

Keeping Our Water Healthy

What You Can Do

MLA Webinar | 10 May 2022



Muskoka
WATERSHED COUNCIL

Rebecca Willison, BSc
Watershed Planning Technician



Water Quality Issues

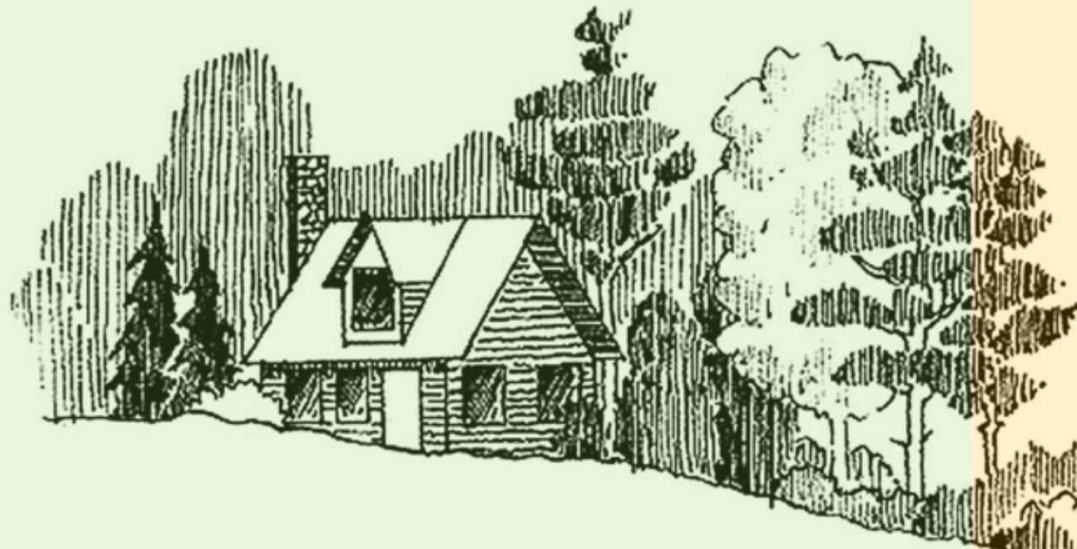
- ⬆ Phosphorus & nutrients
- ⬇ Calcium
- ⬆ Invasive species
- ⬆ Chloride
- ⬆ Sedimentation
- ⬆ Algae
- ⬆ Bacteria
- ↔ Species Composition
- ⬆ Temperature
- ⬇ Dissolved Oxygen



Water Quality Issues

- ⬆ Phosphorus & nutrients
- ⬇ Calcium
- ⬆ Invasive species
- ⬆ Chloride
- ⬆ Sedimentation
- ⬆ Algae
- ⬆ Bacteria
- ↔ Species Composition
- ⬆ Temperature
- ⬇ Dissolved Oxygen

Land → Water



Upland Zone



Riparian Zone



Littoral Zone



Clean & Green 13

I want my watershed to be Clean & Green, therefore I will:

PROTECT AIR QUALITY:

- 1 Reduce my gasoline consumption.
- 2 Buy fuel-efficient engines (in vehicles, lawn mowers, snowmobiles, etc.).

IN MY HOUSE/COTTAGE:

- 3 Inspect my septic tank every 2 to 3 years & have it pumped regularly, as appropriate.
- 4 Use phosphate-free soaps & alternative cleaners such as baking soda & vinegar.
- 5 Take paint, batteries, aerosol cans and oil to hazardous waste depots for disposal.
- 6 Recycle & compost in order to reduce my household garbage to 1 bag or less per week.

ON MY PROPERTY:

- 7 Reduce or eliminate my use of chemical fertilizers.
- 8 Preserve the natural vegetation & trees on my property.
- 9 Handle fuel, oil & other chemicals with great care & have an action plan to deal with any spills that occur.

ON MY SHORELINE:

- 10 Ensure that my dock(s), boathouse & other structures do not occupy more than 25% of my shoreline.
- 11 Leave the remaining 75% (or more) of my shoreline in its natural state.

WHEN USING WATERCRAFT, SNOWMOBILES OR OTHER ENGINES:

- 12 Prevent erosion by reducing boat wake effects on shorelines.
- 13 Buy a 4-stroke engine in any future boat or other recreational vehicle purchase.

Take Action!

- ✓ Keep your shoreline natural and enhance it if possible
- ✓ Use native species
- ✓ Minimize impervious surfaces
- ✓ Maintain your septic system
- ✓ Get involved in citizen science programs
- ✓ Spread the word!

