APPENDIX A - DEFINITIONS

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100 Year Flood: A flood event that has a 1% probability of occurring or being exceeded in any given year. This flood is likely to occur or be exceeded an average of once every one hundred years.

Accepted Engineering Principles means those current coastal, hydraulic and geotechnical engineering principles, methods and procedures that would be judged by a peer group of qualified engineers (by virtue of their qualifications, training and experience), as being reasonable for the scale and type of project being considered, the sensitivity of the locations, and the potential threats to life and property.

Accepted Scientific Principles means those current principles, methods and procedures which are used and applied in disciplines including but not limited to geology, geomorphology, hydrology, botany, and zoology, and that would be judged by a peer group of qualified specialists and practitioners (by virtue of their qualifications, training and experience), as being reasonable for the scale and type of project being considered, the sensitivity of the locations, and the potential threats to life and property.

Accessory Building or Structure means a use or a building or structure that is subordinate and exclusively devoted to a main use, building or structure and located on the same lot.

Addition: any construction occurring on an existing structure that serves to increase the total area of that structure.

Adjacent Lands means those lands contiguous to a specific natural heritage feature or area where it is likely that development or site alteration would have a negative impact on the feature or area.

Adverse Hydraulic and/or Fluvial Impacts means flood elevations are not increased, flood and ice flows are not impeded and the risk of flooding to and erosion on adjacent upstream and/or downstream properties is not increased.

Alteration to a waterway: The act whereby the channel of a watercourse is altered in some manner. Examples of an alteration include, but are not limited to the following: channelization, full or partial diversions, retaining walls, revetments, bridges, culverts, pipeline crossings, erosion protection measures and construction of storm outlets.

Apparent (confined) river and stream valley: Ones in which the physical presence of a valley corridor containing a river or stream channel, which may or may not contain flowing

water, is visibly discernible (i.e. valley walls are clearly definable) from the surrounding landscape by either field investigations, aerial photography and/or map interpretation. The location of the river or stream channel may be located at the base of the valley slope, in close proximity to the toe of the valley slope (i.e. within 15 metres), or removed from the toe of the valley slope (i.e. greater than 15 metres)."

Area of interference: those lands where development could interfere with the hydrologic function of a wetland.

Armour: Artificial surfacing of bed, banks, shores, or embankments to resist scour or erosion.

Authority: The Quinte Conservation, a corporate body established under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (RSO 1990).

Basement: One or more storeys of a building located below the first storey (Building Code).

Balanced Cut and Fill: The removal and replacement of suitable fill material at equal elevations to maintain the flood storage capacity of a property. Material must be removed and replaced either adjacent to or at opposite location of one another so as to achieve equality of stage-discharge within an approved watercourse reach. This must be illustrated on engineered plans.

Bankfull Width means the formative flow of water that characterizes the morphology of a fluvial channel. In a single channel stream, "bankfull" is the discharge, which just fills the channel without flowing onto the floodplain.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) means methods, facilities and structures which are designed to protect or improve the environment and natural features and functions from the effects of development or interference.

Breakwall/Breakwater: An object (especially a groyne or pier) resisting force of waves.

Boathouse: A detached one level accessory building or structure which is designed or used for the sheltering of a boat, watercraft, or other form of water transportation (not for non-motorized vessels) located on a lot with access and frontage on a water body. The structure must include an opening to the water of an appropriate size to accommodate a boat, watercraft, or other form of water transportation which cannot reasonably be removed from

the water without mechanical means, AND have a means of directly accessing the water, either by a wet slip or by mechanical means (i.e. marine railway or boat lift). Storage structures, sheds, garages must meet the 15 metre setback from the hazard. Floating boathouses are addressed in the definition of Floating Structures.

Bog: Peat covered areas or peat-filled depressions which have a high water table and a surface carpet of mosses (chiefly *Sphagnum spp.),* sedges, ericaceous shrubs, and tree cover which does not exceed 25% of the growing area. The mosses often form raised hummocks, separated by low, wet interstices. Because the bog surface is typically raised above the surface waters, it is typically isolated from mineral soil waters.

Buffers are an area or band of permanent vegetation, preferably consisting of native species, located adjacent to a natural heritage feature and usually bordering lands that are subject to development or site alteration. The purpose of the buffer is to protect the feature and its function(s) by mitigating the impacts of the proposed land use and allowing an area for edge phenomena to continue (e.g. allowing space for edge trees and limbs to fall without damaging personal property, area for roots of edge trees to persist). A buffer may also provide an area for recreational trails and a physical separation for new development that will discourage encroachment (adapted from Natural Heritage Reference Manual 2nd edition, 2010).

Building: A structure consisting of a wall, roof and floor or any of them or a structural system serving the function thereof including all plumbing, works, fixtures and service systems appurtenant thereto, plumbing not located in a structure, or a sewage system.

Building Envelope: area of a lot outside of any municipal bylaw setbacks, Ontario Building Code setbacks or Quinte Conservation policy setbacks, which is intended to contain development and any associated infrastructure (sewage system, well, etc.)

Channel: The area of a watercourse carrying normal flows within the banks.

Channelization: The straightening, widening and/or deepening of a watercourse channel.

Comprehensive Plan means a study or plan undertaken at a landscape scale such as a watershed/subwatershed plan, an Environmental Assessment, a detailed Environmental Implementation Report (EIR) that has been prepared to address and document various alternatives and is part of a joint and harmonized planning or Environmental Assessment process, or a community plan that includes a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study.

Conservation Activities include projects that are intended to maintain, enhance, or restore the functions of a wetland, or to create a wetland where one did not exist previously.

Conservation of Land (CO Interpretation)**:** The protection, management, or restoration of lands within the watershed ecosystem, including all aspects of the physical environment, be it terrestrial, aquatic, biological, botanic or air, for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing the natural features and hydrologic and ecological functions and to prevent exploitation, pollution, destruction or neglect and to ensure the future usability of the resource.

Crawl Space: A Crawl space must be:
(a) less than 1500 millimetres high between the lowest part of the floor assembly and the ground or other surface below, and
(b) not used for any occupancy.

Dam means a structure or work holding back or diverting water and includes a dam, tailings dam, dyke, diversion, channel, artificial channel, culvert or causeway (*Lakes & Rivers Improvement Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. L3, s.1).

Development: a) the construction, reconstruction, erection or placing of a building or structure of any kind, b) any change to a building or structure that would have the effect of altering the use or potential use of the building or structure, increasing the size of the building or structure or increasing the number of dwelling units in the building or structure, c) site grading, or d) the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material, originating on the site or elsewhere.

Diversion: The process whereby stream flow is directed from the original channel of the watercourse and returned to the original channel at another point on the watercourse. Diversions may be full or partial re-direction of flow from the channel of one watercourse to the channel of another watercourse.

Drainage Area means, for a point, the area that contributes runoff to that point.

Dredging Plan means a report prepared to address the potential impacts of dredging on natural features and ecological functions. At a minimum, dredging plans shall include the following:

- statement of purpose

- dimensions and volume calculations
- operational details (e.g., timing)
- sediment and erosion control plan
- edge/bank stabilization details
- assessment of potential impact on fish and fish habitat*
- dredgate quality confirmation and deposition plan*
- assessment of cultural heritage values*

*not required for routine maintenance projects (e.g. road side ditch or municipal drain maintenances, existing wet slip dredging, etc.)

Dug-out or Isolated Ponds mean anthropogenic waterbodies that are created by excavating basins with no inlet or outlet channels and in which surface and ground water collect.

Dyke (dike): An embankment or wall, usually along a watercourse or floodplain, to prevent overflow on to adjacent land.

Dynamic Beach: Sediments that accumulate along sea or lake shores, the configuration and contours of which depend upon the action of coastal processes including but not limited to wind, waves, currents, ice jamming/piling, the kinds of sediment involved, and the rate of delivery of this sediment.

Dynamic Beach Hazard: Areas of inherently unstable accumulations of shoreline sediments along the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River System and large inland lakes, as identified by provincial standards, as amended from time to time. The dynamic beach hazard limit consists of the flooding hazard limit plus a dynamic beach allowance.

Dwelling unit: one or more habitable rooms, occupied or capable of being occupied as an independent and separate housekeeping establishment, in which separate kitchen and sanitary facilities are provided for the exclusive use of the occupants.

