

# SHORELINE INSPECTIONS REPORT 2023



Municipality of the Township of Gore

---



Written by :

**Sidney Charland**

*Environmental intern and junior inspector*

And

**May Landry, M. Sc., Mch. A**

*Environmental and sustainable development inspector*

OCTOBER 2023

## INTRODUCTION :

During the summer of 2023, the Municipality of the Township of Gore's team of environmental inspectors carried out nearly 170 shoreline inspections. Their main objective was to prioritize lakefront properties that had not been visited in recent years. We hope that this report will help to raise awareness among Gore citizens about the importance of shoreline compliance, while improving our understanding of the quality and value of shorelines in the various sectors of the territory.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SHORELINE PROTECTION:

In order to protect our lakes, wetlands and waterways, it's vital to raise public awareness of the importance of preserving shorelines. Aquatic environments are of the utmost importance, as they offer us much more than just water-based activities. They represent a real treasure, providing us with drinking water, food resources, as well as helping to filter the air by capturing significant quantities of CO<sub>2</sub>.

There are several advantages to keeping your riparian buffer strip in compliance with the By-Laws. Here are some of the main benefits:

1. **Ecosystem protection:** Well-maintained shorelines act as natural buffers between water and land, helping to protect aquatic ecosystems.
2. **Erosion prevention:** The different parts of plants, such as tree and plant roots, help to stabilize the soil along the waterways. This reduces bank erosion, preventing the risks of shoreline degradation.
3. **Improved water quality:** A healthy shoreline acts as a natural filter, preventing sediments, nutrients, and pollutants from reaching watercourses. This helps improve water quality, which is essential for the wildlife and humans who depend on these resources.
4. **Flood control:** A well-vegetated shoreline can absorb and hold back some of the water during flash foods, helping to reduce the risk of flooding in shoreline areas at risk.
5. **Conservation of natural resources:** Protecting shorelines also preserves natural resources and the ecosystemic services they provide, such as water purification, climate regulation and biodiversity protection.

## REMINDER OF REGULATIONS:

To protect Gore's lakes, wetlands, and streams, it's important to comply with the shoreline regulations. Here's a reminder of the key elements of the By-law:

- A 15-meter shoreline protective area must be kept in its natural state. This means that cutting grass, trees and/or controlling vegetation is prohibited.
- To be considered compliant, a shoreline must be composed of three vegetation layers: trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. If any of these layers is deficient, native species must be replanted along the shoreline.
- An access pathway can be created to reach the lake. The width of this path must be limited to the following characteristics:
  - If the shoreline slope is greater than 30%: The path must be of a maximum of 1 meter wide, and wind sinuously through all 3 vegetation strata.
  - If the shoreline slope is less than 30%: The path may be of five (5) meters wide, while retaining the existing herbs and shrubs indigenous species.
- It is forbidden to paint, stain or treat docks and/or pathways located in the shoreline. The effects of these toxic products on the lake and sensitive environments can cause significant damage to the flora and fauna, particularly by affecting the reproduction of aquatic species.

Refer to the Zoning By-Law (R-214) chapter 10 for the complete regulations governing shorelines.

## RESULTS:

**Table I:** Statistical analysis of shoreline inspections of 2023 and the conformity level of each of them that were inspected by lake.

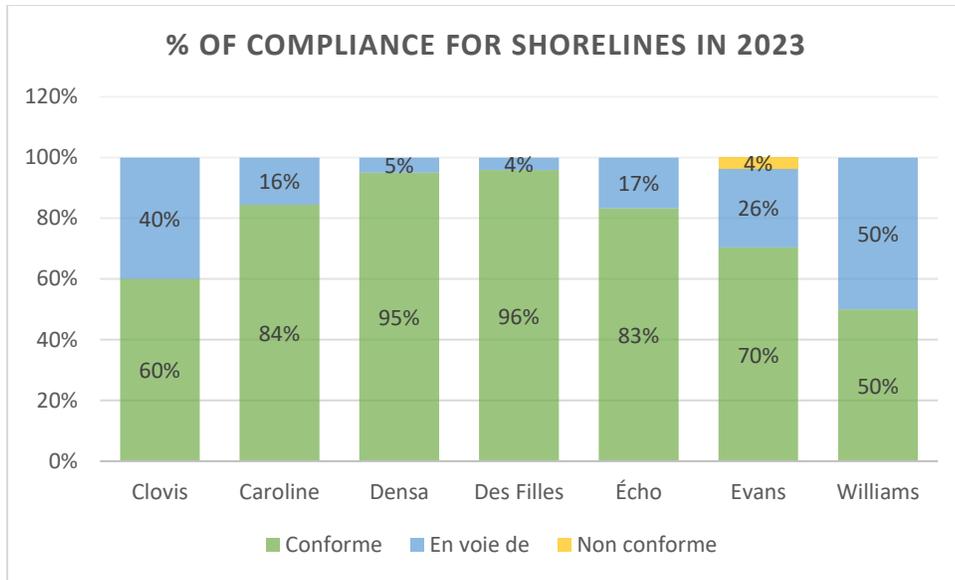
| 2023       |           |                   |               |       |
|------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| Lake       | Compliant | In the process of | Non compliant | Total |
| Clovis     | 6         | 4                 | 0             | 10    |
| Caroline   | 38        | 7                 | 0             | 45    |
| Densa      | 19        | 1                 | 0             | 20    |
| Des Filles | 23        | 1                 | 0             | 24    |
| Écho       | 25        | 5                 | 0             | 30    |
| Evans      | 19        | 7                 | 1             | 27    |
| Williams   | 6         | 6                 | 0             | 12    |
| Total      | 136       | 31                | 1             | 168   |

