

Lakeshore Capacity Assessment

When lakeshore capacity assessment should be considered

Lakeshore capacity assessment is a scientifically-established and recommended tool for municipalities to use on a routine basis as part of their ongoing land-use planning process. Triggers to carry out lakeshore capacity assessment may include the following:

- When developing or updating official plans
- If significant improvements to road access to a lake are being considered, or have occurred, increasing the use of residences from seasonal to extended seasonal or permanent
- If development (i.e., new planning approvals) are being considered within 300 metres of a lake or a permanently flowing stream within its watershed
- If significant or unusually large amounts of development are proposed for a lake beyond the 300 metre boundary
- If water quality problems (such as elevated levels of phosphorus, loss of water clarity, or algal blooms) are noted
- If lake trout populations are present
- If changes in fisheries have been noted, especially diminishing populations of cold water species such as lake trout
- If cottagers or year-round residents raise concerns about the effects of development on water quality

What lakeshore capacity assessment will tell you

The Lakeshore Capacity Model will estimate a lake's development capacity and compare its current level of development to this estimate. If the lake hasn't attained its development capacity, the model will also estimate the additional amount of development it can tolerate. This will allow a municipality to decide how many residential and cottage lots, or other uses, should be permitted on the lake. **Municipalities with lake trout lakes should note that dissolved oxygen may be a more stringent criterion than phosphorus for limiting development on these lakes to protect fish habitat.**

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Example of a Lakeshore Capacity Assessment Eagle Lake

Eagle Lake is just west of Dryden Its fishery includes lake trout. Not meant as a comparison with our lake.

[http://www.machartownship.net/
R130506_J130001_EagleLakeCapacity_Final.pdf](http://www.machartownship.net/R130506_J130001_EagleLakeCapacity_Final.pdf)