

Official Plan Review input from the Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance
January 23, 2012

GSWA would like to reiterate our commitment to improving the watershed by asking that the following changes be made to the Official Plan (OP), that:

1. When a large development in the watershed is proposed that information be provided on the potential negative impacts of the stormwater on the water quality of the receiving waters in terms of, but not limited, water temperature, nutrients, salt, phosphorus, base flow, wildlife and fisheries habitat, including recommendations on how any potential impacts will be mitigated.
2. City staff inform GSWA of any major development with potential for negative impacts on the environment. This would allow an opportunity to engage in a dialogue and/or collaboration for consideration of best practices and mitigation measures.
3. There be a mandatory 5 year re-inspection of septic system field beds
4. State of the art tertiary treatment be included in all new and upgraded sewage treatment plants to protect water quality in downstream waterways
5. Locally significant wetlands and floodplains be clearly identified and preserved as they provide free flood protection, filtration, wildlife habitat and other essential services.
6. More work go toward outreach for shoreline improvements and restoration of the 12m natural shoreline buffer.
7. More green infrastructure be included in road construction to protect and improve water quality
8. All public and private drinking water intakes in lakes and rivers in Greater City of Sudbury be included under Drinking Water Source Protection and the Clean Water Act.

Our OP states:

“It is the **intent** of this Plan to maximize the amount of natural vegetation along shorelines and stream banks. As such, Council **may** implement controls on the removal of vegetation by establishing limits on clearing, changes to the grade, and the placement of impervious surfaces along shorelines and stream banks. These regulations will be based on achieving the following targets:

For residential uses, a maximum cleared area of 25% of the shoreline or stream bank frontage or up to 23 metres, whichever is the lesser;

b. For Resort and Shoreline Commercial uses, 33% of the shoreline or stream bank; and,

c. Maintain shoreline buffer zones at a minimum of 12 metres from the high-water mark for all new and existing waterfront development. For existing properties, an educational outreach program shall be developed to encourage re-vegetation of shoreline buffer zones and upland areas in order to increase the amount of vegetation around shorelines.”

We recommend that the OP indicate that Council **shall** implement these controls.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lilly Noble
Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance