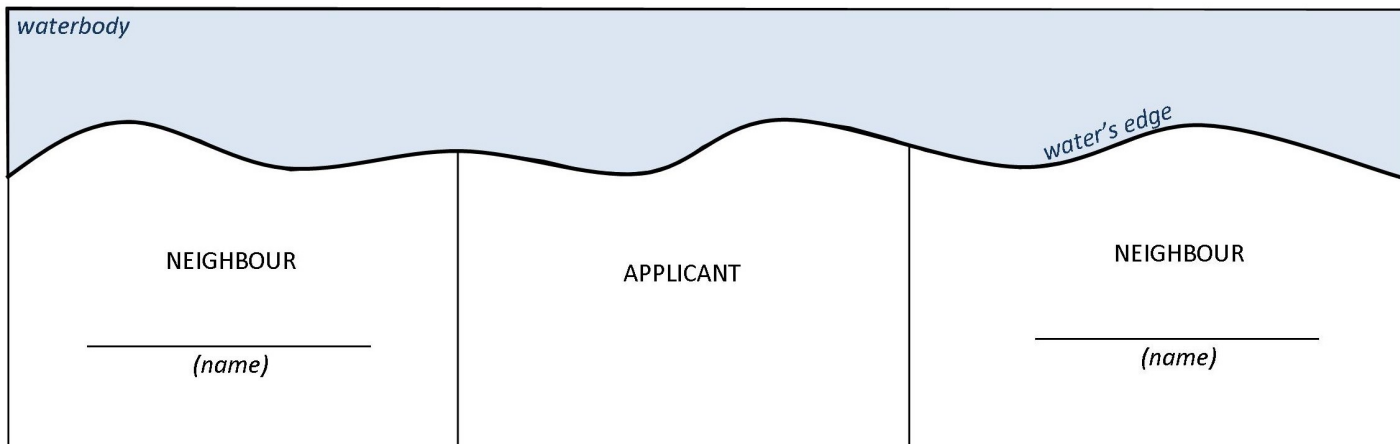
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

waterbody		
		
NEIGHBOUR	APPLICANT	NEIGHBOUR
_____ (name)		_____ (name)

Conditions and personal information regarding this project are collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act to assist in making decisions and to determine further public consultation needs. Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, will be shared among Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry staff, may be made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained as indicated below.

☐ I authorize the release of my personal information





## SCREENING FOR DREDGING PROJECTS ONLY

*This screening is used to establish that certain dredging projects by virtue of their size, type of material to be dredged, isolation of the material from sources of contamination, and the disposal option selected do not warrant testing or detailed evaluation. The determination is made based on readily available information.*

The Work Permit applicant is to complete this form.

APPLICANT/PROJECT:

Consideration	Yes	No
Is the material to be removed affected or suspected to have been affected by material from a chemical spill, pesticide use or pollution incident?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there any record of past industrial uses or discharge in this area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there continuing sources of discharge (industrial discharges, agricultural runoff, leachate from landfill sites, sanitary sewers or storm sewers) in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there aspects of the project that can be considered contrary to public interest such as transport of material through populated areas, disposal adjacent to or in a watercourse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there intakes (private or commercial use) for water supplies nearby that are likely to be affected by suspended sediment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has previous sediment testing found contamination due to in-place pollutants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there visual or olfactory (smell) evidence of pollution in the water or sediment (oil sheen, organic odour) that will indicate pollution from gas or oil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is open water disposal being considered for the material?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the lake or stream bottom covered by organic debris from human activities (e.g. bark from logging activities)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

