

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Newsletter

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)

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Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Update Reporting on Progress

A Little Background to Begin ...

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is updating the Shoreline Management Plan. The previous Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) was completed in 2000. The updated Shoreline Management Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

The Shoreline Management Plan is being updated to ensure it reflects current mapping, legislation, policies, guidelines and technical information related to shoreline hazards and current land use trends along the Lake Huron shoreline, within the jurisdiction of the ABCA.



The updated Shoreline Management Plan will, as necessary, update the hazard limits for flooding, erosion, and dynamic beaches to reflect current mapping standards identified in the *Conservation Authorities Act*, associated Ontario Regulations, and the 2014 *Provincial Policy Statement* as well as new policies and guidelines that have been developed since the Plan was last updated.

The updated Shoreline Management Plan will be used as a reference document by ABCA staff and by shoreline municipalities in the ABCA watershed.

Steering Committee Guiding Development of Shoreline Management Plan Update

The Shoreline Management Plan update is being guided by a local Steering Committee. 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.

All meetings of the Steering Committee are open to the public – anyone interested in attending is welcome to attend and fifteen minutes are set aside at the end of each Steering Committee meeting to allow members of the public to ask questions, make comments, or present delegations. Please contact Alec Scott or Geoff Cade at 519-235-2610 or toll-free at 1-888-286-2610 if you would like to make a presentation.

If you are planning to attend, please call ahead so the committee can ensure there is enough space for seating. Delegations should also call in advance to ensure there is time for their delegation to be heard.

The next Steering Committee meeting is to be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016 in the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) boardroom, at 71108 Morrison Line, 2 km east of Exeter, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Reporting On Our Progress ...The Survey

We heard from 68 individuals who took the time to complete the web survey. More than 90 per cent of those who responded live in the shoreline study area in the Ausable Bayfield watershed and most are property owners and/or ratepayer group members. Thank you for having taken the time to provide comments on the issues of concern to you. These comments are valuable in informing the work of the Steering Committee and project team and they will help improve the final document.

What Did You Tell Us?



You told us that you are most concerned with:

- **Water quality**
- **Bluff and beach erosion**

You also told us that environmental degradation is an issue you are concerned about.

There are many areas, from Grand Bend to St. Joseph, the Old Ausable Channel, Oakwood Park, Turnbull's Grove, Norman Heights Beach, Bayfield, and the Dunes north of Grand Bend, to name a few, that are of geographic interest and concern to you.

While some of you did not support the existing Shoreline Management Plan, others strongly support the plan.

You told us that there needs to be a science-based application of hazard setbacks and that it will be important for the new Shoreline Management Plan to protect the integrity of coastal processes.

Recession Rate Calculations

Since October, members of our consulting team have been working to review shoreline data and complete a comprehensive erosion rate analysis for the study area shoreline.

A detailed and in-depth calculation of an updated assessment of rates of erosion (recession) provides the basis for estimating future erosion rates.

These rates will be used to help establish distances that development will need to be away from the lake and its bluff.

Once the final recession rate calculations are complete, information will be shared with the community through the draft Shoreline Management Plan Update.

Look for a draft to be posted on the ABCA website at abca.on.ca in July of 2016.

Climate Change Impacts

It is vital for the development of any management strategies, including an updated ABCA Shoreline Management Plan, to consider the potential effects of changes to our weather and climate locally and globally. Since October, members of the consulting team have been assessing the potential impacts of climate change and have developed an initial Discussion Paper highlighting some of the anticipated effects. Results of this work have allowed us to reach the following conclusions:

- Average annual temperatures in the region will likely increase 2-7°C as a result of larger increases in winter temperatures and a smaller increase in summer temperatures. This will, in turn, impact lake temperatures, lake-effect snowfall, winter ice cover, and fish habitats. It will also likely affect the length of the recreational season.
- Precipitation is predicted to remain the same or increase by up to 20 per cent, mostly in the northern half of the basin. More precipitation will fall as rain rather than snow and there may be frequent heavy downpours. The number of intense storms may increase.
- There is however a greater degree of uncertainty for precipitation and evapotranspiration than for temperature. As a result, it is difficult to predict what will happen to mean lake levels.
- The duration and extent of ice cover in southern Lake Huron has already decreased and is expected to decrease further by the end of the century.
- The most important impact of this longer ice-free season on coastal processes will be an increase in the number of storms associated with large waves and large storm surges.

The increase in the number of storms is expected to drive larger volumes of longshore sediment transport and an increase in the rate of down-cutting of the nearshore and erosion of the bluff toe along cohesive shorelines.

Want to learn more about the potential effects of climate change? Download a copy of the Discussion Paper here:

NEW – A new discussion paper is available for free download. This document identifies the potential impacts of climate change on coastal processes across the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) watershed. This document has been prepared by Dr. Robin Davidson-Arnott (Draft – Version March 31, 2016).

Download *Climate Change Impacts on the Great Lakes – A discussion paper on the potential implications for coastal processes affecting the SW shoreline of Lake Huron within the jurisdiction of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority* at this link:

<http://abca.on.ca/downloadfile.php?Item=483>

Slope Stability

All property owners along the Lake Huron shoreline need to be aware of the potential hazards that exist. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority has recently issued a news release to provide important information to shoreline property owners about the need to be constantly monitoring the condition of their shoreline property for any signs of slope failure.

For more information on the increased potential for bluff and slope failure click on the Ausable Bayfield Conservation website at this news link:

http://www.abca.on.ca/news_item.php?ItemID=644

ABCA has an ongoing mandate to protect life and property through its planning and regulations programs. With respect to the new Shoreline Management Plan, more information will be posted on the website at **abca.on.ca**. Stay tuned.

Shoreline Protection:

The SMP update will consider the issue of shoreline protection and offer policy recommendations regarding shoreline protection structures and lake bank stabilization measures.

The draft will be shared with members of the community and an opportunity provided to offer input and suggestions.

Want to Stay Informed?

If you are interested in receiving regular updates, we invite you to subscribe to our free electronic newsletter at the following link:

http://eepurl.com/bxn8_5

A copy of the first newsletter issue is at this link:

<http://ow.ly/UICJZ>

Community Meetings to Be Held in August 2016



We will be hosting public open houses in the summer of 2016, once we have updated technical information to share with you. Notices of these community meetings will be posted on the website at **abca.on.ca**. A news release about the events will also be circulated in advance to local media and on social media. We are focusing on the summer of 2016 to ensure that those who enjoy Lake Huron as seasonal residents and cottagers will be able to participate. If you are not able to attend the meetings – but want to find out more and provide input – please contact the ABCA for more ways to provide your comments.



Still Have More Questions?

Still have more questions about the work ABCA will be doing to update the Shoreline Management Plan? Please call Alec Scott or Geoff Cade at 519-235-2610 or toll free at 1-888-286-2610. You are also welcome to send them an email through the staff contact page at:

http://www.abca.on.ca/contact_staff.php