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# Shoreline Protection By-law

## An Approach to Protect South Frontenac's Shores

Healthy Shorelines, Healthy Lakes  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
June 14, 2022

# Agenda

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- Shoreline Cutting & Council Response
- Current Approaches to Shoreline Protection
- Current Challenge for Shoreline Protection
- Tools available to Municipalities for Shoreline Protection
- Shoreline Protection By-law
- Next Steps





# Council Concerns about Shoreline Clearing

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- Council supported a notice of motion in March 2020 to have staff provide a report on the alternatives to protecting lake shorelines.

# Shoreline Tree Cutting

2020 - Loughborough Lake



# Shoreline Tree Cutting

2020 – Sydenham Lake



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# Current Shoreline Protection in South Frontenac

- Official Plan

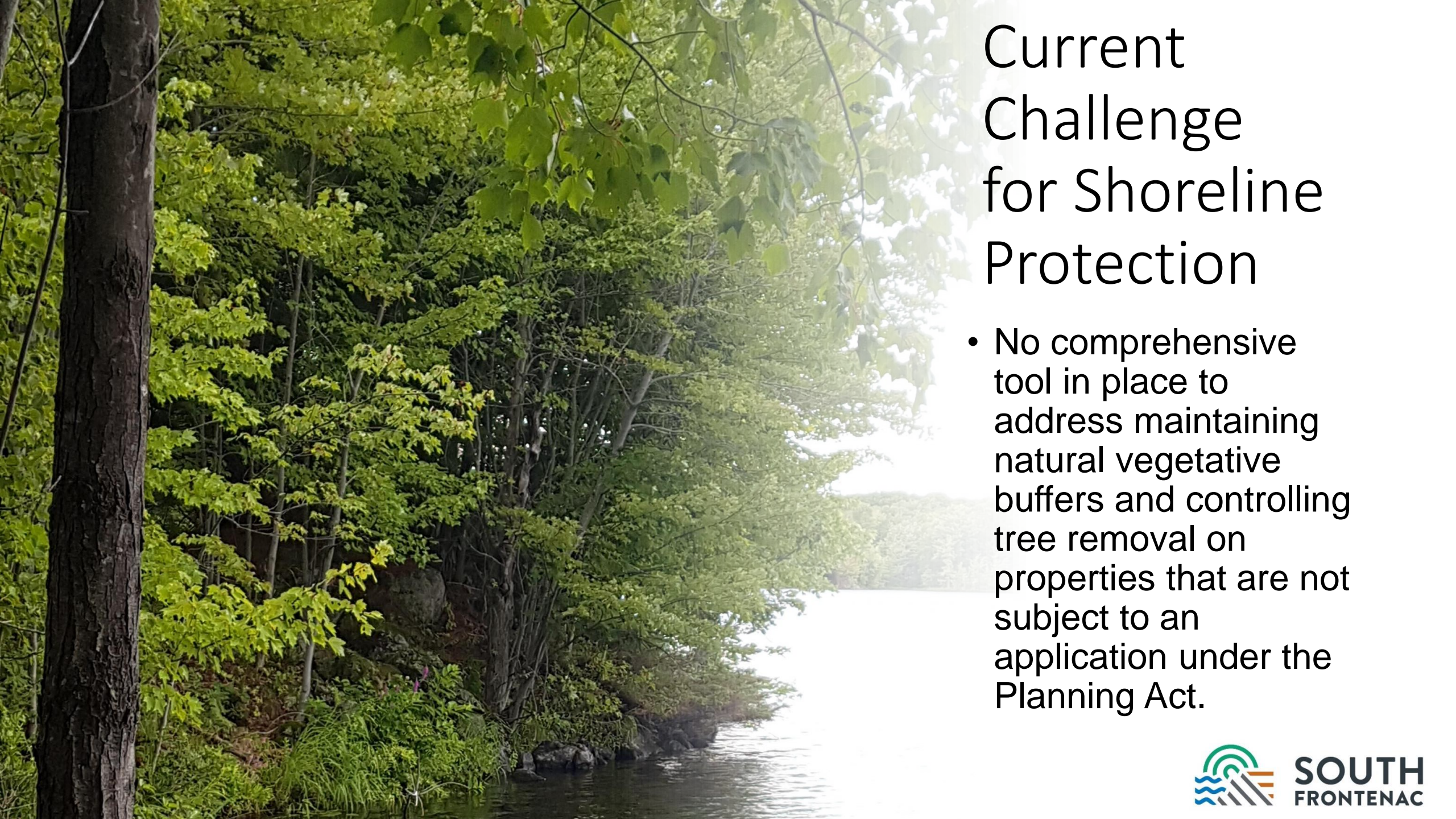
- Encourages landowners to protect environmentally sensitive areas
- Vegetation within 30 metre setback from the highwater mark of a waterbody should be minimally disturbed
- Soil mantle within the 30m setback area should not be altered