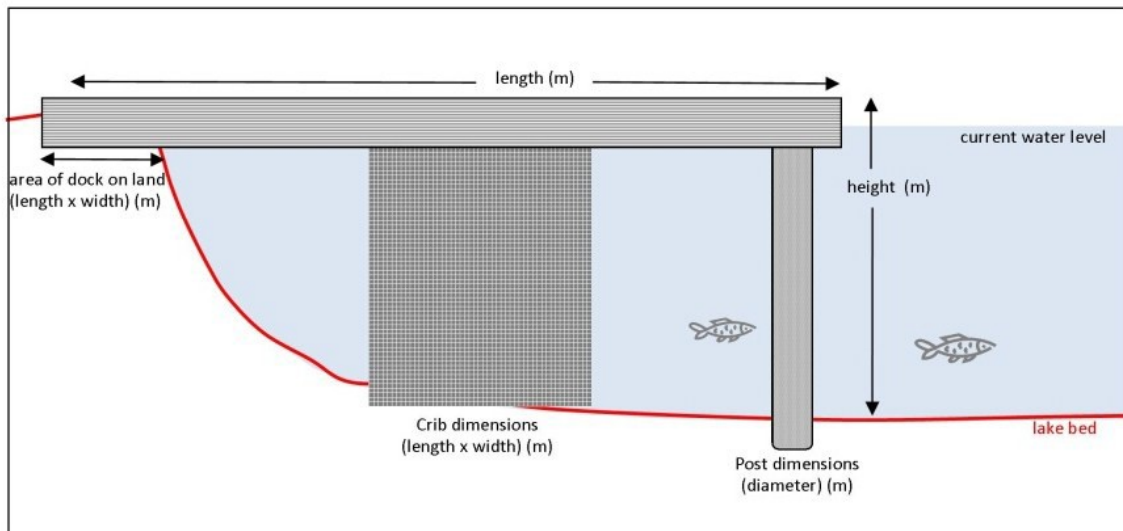
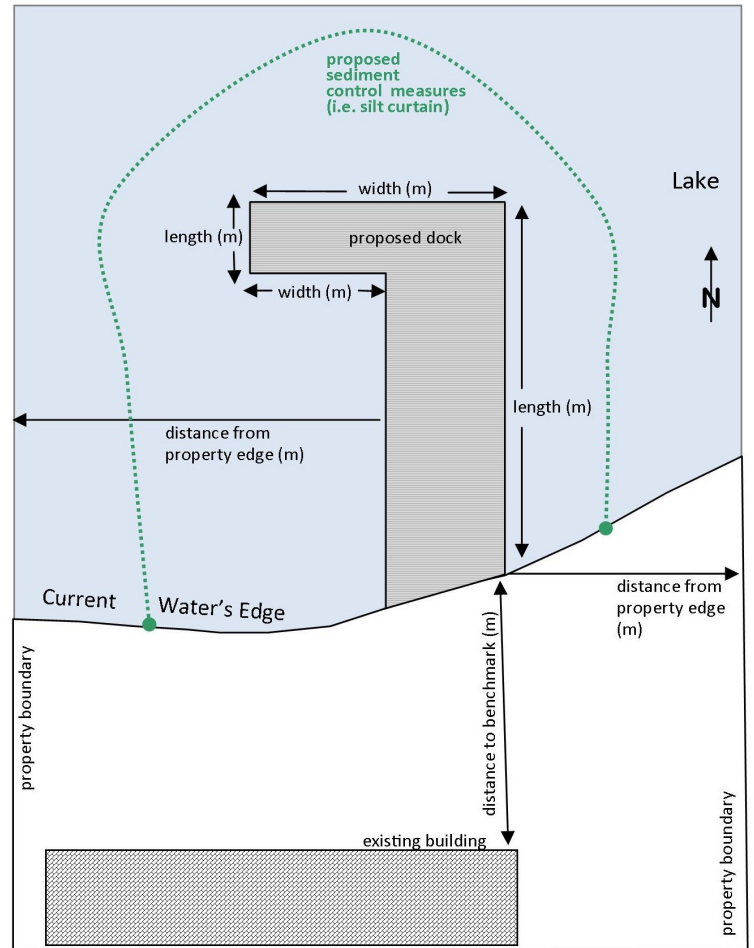
If the answer to one or more of the above questions is yes, then the project may be considered for detailed review by MOECC.

