



## Wetlands – giant filters

Wetlands are vital parts of a healthy landscape. They act as giant sponges soaking up rainwater and snow melt and slowly releasing it to streams and lakes. Without their presence spring melts and heavy downpours would quickly run into lakes and streams. As a result, floodings would be much more frequent.

Wetlands also act as giant filters, serving as a buffer between the pollutants, sediments and animal excrement washed off the land, and the receiving water.

Wetlands and aquatic vegetation growing along lakes help to prevent erosion from wave action and provide vital fish habitat. Dozens of other animals, from herons and ducks to muskrats and moose also use wetlands as habitat.

Wetlands need recognition and protection for the valuable services they provide. To that end, the City will continue to implement its Official Plan policies that address wetland protection. Several groups and agencies in our community, including Nickel District Conservation Authority, will continue to promote the benefit of healthy wetlands. The City's Regreening Program will increase the diversity of plants of wetlands in the impacted areas through supplemental plantings.