

NATURE CANADA'S MISSION:

Together we protect nature, its diversity, and the processes that sustain it.

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Your Hands-on Guide to Living by Water

Spending time in, on or near the water is an integral part of life for many Canadians. For some people this includes boating. Here is an easy-to-follow checklist for boaters who want to enjoy this nation's lakes and rivers, and protect them at the same time.

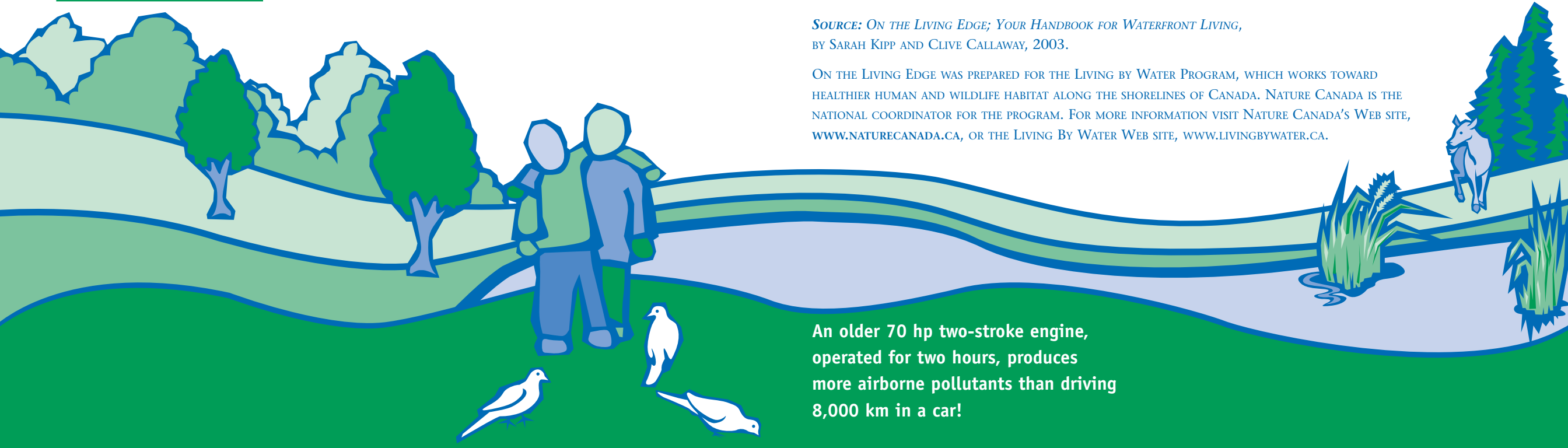


- Opt for the latest four-stroke or modern two-stroke-injection motor.
- Keep up with regular engine maintenance.
- Inspect fuel line, clamps and filters monthly.
- Drive at a "no-wake" speed near shore.
- Fuel up away from water if your tanks are detachable.
- Choose non-toxic cleaners.
- Clean your boat well (on shore) when leaving the water.
- Use the least toxic hull paint possible.
- Reduce grey water release – if you have a cabin on your boat, add a holding tank.
- Never discharge black water.
- Use bilge pillows or absorbent pads to soak up oil, fuel, or antifreeze, or install a bilge filter.
- Take your garbage home.
- Remove any plants or animals that may be clinging to the hull, trailer or motor, or that are hiding in the bilge.

SOURCE: ON THE LIVING EDGE; YOUR HANDBOOK FOR WATERFRONT LIVING, BY SARAH KIPP AND CLIVE CALLAWAY, 2003.

ON THE LIVING EDGE WAS PREPARED FOR THE LIVING BY WATER PROGRAM, WHICH WORKS TOWARD HEALTHIER HUMAN AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ALONG THE SHORELINES OF CANADA. NATURE CANADA IS THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE PROGRAM. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT NATURE CANADA'S WEB SITE, WWW.NATURECANADA.CA, OR THE LIVING BY WATER WEB SITE, WWW.LIVINGBYWATER.CA.

An older 70 hp two-stroke engine, operated for two hours, produces more airborne pollutants than driving 8,000 km in a car!



Want to Protect your Shoreline?

Save time, money, and the environment while safeguarding the value of your investment. Follow these simple tips to protect your shoreline property.



SHORELINE

- Start a buffer strip by leaving some grass uncut near the water's edge. If you've got the space, a buffer strip of native plants along the shoreline 30m wide is your best insurance policy. The wider the strip, the greater the benefits!
- Check regularly for invasive plants and remove them carefully.
- Let imported beach sand erode naturally and let native plants grow back.
- Let natural debris, such as driftwood or fallen trees to accumulate as much as possible.
- Build a low impact dock (check local regulations).

YARD

- Minimize the amount of trees and plants cleared during construction projects.
- Prune trees to obtain a better view, instead of removing them.
- Reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Handle fuels, oil, and other chemicals with great care, and be prepared for spills.
- Redirect driveway runoff into a settling / soaking area.

HOUSE

- Use phosphate free soaps and cleaners.
- Pump your septic tank regularly (for a field system, every 2-3 years).
- Avoid overloading your septic system by staggering full laundry loads through the week.
- Conserve water by using low-flow showerheads and toilets.

Cool Water Facts

- Two of the world's 10 largest wetlands are right here in Canada – the Hudson Bay Lowlands and the Mackenzie River Basin.
- The Mackenzie River – Canada's longest – has a drainage area twice the size of the entire province of B.C.! (It's 1.8 million square kilometers)
- There is the same amount of water on Earth today as there was 3 billion years ago.
- Three percent of the water on Earth is freshwater yet only 1% is available for human consumption.
- Canada has between 6 and 9% of the world's renewable freshwater.
- In a one hundred year period, an average water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, two weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.