**PRINT   RESET**

## DOCKS & BOAT HOUSES

For proposed docks and/or boathouse projects, the following items must be included in the drawings:

- detailed cross section information
- detailed plan view (bird's eye)
- construction materials
- dimensions of dock / boathouse
- distance from property line
- distance from landmark (ie house)
- demonstrate areas of footprint on the lake bottom
- construction details (including site access)



### Things to Consider

- ✓ Choose the dock type with the least impact that will suit your needs (ie. floating vs. crib or piles)
- ✓ Recognize that any chemical applied to your dock may end up in the lake, no matter how careful you are. Consider metal, fiberglass, plastic grating or naturally rot resistant wood for the decking.
- ✓ Use grated deck with openings that allow maximum light penetration to the water below
- ✓ Do not use vertical plankings or 'skirts' along the sides of the dock that extend into the water – these reduce the amount of light that is able to reach nearshore areas



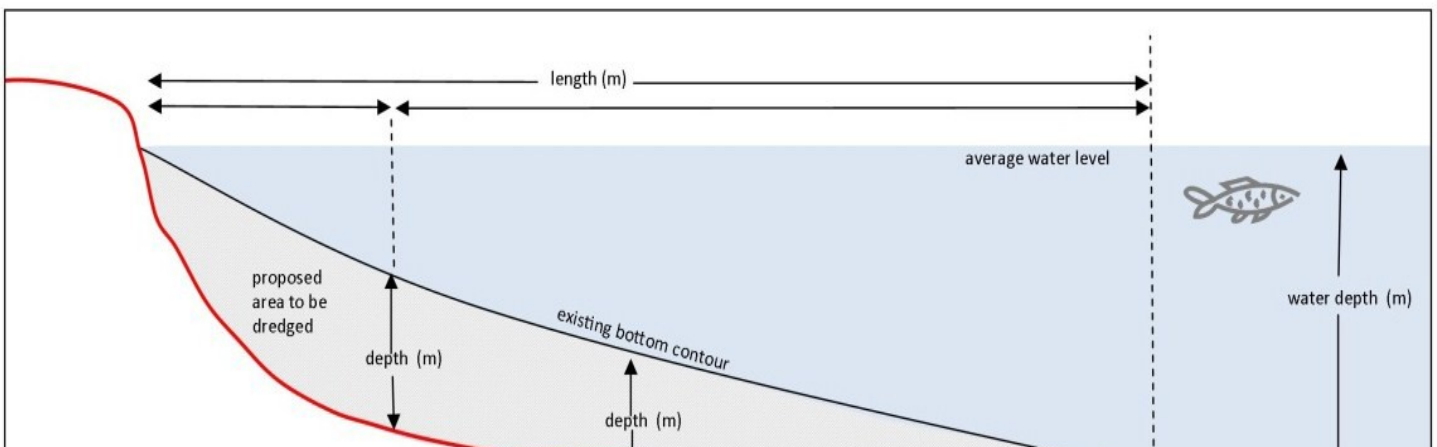
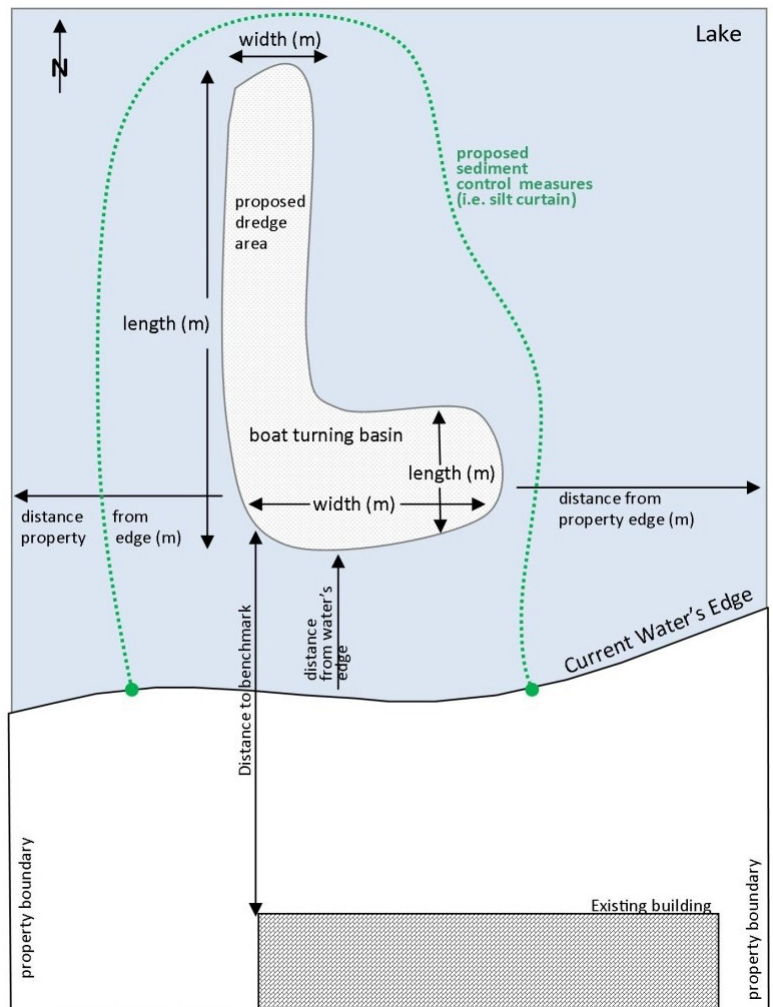
## DREDGING

