

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### About 170 people attend first of two shoreline management open houses

*Public shows interest at open house in Zurich; next open house is in Thedford on Saturday, June 17*

The first of two public information open houses on shoreline management drew about 170 people. Dr. Robin Davidson-Arnott, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph, and coastal engineer Fiona Duckett, M.Sc., P. Eng., of W. F. Baird and Associates Coastal Engineers Ltd., presented at the meeting, which was held at the Zurich Arena on Saturday, June 3, 2017.

The two speakers are also scheduled to present at an open house at Legacy Recreation Centre Hall, 16 Allen Street, Thedford on Saturday, June 17, 2017. The open house runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. noon. The presentations begin at 10:30 a.m.

Robin Davidson-Arnott presented on the topics of shoreline processes, climate change impacts on the Great Lakes, and shoreline protection. Fiona Duckett spoke on different types of shore protection that can be considered and Development of Policies and Procedures for review of applications for Shore Protection Structures along the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) shoreline.

Links to professionally-videotaped videos of their presentations, when they were presented to the ABCA Board of Directors in April and May, are posted on the shoreline management web page at [abca.on.ca](http://abca.on.ca).

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority is hosting the open houses as part of the 2015-2018 Update of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) which has been in effect since 2000. The Conservation Authority started a process in 2015 to update technical information to support updates to the 2000 SMP document. The 2017 open houses provide information on the existing plan and current policies as well as an update on the technical work completed to date to support future updates. (The review of local development policies contained in the SMP 2000 is not expected until 2018, according to ABCA.) The Shoreline Management Plan identifies shoreline hazards for flooding, erosion, and dynamic beaches and their impact on shoreline development. Updates to the Shoreline Management Plan will provide a consistent and up-to-date guide for development and municipal land use planning along the shoreline, according to the ABCA. Updates will provide newer information on shoreline recession rates, ensure that local policies and application of the Regulation conform to Province of Ontario policy, and keep policies current in light of emerging land use trends.

To learn more about shoreline management, along the ABCA shoreline, visit the Shoreline Management Plan Update page online at [abca.on.ca](http://abca.on.ca) at this link: [abca.on.ca/page.php?page=shoreline-management](http://abca.on.ca/page.php?page=shoreline-management). Members of the public are invited to subscribe to a free electronic newsletter that provides updates about shoreline management along the shoreline of the watershed. To sign up to receive these updates you may visit this link: [http://eepurl.com/bxn8\\_5](http://eepurl.com/bxn8_5). More than 400 people have subscribed to this online newsletter.

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**CONTACT:** Geoffrey Cade, Water and Planning Supervisor, at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), 519-235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610 or e-mail [gcade@abca.on.ca](mailto:gcade@abca.on.ca)