Ecological Function means the natural processes, products or services that living and non-living environments provide or perform within or between species, ecosystems and landscapes. These may include biological, physical and socio-economic interactions.

Enhance in the context of wetlands and wetland buffers means the altering of an existing functional wetland to increase or improve selected functions and benefits.

Environmental Assessment means a process that is used to predict the environmental, social and economic effects of proposed initiatives before they are carried out. It is used to identify measures to mitigate adverse effects on the environment and can predict whether there will be significant adverse environmental effects, even after the mitigation is implemented.

Environmental Impact Statement/Study: A study performed by a qualified professional who has been educated in, and has current knowledge of, biology, ecology, landscape ecology and any other relevant fields of study, as required. An environmental impact study should:

- Be consistent with the intent of the Provincial Policy Statement;
- For areas on and adjacent to the site, include descriptions and clearly legible scaled maps of the existing land uses, and the proposed development and site alteration, including all proposed buildings, structures, driveways and parking areas, and sources of human intrusion;
- Provide a thorough inventory of flora and fauna and related habitat features, as well as relevant information on soils and geology, slope, hydrology and hydrogeology;
- Review the ecological functions of the natural features identified above, including the habitat needs of species that utilize adjacent lands;
- Predict the impacts of the proposed development and site alteration on the various attributes of the environment on and adjacent to the site, such as habitat, vegetation, soil, surface and ground water, air and any other relevant attributes;
- Evaluate the significance of all predicted positive and negative impacts on the environment;
- Recommend extents of land where: disturbance must be avoided, or where disturbance must be limited in order to maintain the natural features and ecological functions of the area, supported by a detailed rationale;
- Review alternative development options and recommend measures that could be implemented to avoid or mitigate the predicted negative impacts;
- Identify any measures needed to monitor the mitigation measures and to assess the long-term impacts associated with the proposal; and
- Conclude with an independent professional opinion as to whether or not the development and site alteration is appropriate, and consistent with the intent of the Provincial Policy Statement.

Erosion: continual loss of earth material (i.e. soil or sediment) over time as a result of the influence of water or wind.

Erosion Hazard: the loss of land, due to human or natural processes, that poses a threat to life and property. The erosion hazard limit is determined using considerations that include the 100 year erosion rate (the average annual rate of recession extended over a one hundred year time span), and an allowance for slope stability. The erosion hazard limit associated with unconfined river and stream systems is determined using considerations that include the flooding hazard limit or the meander belt width, whichever is greater, plus an allowance for access.

Evaluated Wetlands: Any wetland which has been evaluated using any version of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Manual: Ontario Wetland Evaluation System.

Existing Use: The type of activity associated with an existing building or structure or site on the date of a permit application.

Fen: Peatlands which are characterized by surface layer of poorly to moderately decomposed peat, and a plant community which is dominated by sedges, with a lesser component of grasses, reeds, mosses, and sparse, medium height shrub and tree cover. Fens are often minerotrophic as they receive water through groundwater discharge from adjacent uplands, however restricted drainage creates conditions where oxygen saturation is low and mineral supply becomes restricted.

Fill: Earth, sand, gravel , building materials, storage, rubble, rubbish, garbage or any other material whether similar to or different from any of the aforementioned materials, whether originating on the site or elsewhere, used or capable of being used to raise, lower or in any way affect or alter the contours of the ground.

Floating Dwelling/Structure: A building or structure capable of being occupied as the permanent or temporary residence, recreational space or storage space that is constructed, erected, or placed on a floatation system regardless of how it is anchored (e.g. to the shoreline or to a dock/ramp). This includes floating dwellings, boathouses, gazebos, covered decks and other similar structures. This does not include floating docks.

