

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public invited to information open houses on shoreline management

Saturday open houses, presentations to take place in June 2017 in Zurich, Thedford

People interested in shoreline management in Ausable Bayfield watersheds are invited to attend public information open houses to be held on two Saturdays in June of 2017. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is hosting the two events. The first open house takes place on June 3 in Zurich. The second open house takes place on June 17 in Thedford. The open houses run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. noon.

There are scheduled presentations on shoreline management topics, during the open houses. The presentations begin at 10:30 a.m. Topics include coastal processes, shoreline recession, shoreline protection, and climate change impacts on the Great Lakes. Planned presentations are by Dr. Robin Davidson-Arnott, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph, and by Fiona Duckett, M.Sc., P. Eng. of W. F. Baird and Associates Coastal Engineers Ltd. The open house in Thedford is at the Legacy Recreation Centre Hall, 16 Allen Street. The open house in Zurich is at the Zurich Arena, 15 East Street.

"We invite shoreline residents and other interested people to attend the open houses in June," said Geoffrey Cade, ABCA Water and Planning Supervisor. "These events are a chance to find about the progress of technical studies related to shoreline management and to learn about existing policies as well." Attendees can learn from experts in their fields, meet staff members and share with them any questions or comments they have on the technical work, and share their local knowledge about what they are finding along their shoreline, according to the ABCA.

ABCA's Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), which was last updated in 2000, identifies shoreline hazards for flooding, erosion, and dynamic beaches and their impact on shoreline development. A copy of the SMP 2000 is online at abca.on.ca. The Conservation Authority started a process in 2015 to begin updating technical information to support updates to the 2000 SMP document. The 2017 open houses are to provide information on the existing plan and current policies as well as an update on the progress of technical work for future updates. (The review of local development policies contained in the SMP 2000 is not expected until 2018, according to ABCA.)

Updates to the Shoreline Management Plan will provide a consistent and up-to-date guide for development and municipal land use planning along the shoreline, according to the ABCA. Updates will provide newer information on shoreline recession rates, ensure that local policies and application of the Regulation conform to Province of Ontario policy, and keep policies current in light of emerging land use trends.

To learn more about shoreline management in the watershed visit the Shoreline Management Plan Update page online at abca.on.ca at: abca.on.ca/page.php?page=shoreline-management. Members of the public are invited to subscribe to a free electronic newsletter that provides updates about shoreline management in the watershed. To sign up to receive these updates you may visit this link: http://eepurl.com/bxn8_5. More than 300 people have subscribed to this online newsletter.

Coastal processes expert speaks to ABCA Board of Directors

Video of of April 20 presentation to be available online at abca.on.ca

Dr. Robin Davidson-Arnott, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph prepared two local discussion papers released in 2016. The first was *Erosion of Cohesive Bluff Shoreline – A discussion paper on processes controlling erosion and recession of cohesive shorelines with particular reference to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) shoreline north of Grand Bend*. The second was *Climate Change Impacts on the Great Lakes – A discussion paper on the potential implications for coastal processes affecting the Southeast shoreline of Lake Huron within the jurisdiction of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority*.

Dr. Davidson-Arnott presented, on the topics of shoreline processes, climate change impacts on the Great Lakes, and shoreline protection, to the ABCA Board of Directors, at the regular board meeting held on April 20, 2017. The presentation was videotaped professionally and a link to that video is to be posted as early as next week at abca.on.ca on the Shoreline Management Page (abca.on.ca/page.php?page=shoreline-management).

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