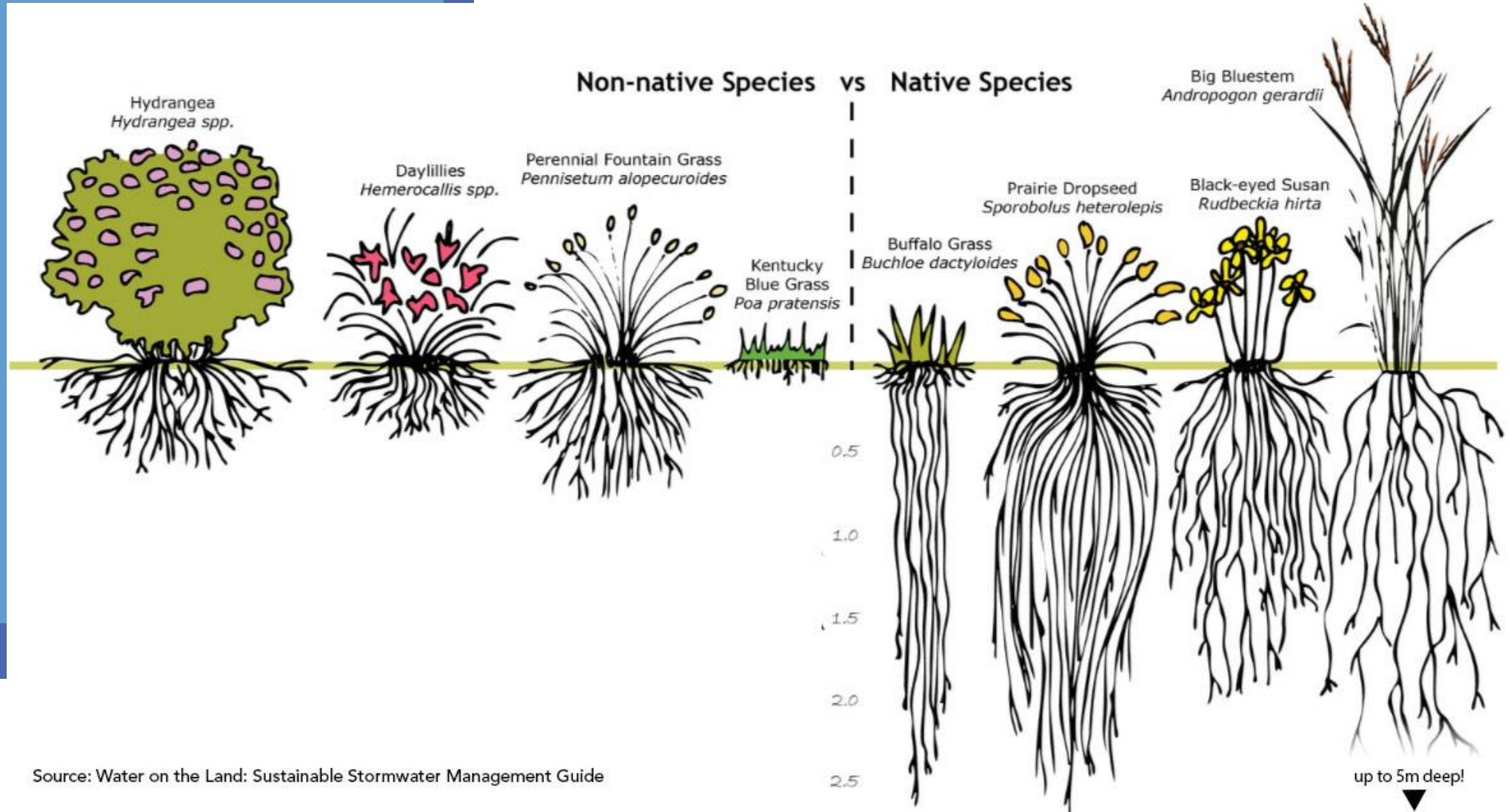
Signs of a Healthy Shoreline

- ✓ **Abundance of native vegetation**
- ✓ **Varying levels of vegetation**
- ✓ **Dead snags & stones**
- ✓ **Birds, fish & other wildlife**