Flooding Hazard: in Ontario, either storm-centred events, flood frequency based events, or an observed event may be used to determine the extent of the flooding hazard[1]. These events are:

[1] High points of land not subject to flooding but surrounded by floodplain or "flooded land" are considered to be within the flood hazard and part of the regulated floodplain.

a) A storm-centred event, either Hurricane Hazel storm (1954) or Timmins storm (1961). A storm-centred event refers to a major storm of record which is used for land use planning purposes. The rainfall actually experienced during a major storm event can be transposed over another watershed and when combined with the l8local conditions, Regulatory floodplains can be determined. This centering concept is considered acceptable where the evidence suggests that the storm event could have potentially occurred over other watershed in the general area;

b) 100 year flood event is a frequency based flood event that is determined through analysis of precipitation, snow melt, or a combination thereof, having a return period (or a probability of occurrence) of once every 100 years on average (or having a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year). The 100 year flood event is the minimum acceptable standard for defining the Regulatory floodplain; and

c) An observed event, which is a flood that is greater that the storm-centred events or greater that the 100 year flood and which was actually experienced in a particular watershed, or portion thereof, for example as a result of ice jams[2] , and which has been approved as the standard for that specific area by the Minister of Natural Resources.

Flood: A temporary inundation of lands adjacent to the normal low flow channel of a watercourse.

Flood Line: An engineered line delineating the potential extent of flooding, by elevation, as a result of a specific flood event.

Flood Plain: An area of land adjacent to a watercourse that has been or may be covered by water.

Floodproofing: A combination of structural changes and/or adjustments incorporated into the basic design and/or construction or alteration of individual buildings, structures or properties subject to flooding so as to reduce or eliminate flood damages.

[2] However, localized chronic conditions (e.g. ice or debris jams) related to flood prone areas may be used to extend the regulated area beyond the Regulatory Flood limit without the approval of the Minister of Natural Resources. It will be necessary to inform the property owner(s) as well as ensuring that the revised limits are reflected in the appropriate municipal documents at the first opportunity.

Floodway: The channel of a watercourse and the inner portion of the flood plain where flood depths and velocities are generally higher than those experienced in the flood fringe. The floodway represents that area required for the safe passage of flood flow and/or that velocities are considered to be such that they pose a potential threat to life and/or property damage.

Groyne: A structure extending from the shore to prevent erosion and arrest sand movement along a shoreline.

Habitable: suitable to live in or on (American Heritage Dictionary) OR means, that can be inhabited. Inhabit means to dwell in, occupy.

Habitable Floor Space means any area that has the potential to be used as or converted to residential living space, including basements and attached garages.

Habitable Structure: any building or structure used, or intended, or capable of being used for living and sleeping.

Hazardous Land: (updated definition) property or lands that could be unsafe for development due to naturally occurring processes. Along the shorelines of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System, this means the land, including that covered by water, between the international boundary, where applicable, and the furthest landward limit of the flooding hazard, erosion hazard or dynamic beach hazard limits. Along the shorelines of large inland lakes, this means the land, including that covered by water, between a defined offshore distance or depth and the furthest landward limit of the flooding hazard, erosion hazard or dynamic beach hazard limits. Along river, stream and small inland lake systems, this means the land, including that covered by water, to the furthest landward limit of the flooding hazard or erosion hazard limits.

Hydric Soil: soil that, in its undrained condition, is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop an anaerobic condition that supports the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation.

Hydrologic Function: the functions of the hydrological cycle that include the occurrence, circulation, distribution and chemical and physical properties of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere, and water's interaction with the environment including its relation to living things.

Hydrologic Study means a report prepared to address the potential impacts of development and interference on the hydrologic functions of a wetland or other natural feature.

Inert Fill: Earth or rock fill or material of a similar nature that contains no putrescible materials or soluble or decomposable chemical substances.

Infilling: development of an existing lot of record that lies between two previously developed lots. This only applies to filling in the setback to a hazard or environmental feature as filling within the hazard or environmental feature is not permitted.

Information/Education Program: the promotion of floodplain management principles to elected officials, members of the public, organizations and agencies in order to develop public understanding and acceptance of the Conservation Authority's water management program.

Infrastructure: as defined in the Provincial Policy Statement mane physical structures (facilities and corridors) that from the foundation for development. Infrastructure includes: sewage and water systems, septic treatment systems, waste management systems, electric power generation and transmission, communication/telecommunications, transit and transportation corridors and facilities, oil and gas pipelines and associated facilities.

Ingress/egress: The ability to access a property or residence by land.

