

WENTWORTH TOWNSHIP

Highlights of the Bylaws concerning the PROTECTION OF SHORELINES, LAKES, STREAM BEDS AND FLOOD PLAINS

Important Definitions

- **Bed of lakes and watercourses:** Territory that extends from the high-water line towards the center of the lake or watercourse.
- **Digging:** Works consisting of removing or loosening the earth or other surface material.
- **Filling (Banking-up):** Works consisting of importing or moving earth or other surface material to make a levee or to fill a cavity.
- **Lake:** Any inland body of water.
- **Pruning:** Cutting of tree branches for the purpose of strengthening it, shaping it or lightening its branch load, without causing harm to its health.
- **Shoreline:** Strip of land which borders lakes and watercourses and extends inland from the high-water mark. For the purpose of the bylaw, the shoreline is a 10 m wide strip when the slope of the land is less than 30% (or 15 m when the slope of the land is more than 30 %).
- **Slope (%):** Division between the height and the horizontal length of a slope (for example, a slope of 30% is 3 meters high by 10 meters long)
- **Water course:** All water courses with regular or intermittent flow, including those created or modified by human intervention.
- **Window:** Opening in the vegetation screen allowing a view of the lake or watercourse (by pruning only). Vegetation cannot be removed.
- **Works:** Any building, excavation or modification of the ground, including tree clearing, land filling and digging.

Summary of provisions in the bylaws concerning lakes and shorelines

An Authorization Certificate from the Municipality is mandatory for each intervention on the shoreline

Recommendations	Principal Authorized Interventions*	Prohibited Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the natural state of the shoreline 		
<p>If already damaged :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave it to nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a 5 m-wide sinuous access the water (slope < 30 %) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any form of vegetation control, including the mowing of lawns, brush clearing and tree cutting on the shoreline of a lake or watercourse is prohibited
<p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore the shoreline with riparian vegetation • Promote indigenous vegetation on the shoreline with herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees (3 strata) • Avoid grass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sinuous path with a maximum width of 1.5 m to access the water (slope > 30 %) • Install a stairway with a maximum width of 1.2 m on posts or piles • Install a dock on posts, piles, or floating platforms (metal drums are prohibited) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any buildings or works are prohibited on the shoreline of lakes and watercourses except those authorized by bylaw
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of natural or chemical pesticides and fertilizers is forbidden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of the vegetation with a 2 m wide opening around any <u>existing, legal</u> building • Repair, maintenance or demolition of <u>existing, legal</u> constructions • Fires in an airtight container preventing contact of wood and ashes with the ground (Always notify the Municipality before lighting a fire) • Cut weak, sick, defective, damaged or dead trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All addition of fill (beaches) or banking-up (levees) is prohibited • To build a dock on cribs or of a solid material (eg. concrete) is prohibited • To dig, channel or modify any watercourse is prohibited • Removal or extraction of materials (eg. excavation, dragging or digging of gravel or rock) in lakes and watercourses is prohibited • Any works to make the soil impermeable with surface sealants is prohibited (eg. Asphalt, concrete). In Wentworth, granulate is also prohibited
	<p>* Only with a Municipal Authorization Certificate</p>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build a boat ramp (slip) by digging, filling or using any material (eg. concrete, wood) is prohibited

N.B. This list is not complete but a brief summary of the applicable bylaws. Please contact Wentworth Township at 450-562-0701 before starting any project.

Source: From the Argenteuil Regional County of Municipalities control bylaw number 55-1-06 with modifications 55-2-06, 55-3-07 and 55-4-0, the Priority Intervention Zone, Alma-Jonquière, and RCI Highlights – Wentworth Township