

Shoreline Management Plan Steering Committee invites public to complete electronic survey about issues facing shoreline

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is updating Shoreline Management Plan; Local stakeholders are taking part on Steering Committee; survey is now online

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) last completed a Shoreline Management Plan in 2000. A Steering Committee and consulting team are now conducting work to update the plan. The updated Shoreline Management Plan should be completed by the end of 2016.

The Steering Committee includes local people with an interest in shoreline issues, representing seasonal and shoreline residents, industry, neighbouring conservation authorities, the counties of Lambton and Huron, and representatives of the four shoreline municipalities in Ausable Bayfield watersheds. The Steering Committee is providing individuals in Ausable Bayfield watersheds with a chance to provide early input through an online survey. The survey has 18 questions so property owners can offer some of their concerns, issues, and priorities as the Steering Committee moves forward with its work.

The conservation authority is to send correspondence to a number of people with an interest in shoreline management to invite them to complete the survey. The survey is also available online. You may complete the survey directly by visiting this link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Shoreline-Management-Plan-Update. The survey is to be open until February 1, 2016. Survey respondents may provide their name and contact information to be entered into draws to possibly win one of three grand prizes to be awarded of a family pass for the year to Rock Glen Conservation Area in Arkona. Each Family Season's Pass prize is valued at \$45. Public opportunities for input, in addition to the survey, are to include public open houses planned for 2016 when some of the technical work is to be ready in draft.

The ABCA Shoreline Management Plan was completed in 1994 and updated in 2000, said Alec Scott, Water and Planning Manager with ABCA. "It is important to regularly review these documents, as lake levels fluctuate with weather and climate changes," he said. It is important to ensure the Shoreline Management Plan captures the priorities of the people along the shoreline and in our inland communities, according to Scott. "We need to ensure the science is current, that we share knowledge and ideas with municipalities and people in the watershed community, and ensure that strategies are reasonable and effective to manage a number of shoreline issues," he said.

A key component of the Shoreline Management Plan addresses the shoreline hazard limits for flooding, erosion, and dynamic beaches. The document is used both for reference and to direct changes to land use planning documents of lakeshore municipalities.

Some of the main objectives of a Shoreline Management Plan include:

- Reducing or eliminating damage due to periods of erosion, flooding and dynamic beach movement that may occur to development close to the shore of a Great Lake or large inland lake.
- Directing new development away from hazardous areas.
- Helping to protect existing development from potential impacts of new development.

People may find out about the Plan update by visiting the shoreline management plan web page at www.abca.on.ca/page.php?page=shoreline-management. The page includes answers to a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs). It also includes the link to the survey.

Anyone with further questions is also invited to contact Alec Scott or Geoff Cade at Ausable Bayfield Conservation at 519-235-2610 or toll-free 1-888-286-2610 or email info@abca.on.ca.

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CONTACT: Geoffrey Cade, Water and Planning Supervisor, at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), 519-235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610 or e-mail gcade@abca.on.ca