



## Summary - Otty Lake Shoreline Assessment Report

March 2015

Learning more about Otty Lake's Shoreline

**Background** - In the early summer of 2013, 474 Otty Lake shoreline properties, totaling 38,643 meters (94%) of the shoreline, were assessed through the Love Your Lake Program. The Love Your Lake property reports were mailed to Otty Lake property owners in the spring of 2014.

**The purpose of the Love Your Lake Program on Otty Lake** was to provide shoreline property owners with individualized property reports about the state of their shoreline and offer recommendations for maintaining a healthy waterfront property.

### **What is the Otty Lake Shoreline Assessment Report?**

From the data shown in the individualized reports, Watersheds Canada (formerly Centre for Sustainable Watersheds) staff working on the Love Your Lake program have created a lake-wide summary called the Otty Lake Shoreline Assessment Report. This report does not identify any property-specific information.

The Shoreline Assessment Report is intended to be a resource for the Otty Lake community to use as a source of baseline shoreline data with which they will be able to compare future shoreline data.

**The report includes information on** shoreline classifications (natural, regenerative, ornamental or degraded), building setbacks, development (including structures and docks), retaining walls, erosion, aquatic cover, aquatic substrate, slopes, lawns, buffers and other shoreline observations.

**Why is this report important for Otty Lake?** Using the information in the report will help the OLA and lake community identify priority areas for future shoreline stewardship opportunities.

### **Good news: Shoreline stewardship efforts are paying off!**

The previous shoreline survey was completed in 2005. In comparing the 2005 data with the 2013 data we learn that overall the Otty Lake shoreline has improved since 2005: there are 10% less properties that are mostly ornamental, 13% more properties that are either mostly natural or mostly regenerative, and 3% less properties that are degraded.

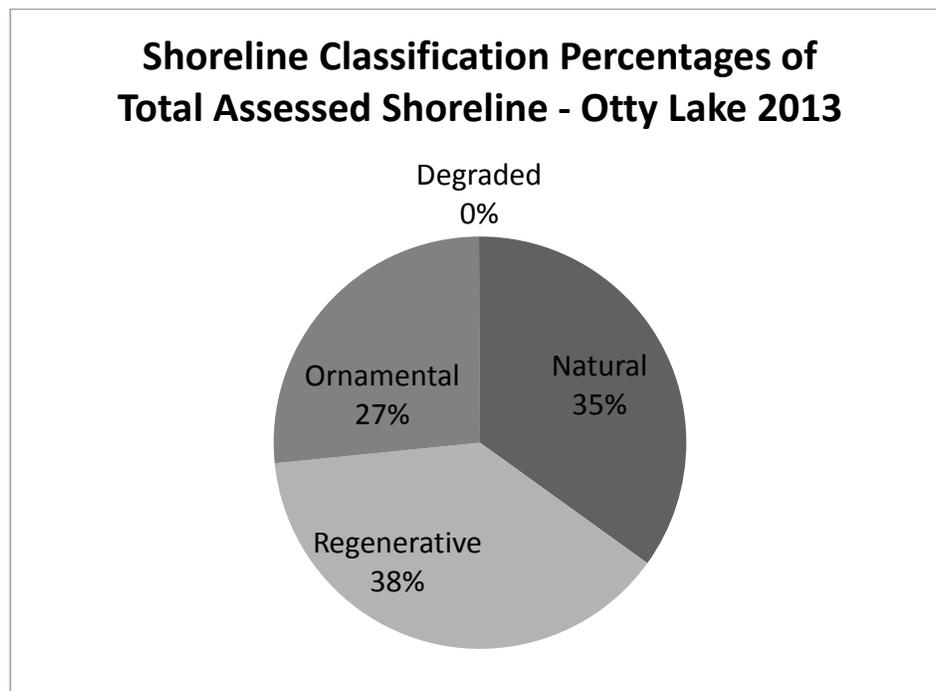
### **Going forward.**

Such results should encourage the Otty Lake Association and Otty Lake community to continue their efforts in naturalization projects, with hopes of further increasing the percentage of regenerative and natural shorelines, and decreasing the percentage of ornamental shorelines. Natural shorelines support water quality, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and property values.

**The health of the Otty Lake shoreline directly impacts on the health of Otty Lake.** Healthy shorelines support a diverse range of plants and animals. Healthy shorelines are also critical in filtering pollutants and protecting against erosion, two areas of major concern for shoreline property owners.

**As shorelines become more developed over time, the role of shoreline property owners to be good stewards of their land is increasingly important.**

**The following is an example of the data summarized in the 2013 Otty Lake Shoreline Assessment Report.**



- Natural – A healthy buffer of vegetation and/or a natural shoreline of sand or exposed rock that is undisturbed and undeveloped;
- Regenerative – Natural vegetation has been removed in the past, but is in the process of growing back towards a natural state;
- Ornamental – All natural vegetation has been removed and replaced with mowed lawn and other non-native vegetation; structures such as docks, decks, boathouses and boat ramps are predominantly present at the shore;
- Degraded – Natural vegetation has been lost; soil erosion, undercutting of the bank, and/or exposed roots of shrubs and trees are significant.

Please go to [www.ottylakeassociation.ca](http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca) to read more information from the Shoreline Assessment Report.

**With positive individual and community actions to protect shoreline health, all Otty Lake users, cottagers, and residents will benefit by enjoying a healthier lake.**