Photo by The Frenches

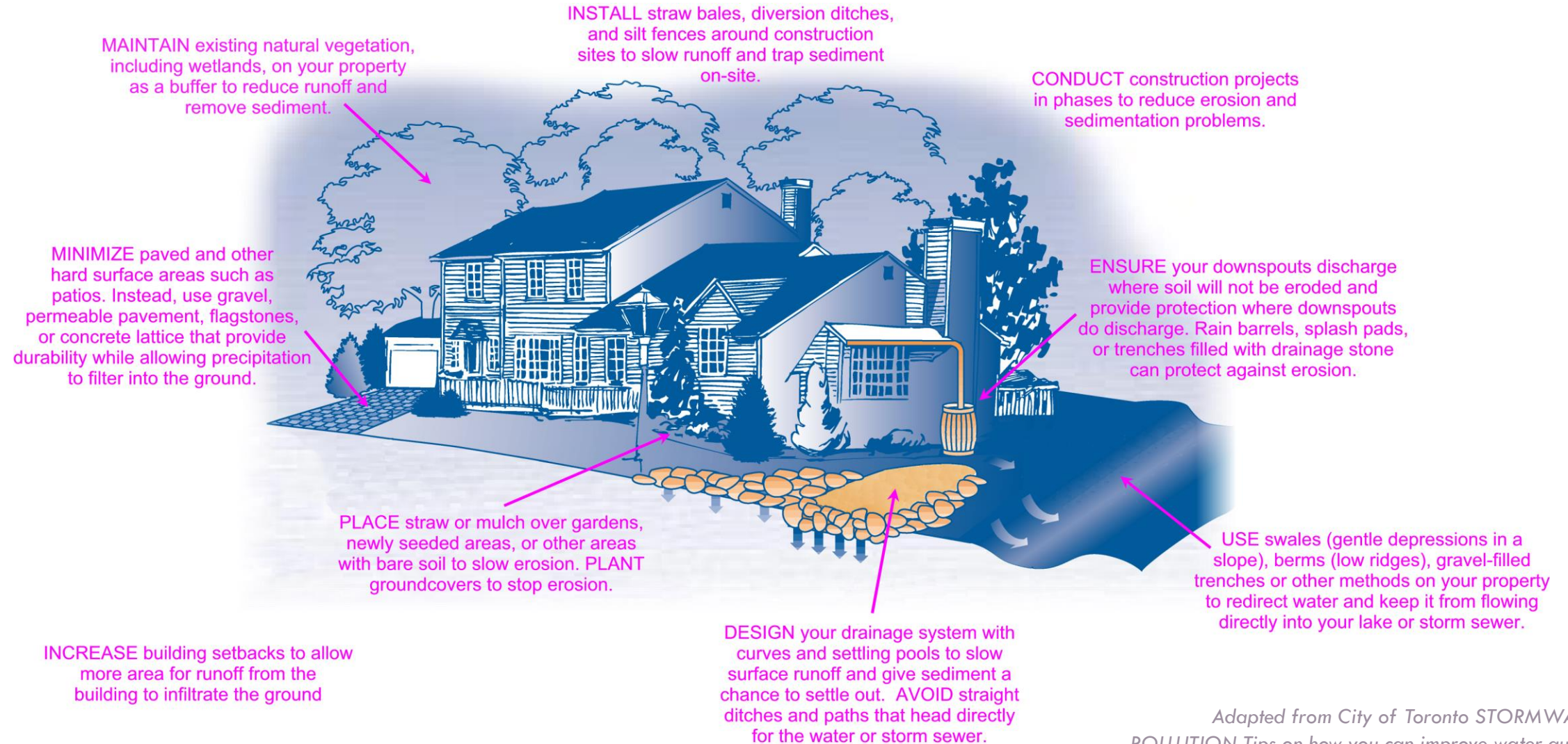


Why Native Plants?



Source: Water on the Land: Sustainable Stormwater Management Guide

Minimize Impervious Surfaces



Adapted from City of Toronto **STORMWATER POLLUTION** Tips on how you can improve water quality

Maintain Your Septic System!



**Know where your
septic system is and
how it works**



**Have your system
inspected regularly
and pumped out as
needed**



**Treat your septic system
right:**

- **Avoid chemicals, excessive water and additives.**
- **Protect the tile field from woody vegetation and vehicles.**

Get Involved in Citizen Science Programs



Benthic Monitoring
FrogWatch
Turtle Tally
Loon Survey



MLA WQI
Lake Partner Program
MWC Algae Monitoring



iNaturalist
BioBlitz
EddMapS
Monarch Watch

Spread the Word!



Post a sign to let the community know what you're doing to protect water quality



Talk to your neighbours about the citizen science programs you're involved with



Write a newsletter article or post pictures on social media to raise awareness

Questions?



www.muskokawatershed.org



info@muskokawatershed.org



705-645-2100 x4387

