



GOOD



BAD

Good Side

1. Natural shoreline makes good wildlife habitat.
2. Small floating docks intrude little into the Ribbon of Life.
3. Septic system and "meadow" far from the shore.
4. Less work and more relaxing time.
5. Narrow mulched footpath causes no erosion.
6. Natural air conditioning with a view; trimmed trees and adjustable awnings.
7. Composting kitchen scraps for good soil fertility.
8. Well-dressed waterfront full of native plants.
9. Modest runabout for water travel, fishing, touring.
10. Good water quality at the end of the dock.

Phosphorus Runoff to the Lake

Good Side

Human Waste	535 g
Phosphate-free soap	20 g
No fertilizer	0 g
Trees left	20 g
Total Phosphorus Load	575 g

Bad Side

Human Waste	535 g
Phosphate soap	830 g
Lawn	1960 g
Trees cut down	30 g
Total Phosphorus Load	3355 g

One high-phosphorus lot has the same impact on the lake as six low-phosphorus lots!

Source: Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy, Environmental Living Series, Volume 4, *Protecting the Environment at the Cottage*.

Bad Side

1. Fertilizer spills and runoff from the lawn.
2. Erosion of bare shorelines.
3. Excessive use of pesticides/herbicides near the water.
4. Removal of natural vegetation: more work and more runoff.
5. Ornamental shrubs need a lot of chemical help to survive.
6. Hardened shoreline eliminates the natural filter and degrades water quality.
7. On a bare lot, the air conditioner works overtime.
8. Building too close to the water and out-of-character with setting.
9. Paved lane carries pollution-laden runoff right into the lake.
10. Boats and the environment: noise, wake, gas/oil consumption, spillage.