Institutional Use means land uses where there is a threat to the safe evacuation of vulnerable populations' such as older persons, persons with disabilities and those who are sick and young, during an emergency as a result of flooding, failure of floodproofing measures or protection works, or erosion.

Interference in any way: any anthropogenic act or instance which hinders, disrupts, degrades or impedes in any way the natural features or hydrologic and ecologic functions of a wetland or watercourse.

Jetty: a structure that projects from the land out into water.

Karst means an area of irregular limestone in which erosion has produced fissures, sinkholes, underground streams, and caverns.

Large Inland Lakes: waterbody that has a surface area equal to or greater than 100 square kilometers where there is no measurable or predictable response to a single runoff event.

Marsh: wet areas that are periodically inundated with standing or slowly moving water, with a vegetative community that generally consists of robust non-woody emergent plants (such as rushes, reeds, reed grasses, and sedges) and to a lesser extent, floating and submergent plants.

Material includes earth, sand, gravel, stone or woody debris (e.g., root wads, fascines).

Meander Belt means the area of land in which a watercourse channel moves or is likely to move over a period of time. It is generally considered 20 times of bankfull channel width at riffles in the reach.

Meander Belt Allowance means a limit for development within the areas where the river system is likely to shift. It is based on twenty (20) times the bankfull channel width where the bankfull channel width is measured at the widest riffle section of the reach. A riffle is a section of shallow rapids where the water surface is broken by small waves. The meander belt is centred over a meander belt axis that connects the riffle section of the stream.

Meander Belt Axis means the line or "axis" that the meander belt is centred over which connects all the riffle sections of a stream.

Mitigate means to prevent, modify, or alleviate impacts (negative) on the natural environment. Mitigation also includes any action intended to enhance beneficial effects (modified from Natural Heritage Reference Manual, Second Edition, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry 2010).

Minor Development: Construction of a small addition to an existing building or an accessory building that does not exceed 10 square metres (108 square feet) and does not increase habitation in a hazard land.

Minor Fill: A volumetric amount of fill not exceeding 20 cubic metres.

Minor Site Alteration: The placement or removal of fill not exceeding 200 cubic metres.

Negative Impact means
a) in regards to fish habitat, any permanent alteration to, or destruction of fish habitat;

b) in regards to other natural heritage features and areas, degradation that threatens the health and integrity of the natural features or ecological functions for which an area is identified due to single, multiple or successive development or site alteration activities.

Negligible means not measurable or too small or unimportant to be worth considering.

Normal High-Water Mark means the usual or average level to which a body of water rises at its highest point and remains for a sufficient time so as to change the characteristics of the land. In flowing waters (rivers, streams) this refers to the "active channel/bankfull level" which is often the one to two year flood flow return level. For inland lakes, it refers to those parts of the waterbody bed and banks that are frequently flooded by water so as to leave a mark on the land and where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic vegetation to terrestrial vegetation (excepting water tolerant species). Along the Trent-Severn Waterway lakes, the Upper Controlled Navigation Limit is deemed to be the high-water mark.

Not Apparent (unconfined) river and stream valleys: Valleys in which a river or stream is present but there is no discernible valley slope or bank that can be detected from the surrounding landscape. For the most part, unconfined systems are found in fairly flat or gently rolling landscapes and may be located within the headwater areas of drainage basins. The river or stream channels contain either perennial (i.e. year round) or ephemeral (i.e. seasonal or intermittent) flow and range in channel configuration from seepage and natural channels to detectable channels.

Offsetting: Measures that are undertaken to counterbalance unavoidable impacts to the ecosystem. Offsetting should be identified through an Environmental Impact Study and considered only when all other options have been deemed not feasible.

One Hundred Year Flood Event (100-year flood) means rainfall or snowmelt, or a combination of rainfall and snowmelt, producing at any location in a river, creek, stream or watercourse a peak flow that has a probability of occurrence of one per cent during any given year.

One Zone Concept: An approach whereby the entire flood plain, as defined by the regulatory flood, is treated as one unit, and all development is prohibited or restricted.

Other Water Related Hazards means water associated phenomena other than flooding hazards and wave uprush which act on shorelines. This includes, but is not limited to ship generated waves, ice piling and ice jamming.