- Zoning By-law

- States natural vegetative buffers should be maintained within 30 metres (98.4 ft.) of the highwater mark
- Zoning By-laws do not have the legal authority under the Planning Act to regulate vegetation
- Language in the by-law is not strong enough to enforce.

# Current Shoreline Protection in South Frontenac

- Plan of Subdivision, Condominium, Site Plan and Development Agreements
  - Maintain vegetation and prohibit tree cutting within 30m of the high water mark with the exception of shoreline access and docking.
  - Legally enforceable by taking owners to court.
- Conservation Authorities
  - May regulate tree removal in specific circumstances:
    - clear cutting in a treed swamp (wetland) where the number of trees removed would impact the hydrologic function of the wetland,
    - tree removal on a steep slope where the trees are integral to the stability of the slope.

A scenic view of a shoreline with dense green trees and a body of water. The trees are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of aging. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding greenery. The sky is bright and slightly hazy.

# Current Challenge for Shoreline Protection

- No comprehensive tool in place to address maintaining natural vegetative buffers and controlling tree removal on properties that are not subject to an application under the Planning Act.



# Municipal Act & By-laws Tools to Protect Shorelines

- Municipal Act allows municipalities to pass by-laws to:
  - Prohibit or regulate the destruction or injuring of trees
  - Regulate site alteration
- Several municipalities have enacted Shoreline Tree Preservation By-laws under the Municipal Act to pass by-laws to regulate tree cutting in areas adjacent to the waterbodies (lakes and rivers).
- Municipalities with Shoreline Tree Preservation By-laws in-effect include:
  - County of Haliburton
  - Township of Muskoka Lakes
  - Township of Georgian Bay

# Under the Municipal Act

## – a Shoreline Protection By-law can:

- Prohibit wide-spread removal and destruction of natural vegetation and trees within shoreline areas;
- Prohibit significant placement or removal of fill, removal of topsoil and alteration of the grade of land;
- Establish standards (exemptions) for what acceptable vegetation removal within 30m of the highwater mark;
- Establish financial penalties for activities that contravene this by-law



# Shoreline Protection By-law Work to Date

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- March 2021 Council resolution to support the creation of Shoreline Tree Preservation By-law in South Frontenac.
- Staff have met several times with Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee through 2021-22 to discuss framework of a Shoreline Tree Preservation By-law.



# Components & Considerations in Developing of a Shoreline Protection By-law:

- Goals
- Definitions
- Site Alteration
- Vegetation Removal
- Exemptions – what can be removed without requiring a permit
- Inspections and Orders
- Penalties

# Goals of a Shoreline Protection By-law:

- . Protect against the loss of naturalized shorelines;
- . Maintain and protect naturalized riparian areas on lakes and along rivers/streams;
- . Regulate tree cutting and removal of natural vegetation, habitat and natural areas within 30 metres of the highwater mark of waterbodies;
- . Prevent significant alteration to the shoreline areas;
- . Protect fish habitat, maintain and enhance water quality;
- . Reduce soil erosion and water run-off; and
- . Contribute to human health, enjoyment and quality of life;



# Next Steps

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1. Staff to craft the shoreline protection by-law
2. Take a proposed by-law to Council for consideration
3. Undertake Public & Agency Consultation
4. Prepare final by-law for Council consideration and approval

# Questions

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