

WATER QUALITY & SHORELINES

Protect What Makes Pike Lake Special

Why It Matters

Clean water supports swimming, fishing, wildlife, and property values.
Most water quality issues start on land.

Science Says

- Natural shoreline buffers can filter up to 90% of nutrients.
- Septic systems are a major source of phosphorus in inland lakes.
- Vegetation stabilizes banks and reduces erosion.

Guidance informed by
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Quick Stewardship Checks

- Maintain a 10–15 m natural shoreline buffer
- Pump septic every 3–5 years
- Avoid fertilizers near the lake
- Install rain barrels or rain gardens
- Leave fallen logs and native plants in place

Cross-Benefits

Natural shorelines protect water quality, fish habitat, wildlife, and reduce erosion — all at once.

FISH SPAWNING & RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

March – June Awareness

Why It Matters

Most Pike Lake fish spawn in shallow bays each spring.
Disturbance during this period can reduce future fish populations.

Science Says

- Fish are concentrated and vulnerable during spawning.
- Removing bass from nests, even briefly, can reduce egg survival.
- Boat wakes increase shoreline erosion and disturb habitat.

Guidance informed by
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Spring & Summer Quick Actions

During Spawning (Late March–June)

- Avoid fishing in shallow bays
- Leave visible bass nests undisturbed
- Practice catch-and-release

On the Water

- Slow to 10 km/h within 30 m of shore
- Avoid shallow weed beds
- Clean–Drain–Dry boats and gear