



Information and Reminders

All of us at the SSRA are excited that the summer season is almost here! As the weather continues to warm up, we've come to the time of the year with a few friendly reminders.

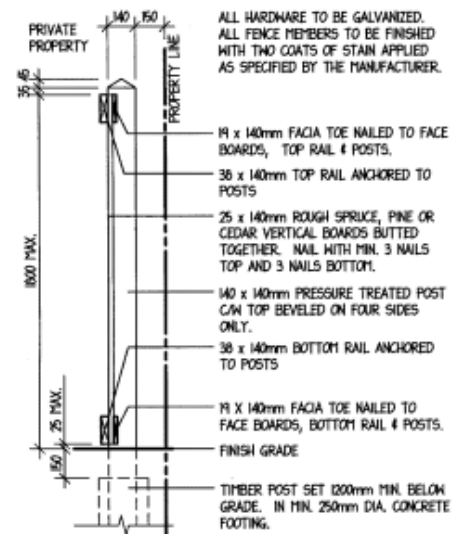
Architectural Controls & Guidelines

With the warm weather, we know a lot of you may be starting to work on some outdoor projects including landscaping and fencing, and renovations. To keep our beautiful community looking its best, please keep in mind we do have architectural guidelines in place. The reason for these guidelines are to maintain the established aesthetic of Lake Summerside, and our Directors and a related subcommittee continue to discuss both short and long term plans in relation to this. Thus all projects and renovations must meet these requirements.

For the full Architectural Controls and Guidelines, please visit www.lakesummerside.ca > **About Us** > **Architectural & Landscaping Guidelines**

The most consistent question we get is about fencing. So, for easy access, see the following information:

All wood screen fencing should be consistent in design and colour with the fencing style of the neighbourhood. Approved colours are **'Heritage Blue'** for Posts and Rails and **'Cape Cod Grey'** for Pickets and these colours can be found at Dulux Paint. Residents can receive a 10% discount at Dulux Paint on Parsons Road if they mention they are from Lake Summerside, and show their lake access card.



1.8m HEIGHT TIMBER FENCE

Animals & Pets

Please note that animals, such as dogs and other pets are not permitted in the water at any time. They must be on a leash at all times as there are no off-leash areas. This is with the exception of our Pooch Patrol Program, with approved resident volunteers.



Flag System

The flag system is being provided as a courtesy to warn Members of dangers that have been identified. We use a flag system to help inform users of the potential current risk level of using the lake. It is important to remember that there are always dangers associated with using the lake, and members and their guests use the lake at their own risk.

The flags are placed around the lake strategically in various locations that allow them to be visible from different parts of the lake and lakeshore. There are 4 locations: near the Fishing Dock, near the Tennis Courts, at Entry Park, and at the Southwest Cove.



Members should not rely solely on the flag system and should continue to exercise judgment and caution at all times. For clarity and removal of doubt, if red flags are being displayed, it means the lake is CLOSED, and there is no access allowed for any users. To find out the current status of the Lake please visit www.lakesummerside.ca > **Flags** > **Current Status**. Stay tuned for any updates via our social media, website, and newsletter. For more information about the Flag System please visit: www.lakesummerside.ca > **Flags** > **Information**.

For more information, please take a look at the official Rules & Regulations, which have been recently adjusted to incorporate the Flag System. Full details can be found here: www.lakesummerside.ca > **About Us** > **Rules & Regulations**.

Please reach out to our office 780-497-7558 or gatehouse 780-756-6772 with any questions or concerns. Thank you for all your help and cooperation to keep your lake beautiful!

Are Excess Nutrients Causing Water Quality Issues? Absolutely!

Sandy beaches, docks, mowed lawns, and patios are wonderful areas for enjoying the shoreline of Lake Summerside but they present challenges when it comes to the quality of the water in the lake. All of these common features of a lake community do little to prevent fertilizers and organic matter from entering into the waterbody which can lead to excessive growth of algae, aquatic plants, and cyanobacteria.

In a natural ecosystem, there would be a healthy buffer of native vegetation around the edge of a lake or wetland. The stems and branches of plants and grasses capture eroding soil, leaves, and other organic matter that may be heading towards a waterbody due to rain or melting snow. Their roots absorb excess nutrients being washed away from the surrounding landscape. Plants and shrubs hold the soil in place so that the shoreline doesn't erode with natural changes in the water level throughout the season and during stormy weather.

How Does Human Development Affect Runoff?

Any rain or snow that falls in the community around the lake will either evaporate, be absorbed by the ground, or flow over the surface to low lying areas. All of the hard surfaces in your community such as the roof of your house, roadways, sidewalks, and solid patios or decks absorb very little water and all that water has to go somewhere. Fast moving water will erode soil and other organic matter from the surface of lawns and gardens and carry it into the municipal storm drains, stormwater ponds, and the lake.



What Do These Nutrients and Organic Matter Do to the Lake?

When these nutrients and organic matter are washed into the lake, they affect the quality of the water in few very important ways:

- Fine sediments make the water cloudy (turbid)
- Excess nutrients support the growth of aquatic organisms such as algae, zooplankton, cyanobacteria, and aquatic plants.
- Decaying organic matter from excessive growth results in offensive, musty odours.








The more runoff there is and the less vegetation there is around the waterbody to slow it down, the more nutrients there will be that reach the waters' edge.

The image on the right demonstrates what happens to lake water when extra nutrients are added to it. Both jars are filled with lake water and left in a sunny area for 1 week, however, the jar on the left has had 1 teaspoon of fertilizer added to it (Government of Alberta, 2021).



Photo showing the effect of 1 Tbsp of fertilizer on a sample of lake water after 1 week. (Government of Alberta, 2021)

What Can You Do to Protect Water Quality at Lake Summerside?

-  Do not use fertilizers in yard areas. This is especially important for properties close to the lake and along the common pathways leading to the lake. Excess fertilizer will enter the lake due to precipitation from rain and snow with direct consequences for water quality measurements.
-  Leave your lawn longer to capture sediment runoff and to protect the surface of the ground from eroding. Short grass does not protect the ground from the sun which dries out the soil. Dry, hard soil will not absorb rainwater easily, allowing excess nutrients to flow over the surface directly into the lake.
-  Do not over water your lawns! Water only enough so that water is not running off the surface of the ground into the lake and storm drains.
-  Do not dump grass clippings and other yard waste into the water as this directly adds nutrients to the lake.
-  Plant shrubs and flowers near to the shoreline. This protects the soil from the sun and filters nutrients out of runoff and catches soil particles eroding from the surface. The roots will hold the soil in place keeping the shoreline stable.
-  Cover exposed soil in flowerbeds and gardens with mulch. Mulch is highly absorbent itself and will keep the ground soft underneath so that it can absorb rain and snow melt more easily.
-  Avoid or eliminate use of hard flat surfaces as much as possible. For example: Consider patio options that allow moisture to drain into the ground such as interlocking bricks rather than a concrete pad.

The image below demonstrates ways that you can naturalize your shoreline to reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment entering your lake.



Naturalize your shoreline to protect water quality (Coalition of Haliburton property Owners Associations, 2022)



References

Coalition of Haliburton property Owners Associations. (2022, Jan 13). *Naturalize Your Shoreline*. Retrieved from <https://www.cohpoa.org/protect-your-lake/naturalize-your-shoreline/>

Government of Alberta. (2021). Lake Information: Pollutants. Retrieved Jan 13, 2022, from <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/images/Nutrients-vs-No-Nutrients.jpg>