

KEY POINTS



Lawn mowing

Within a riverbank or lakeshore, it is permitted to mow lawns that existed as at September 16, 2008, as long as a buffer strip of a minimum of 3 metres is preserved along the lake or watercourse. If there was no lawn as at September 16, 2008, mowing the lawn within the riverbank or lakeshore **is prohibited**.

Revegetation work

Seeding and planting hardy vegetation suited to shoreline environments is permitted within the riverbank or lakeshore.

A few exceptions apply-contact your municipality for details



Cultivation of soil for agricultural purposes

Cultivating the soil within the buffer strip of a minimum of 3 metres along a watercourse is prohibited.

Harvesting of vegetation for agricultural purposes

Harvesting herbaceous vegetation is permitted within the riverbank or lakeshore, as long as a minimum height of 30 cm is respected:

- When the slope of the riverbank or lakeshore is less than 30%, harvesting is permitted inward from the **high-water mark**;
- When the slope of the riverbank or lakeshore is greater than 30%, harvesting is only allowed on the **top of the bank**.

WATERCOURSE MANAGEMENT

The MRC de La Haute-Yamaska is responsible for ensuring normal, free water flow in watercourses. **Any intervention that might affect water flow is therefore prohibited unless express authorization is given by the MRC.** The MRC receives and processes requests for watercourse maintenance and improvement work and issues permits pertaining to the following works:

- Bridges, culverts and wading crossings
- Riverbank or lakeshore stabilization partly carried out in the littoral zone
- Aerial, underground or surface works (gas lines, waterworks or sewer systems)
- Drainage outlets
- Creation of new impermeable surfaces (parking lots, residential developments or large scale felling of trees)

The MRC de La Haute-Yamaska is the only organization with jurisdiction over the cleanup of watercourses and the withdrawal of sediments (fill, straightening, maintenance, etc.) from watercourses within its territory. **All applications for work of this nature must be submitted to the MRC.**

For more information

www.haute-yamaska.ca

450 378-9975



mrc
La Haute-Yamaska
Prospère de nature



Protection of lakeshores, riverbanks and littoral zones

Applicable regulations
in Haute-Yamaska

For healthy lakes and rivers
in Haute-Yamaska

www.haute-yamaska.ca



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF RIVERBANK AND LAKESHORE VEGETATION?

- Acts as a pollution barrier
- Reduces erosion
- Stabilizes riverbanks
- Supplies food and shelter for wildlife
- Provides shade and keeps water cool



The contents of this document are for information purposes. Landowners are responsible for consulting their municipality's applicable land planning by-laws.

PROTECTION OF LAKESHORES, RIVERBANKS AND LITTORAL ZONES

You must comply with all regulations that apply to the **banks, shores** and **littoral zones** of a lake or watercourse bordering your property. By ensuring that your property complies with these regulations, you are doing your part to preserve and improve the health of lakes and rivers in Haute-Yamaska.

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS IN HAUTE-YAMASKA

All structures, undertakings and works are in principle prohibited on **lakeshores** and **riverbanks**. **A number of exceptions, however, are specified in municipal zoning by-laws.**

Haute-Yamaska shoreline residents are required to maintain a **riparian buffer strip of a minimum of 3 metres** or, in some cases, 15 metres.

For more information about applicable regulations, refer to the "KEY POINTS" panel.

How to measure the 3-metre buffer strip

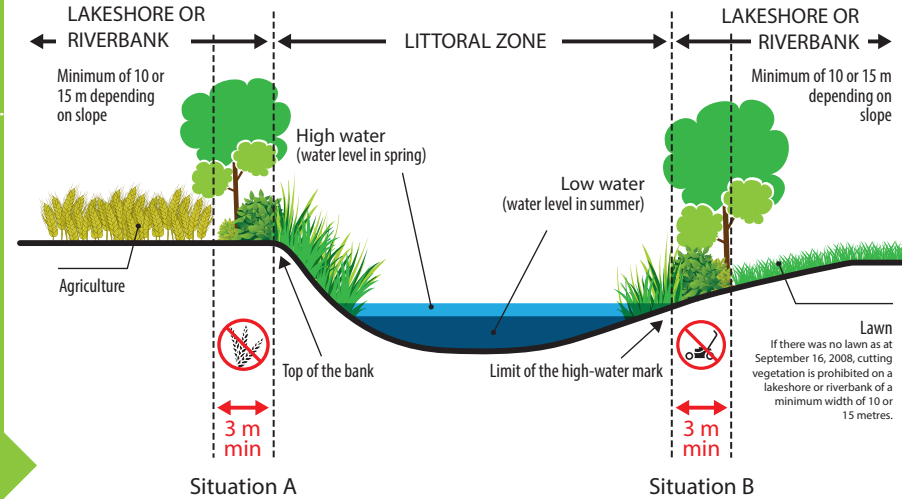
SITUATION A :

The strip is measured from the top of the bank, where there is a bank, and the top of the bank is less than 3 metres from the high-water mark.

SITUATION B :

Where there is no bank, the strip is measured from the high-water mark.

Delineation of the lakeshore or riverbank and littoral zone



DEFINITIONS

The **littoral zone** refers to the part of a lake or watercourse that extends from the high water mark to the centre of the body of water.

The **lakeshore** or **riverbank** refers to a strip of land bordering a lake or watercourse and extending inland from the high-water mark. Depending on the surrounding slope, the minimum width is either 10 or 15 metres.

? DID YOU KNOW?

By giving nature a helping hand to regenerate shores and banks, you contribute to preserving and improving the health of our lakes and rivers.

REMINDERS ABOUT REGULATIONS IN FORCE