For proposed dredging projects, the following items must be included in the drawings:

- detailed cross section information
- detailed plan view (bird's eye)
- dimensions of dredged area
- existing and proposed lake depth
- equipment to be used
- proposed sediment and erosion control measures
- distance from landmark (ie. House)
- substrate type
- proposed sediment and erosion control measures (i.e. silt curtain)

### Construction Details

- type of equipment
- location where fill will be placed
- approximate duration of project (days, weeks, months)
- method of stabilizing the site
- site access details
- how equipment is going to access the site (i.e. Barge)
- other?



### Things to Consider

- ✓ Reduce the dredge size to the minimum required to meet your needs, as dredging modifies the lake bottom and disrupts or destroys benthic habitat ('bugs in the mud'). This causes short and long term changes in the food chain impacting plan, fish and invertebrate communities.
- ✓ Consider using alternative technologies that exist such as communal boardwalks and docks, mooring boats off shore, using a public marina and / or marine railways. A small boat requiring less draft or water depth is also an option.



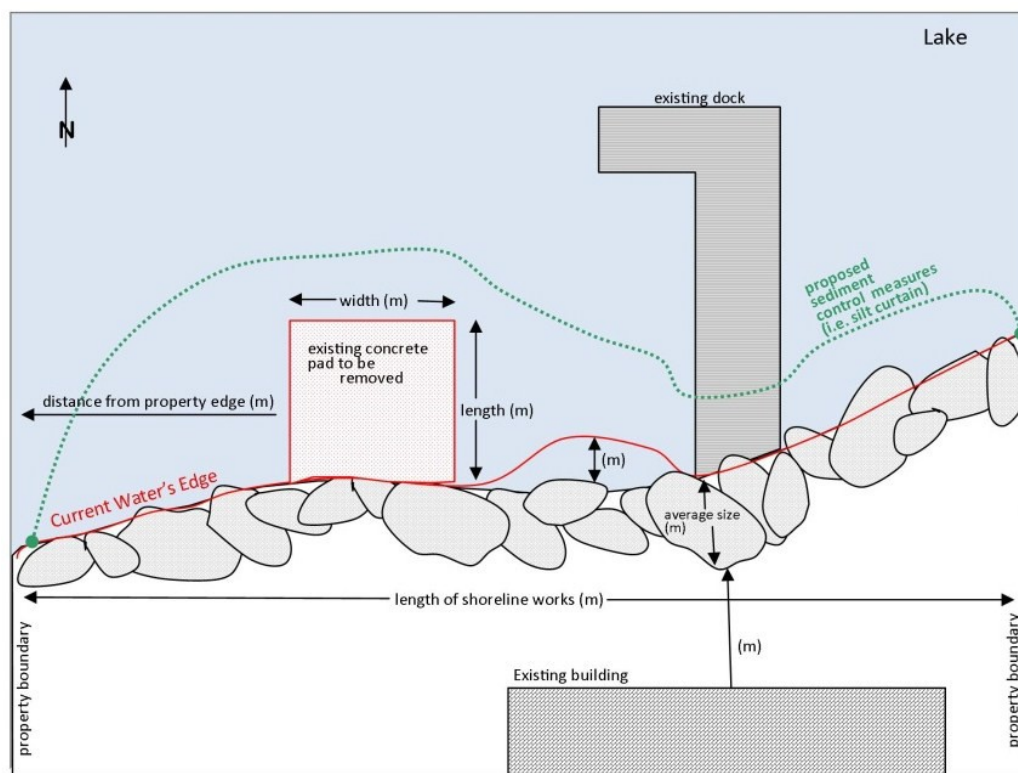
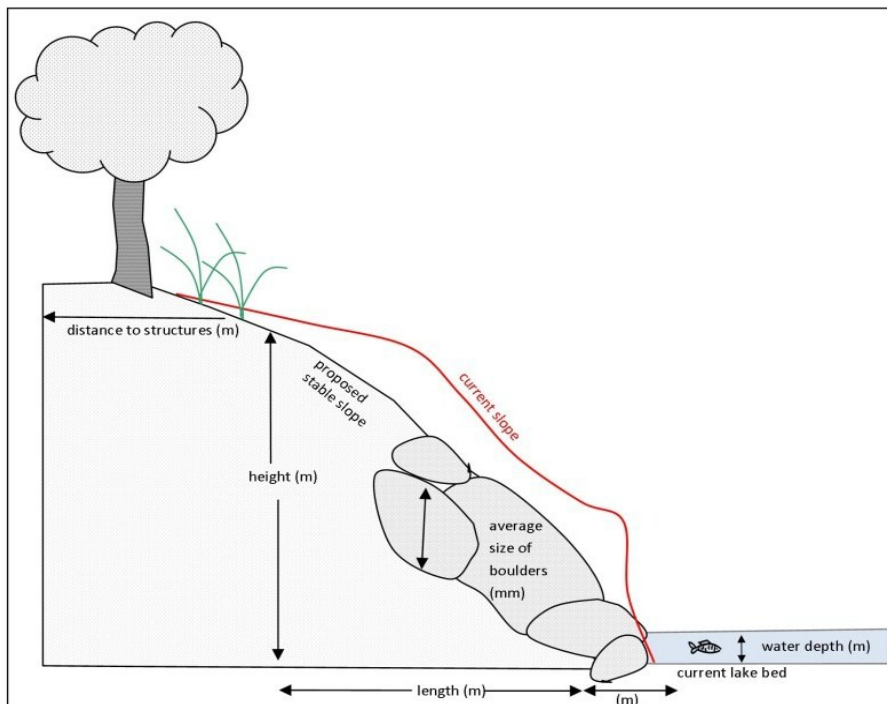
# FILLING & EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES

For proposed projects involving fill placement (i.e. new erosion control structures, shoreline filling and/or stabilization), the following items must be included:

- detailed cross section information
- detailed plan view (bird's eye)
- proposed materials (ie. Rounded granite boulders)
- dimensions (length, width, depth)
- sediment and erosion control measures
- details regarding construction techniques / equipment
- building materials

