



A vegetated streamside protects water quality and provides great habitat for a variety of species.

Streamside and Lakeshore Protection

Kevin Olvany
Watershed Manager

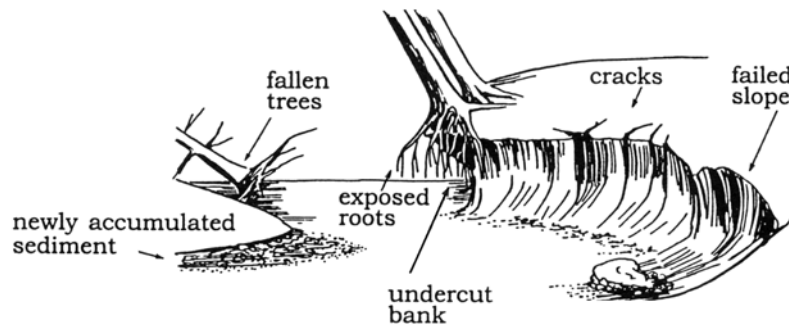
Approximately 3,000 watershed residences have a stream or gully running through their property that eventually enters the lake. If your property has a stream or drainageway, or if you live along the lakeshore your actions can have a direct impact on water quality in the watershed. Actions occurring within the streamside or lakeshore area can have a real and detrimental impact because of the action's proximity to the waterway. Actions that should be avoided in these areas include:

- clearing
- fertilizing
- using pesticides
- pet waste
- development (impervious cover)

The streamside and lakeshore plays a critical role in maintaining a healthy stream and lake. Undisturbed streamside and lakeshore areas help to stabilize streambanks/shorelines, provide habitat, and filter out pollutants originating in the more upland areas.

Streamside Lakeshore Management- Do's and Don'ts:

Signs of Poor Streambank Health



Do

- Maintain a healthy, vegetated streamside/lakeshore buffer using a variety of native plant species. Vegetation in the streamside is the key to many different aspects of water quality and stream ecology.
- Cover exposed soil with mulch or establish a groundcover to prevent erosion.
- Get technical assistance through the Ontario or Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District, or the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Don't

- Use heavy machinery in the streamside area. The weight can damage stream banks and destroy vegetation.
- Place animal wastes near streams. Either discard pet wastes through garbage collection, pet septic systems or place it away from the streamside on a low slope with tall thick grass to allow for filtration. Pet waste has been shown to be a major contributor of bacteria in our streams.
- Use pesticides or fertilizers along the streamside area.

Information presented in this section was adapted from the "Stand By Your Stream" series- by Rebecca Schneider of Cornell University and "Fingerlakes Landscape: Landscaping for Erosion Control"-Cornell Cooperative Extension.

For more information regarding streamside protection please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District.
Ontario 716) 396-1450,
Yates (315) 536-5188