

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE OF ISSUE: July 13, 2018

Public invited to information open houses on shoreline management

Saturday open houses, presentations to take place in August 2018 in Thedford, Zurich

People interested in the topic of shoreline management in Ausable Bayfield watersheds are invited to attend public information open houses to be held on two Saturdays in August of 2018. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is hosting the two events. "We invite shoreline residents and other interested people to attend the two open houses in August," said Geoffrey Cade, ABCA Manager of Water and Planning.

The first open house takes place on Saturday, August 11, 2018 in Thedford. The second open house takes place on Saturday, August 18, 2018 in Zurich. The open houses run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. noon. There are scheduled presentations, starting at 10:30 a.m., which will report on the progress of the work to update the existing Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). 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.

The open houses will include displays and presentations about shoreline management topics such as technical work updates; updated draft mapping of shoreline recession rates; and draft development guidelines. There will be opportunities to ask questions of staff members and to provide written comments.

Planned presentations are by Geoffrey Cade, Manager of Water and Planning at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority; and by Fiona Duckett, M.Sc., P. Eng. of W. F. Baird and Associates Coastal Engineers Ltd.

ABCA's Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) was last updated in 2000. The plan 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.ca. The conservation authority started a process in 2015 to begin updating technical information to support updates to the 2000 SMP document. The 2018 open houses are to provide information on the existing plan, current policies, and next steps to update the current plan.

Updates to the plan 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. 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.

To learn more about shoreline management in the watershed visit the Shoreline Management Plan Update page online at abca.ca at this link: <https://www.abca.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. More than 435 people have subscribed to this newsletter. To sign up to receive these updates you may visit this link: http://eepurl.com/bxn8_5.

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CONTACT: Geoffrey Cade, Manager of Water and Planning, at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), 519-235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610 or e-mail gcade@abca.ca