## Construction Details

- type of equipment
- approximate duration of project (days, weeks, months)
- how equipment will access the site (ie. Barge)
- location where fill will be placed
- method of stabilizing the site
- access

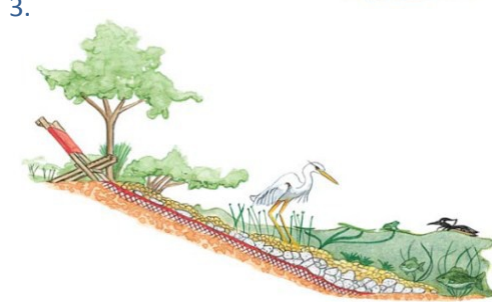
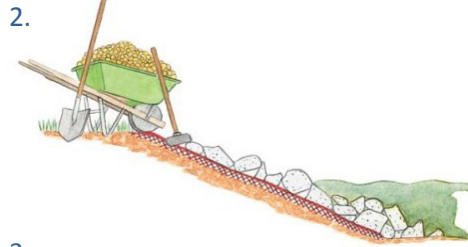


## Things to Consider

- ✓ Make sure you follow the natural curve of natural shoreline, and if possible work with your neighbours to create a long cohesive and continuous natural shoreline
- ✓ Retain the natural shoreline vegetation already existing, and consider incorporate some additional trees and shrubs along the water's edge. The roots help stabilize the shoreline, reduce nutrient runoff, reduce maintenance costs and are excellent cover, food and shade for plants and animals.



## LAKE-FRIENDLY IDEAS



*Instead of concrete and steel sheet-pile, shoreline best management practices use a combination of vegetation plantings, gravel, stone, logs, and slope modification to protect against shoreline erosion.*

Natural shorelines offer the following benefits:

- ✓ They maintain shoreline stability while substantially improving habitat for fish and other wildlife;
- ✓ They allow for improved water access for homeowners and guests, making swimming and shoreline enjoyment easier;
- ✓ They offer a softer, more natural shore that can enhance views by adding variety and seasonal interest; and
- ✓ They retain or improve land value offering a better return on sale due to their aesthetic beauty and compatibility with nature.

### Natural Shore Protection (e.g. soft engineering)

Options for more natural shore protection include soil bioengineering, re-grading slopes to mimic the natural shoreline, rock and boulder revetments. These techniques utilize vegetation to help bind the soil and augmented with other materials, will provide a more natural shoreline that can create fish habitat and improve water quality given their filtering properties.

### Retaining Wall Removal

The lake and your property will benefit from the removal of an existing retaining wall (made of concrete, wood, steel, etc.) and the creation of a more gradual and natural connection between the Bay and your property. These hardened shorelines are the least environmentally considerate shore protection techniques. There are plenty of opportunities to improve the shoreline health and improve the water's edge.

1. Existing retaining wall
2. Creating a natural shoreline slope
3. Allowing a shoreline to naturalize benefits fish and wildlife species.

### Things to Consider

- ✓ Resist the urge to “tidy” the shoreline. Consider the difference between *litter* (hazard) and *natural material* (habitat) and leave any natural material that does not pose a safety concern.
- ✓ Incorporating a buffer of trees and shrubs along your shoreline, is not only appreciated by creatures, but the roots help stabilize your shoreline, requiring less future maintenance
- ✓ Use native species – they are hard-working, ecologically appropriate and adapted to local conditions. They also provide habitat benefits for birds, butterflies, insects and fish.
- ✓ There are lots of resources exist to help you out – contact your local MNRF office for assistance



If your property is located within the eligible area, your project may be eligible for funding through the **Lake Simcoe and South-Eastern Georgian Bay Community Stewardship Program**. This program provides support to landowners looking to improve the natural environment and water quality of their property. For more information on program eligibility and funding options, visit <https://www.dsln.org/?pageid=22>