**Table II :**

Statistical analysis in percentage of shoreline inspections of 2023 and the conformity level of each of them that were inspected by lake.

| 2023       |           |                   |               |       |
|------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| Lake       | Compliant | In the process of | Non compliant | Total |
| Clovis     | 60%       | 40%               | 0%            | 100%  |
| Caroline   | 84%       | 16%               | 0%            | 100%  |
| Densa      | 95%       | 5%                | 0%            | 100%  |
| Des Filles | 96%       | 4%                | 0%            | 100%  |
| Écho       | 83%       | 17%               | 0%            | 100%  |
| Evans      | 70%       | 26%               | 4%            | 100%  |
| Williams   | 50%       | 50%               | 0%            | 100%  |
| Total      | 81%       | 18%               | 1%            | 100%  |

Shorelines are classified into three categories: those that comply with municipal and provincial By-laws, those that are in the process of achieving compliance, and those that are non-compliant. Shorelines in the process of achieving compliance require minor modifications or improvements, which are mentioned by the inspector during their visit. For non-compliant shorelines, a letter of information is sent to the owner, indicating the necessary corrective measures to be taken and the follow-up that will be carried out. If the shoreline is not brought into compliance, penalties are applied as stipulated in the By-laws.



**Graph 1:** Diagram showing the compliance of shorelines inspected on the various lakes in 2023. The green zones represent % of compliant shorelines, blue zones are the shorelines in the process of being compliant and yellow zones show non-compliant shorelines.

### Lake Clovis

Lake Clovis is bordered by ten (10) waterfront properties. During our inspections, we found that six (6) shorelines were compliant as of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and four (4) were in the process of becoming compliant. This means that Lake Clovis is 60% compliant.

### Lake Caroline

Lake Caroline is bordered by 45 waterfront properties. During our inspections, we found that 38 shorelines were complying as of July 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition, seven (7) properties were in the process of being compliant. This gives Lake Caroline a compliance rate of 84,4%.

### Lake Densa

Lake Densa is bordered by 20 waterfront properties. Following our inspections, it was brought to our attention that only one (1) property wasn't in compliance. Furthermore, 19 properties show a compliant shoreline as of July 26<sup>th</sup>. This brings lake Densa to 95% compliance, which is a very good result.

### Lake Des Filles

Lake des Filles consists of 24 waterfront properties. Our inspections revealed that 23 shorelines were complying as of July 24<sup>th</sup>. Only one (1) shoreline was in the process of acquiring compliance. This means that Lake des Filles is compliant at 96%.

## Lake Echo

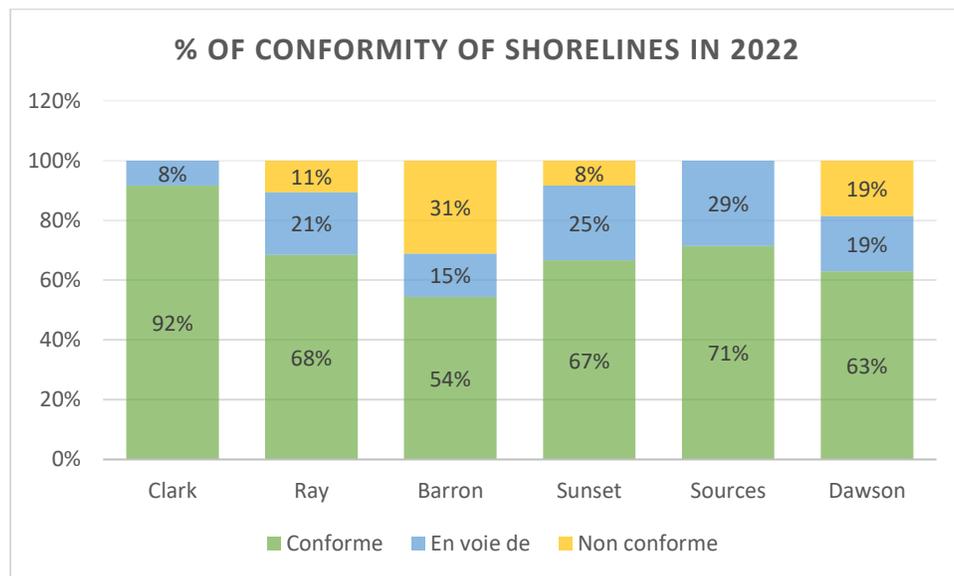
Lake Echo is made up of 30 lakefront properties. Our inspections revealed that only 5 shorelines are in the process of following the By-laws, and the remaining 25 are compliant. This gives lake Echo a result of 83%.

## Lake Evans

Lake Evans consists of 26 lakefront properties. During our inspections, we found that only 19 properties are compliant. Seven (7) properties are in the process of being compliant and 1 is non-compliant and requires immediate action. This gives lake Evans a compliance result of 73%.

## Lake Williams

Lake Williams consists of 12 lakefront properties. During our inspections, we found that only six (6) properties are complying. The other six (6) properties are either in the way of becoming compliant or are in infraction. This means that Lake Williams is only 50% compliant which is a very low rating.



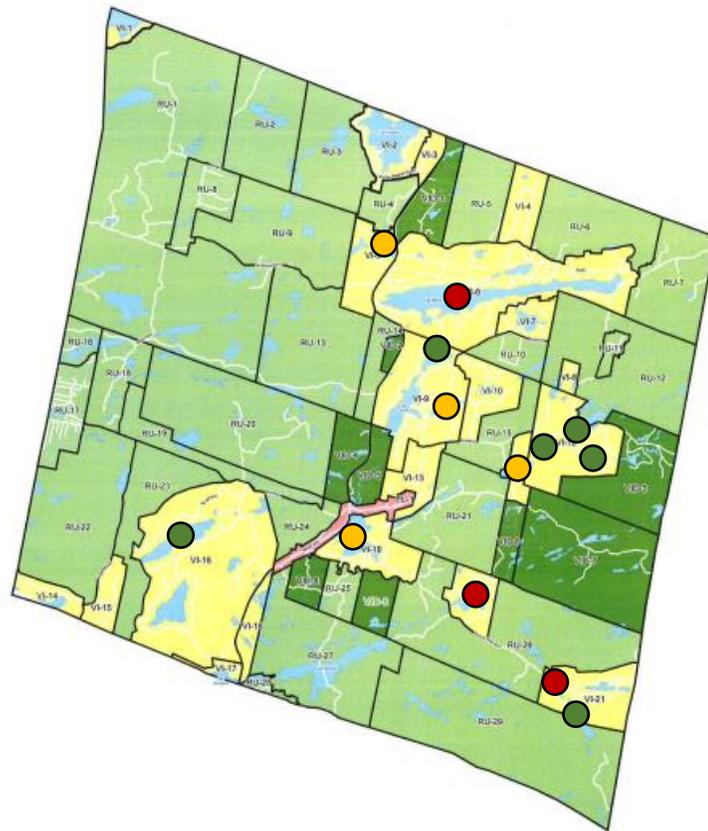
**Graph 2:** Diagram representing percentage of compliance of the inspected shorelines in 2022.

The lakes inspected in 2022 and 2023 are different, as it's impossible for us to cover all the lakes in the municipality in a single year.

## CONCLUSION :

During the 2023 summer season inspection tour, we were able to deepen our knowledge of the shoreline conditions in Gore. The Environmental Department's inspectors will be actively pursuing inspections over the next years, enabling us to build up a general profile and pursue our goal of improving shoreline compliance. Follow-up with property owners in violation will also continue, and guidance will be available to help them target the improvements required to achieve a compliant shoreline.

We sincerely believe that, with the cooperation of citizens, we have the capacity to make significant changes to our shoreline lifestyle practices. This will improve the protection of Gore Township's beautiful lakes and ensure their quality for future generations to enjoy.



**Figure 3:** Mapping of the Municipality with the conformity of the shorelines of various lakes. The map represents a compilation of 2022 and 2023 data. Green dots represent a percentage of more than 80% of compliance. Yellow dots represent a compliance of more than 60% and red dots represent a compliance under 60%.