Pollution: The addition of any substance or form of energy (e.g., heat, sound, radioactivity) to the environment at a rate faster than the environment can accommodate it by dispersion, breakdown, recycling or storage in some harmless form.

Protect in the context of wetlands, means the preservation of wetlands in perpetuity through implementation of appropriate physical and/or legal mechanisms (e.g. ecological buffers, development setbacks, zoning, fencing, conservation easements, etc.).

Protection Works means structural or non-structural works which are intended to appropriately address damages caused by flooding, erosion and/or other water-related hazards.

Qualified Professional means a person with specific qualifications, training, and experience authorized to undertake work in accordance with the policies in accepted engineering or scientific principles, provincial standards, criteria and guidelines, and/or to the satisfaction of QC.

Regulated Area means those areas within the jurisdiction of QC defined in Ontario Regulation 319/09 within which development, interference with wetlands and alterations to shorelines and watercourses activities are regulated by the Authority.

Regulatory Flood: The standard used in a particular watershed to define the limit of the flood plain for regulatory purposes. For the purposes of this Policy document, the regulatory flood shall mean the Regional Storm as defined in the Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses regulation.

Replacement means the removal of an existing building or structure and the construction of a new building or structure. Replacement does not include reconstruction on remnant foundations or derelict or abandoned buildings or structures.

Riffle means a section of shallow rapids where the water surface is broken by small waves.

River means a large natural stream of water emptying into an ocean, lake, or other body of water and usually fed along its course by converging tributaries.

Restore in the context of wetlands means the re-establishment or rehabilitation of a former or degraded wetland with goal of returning natural or historic functions and characteristics that have been partially or completely lost by such actions as filling or draining.

Riparian Vegetation means the plant communities in the riparian zone, typically characterized by hydrophilic plants.

Riparian Zone means the interface between land and a flowing surface water body. Riparian is derived from Latin *ripa* meaning river bank.

Retaining Wall: A vertical structure designed to resist the lateral pressure of soil and water behind it.

Revetment: A vertical or inclined facing of rip-rap or other material protecting a soil surface from erosion.

Rip-rap: A layer of stone to prevent the erosion of soil.

Rubble: Waste fragments of stone, brick etc. from old houses; pieces of undressed stone used especially as backfill for walls; loose angular stones; water worn stones.

Safe Access: The standards and procedures currently applied in engineering practice associated with providing safe passage for vehicles and people to and from a property during an emergency situation as a result of flooding, or other water related hazards (e.g. erosion), the failure of floodproofing and/or erosion protection works, that have been reviewed and approved by the Conservation Authority and/or the Ministry of Natural Resources. QC uses the criteria set out in the Ontario MNRF's Technical Guide – River & Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard Limit (2002) and Technical Guide – River and Stream Systems: Erosion Hazard Limit (2002) to determine safe access.

Scour: Local lowering of a streambed by the erosive action of flowing water.

Sedimentation: The deposition of detached soil particles.

Setback (Allowance): is a physical separation. Setbacks form boundaries by establishing an exact distance from a fixed point, such as a property line, an adjacent structure, or a natural feature, within which development and/or site alteration is prohibited.

Sewage Disposal System: A system which contains the entire sewage envelope, including both primary and secondary beds, mantle, septic tanks, and reserve areas, as per the requirements of the *Ontario Building Code Act* or the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Shoreline Alteration: A physical alteration to the lands within, adjacent or close to the shoreline of any lake, river, or watercourse.

Significant Wetland (Provincially Significant Wetland): An area identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time.

Site Alteration: Activities, such as development, filling, grading and excavation that would change the landform/waterbody and natural vegetative characteristics of a site.

Spill: Occurs when a portion of the flow in a watercourse leaves the main flood plain to create a separate flood plain. The spill flood plain may or may not outlet back into the main flood plain. Spills can occur due to topography, the presence of a structure such as a bridge/culvert/dam and naturally occurring blockages such as ice jams/log jams/beaver dams, etc., or a combination of these factors. QC regulates spill flood plain that result from the presence of a structure(s) and/or topography.

Stoop: A landing constructed outside of a structure that is a maximum size of 1.7 metres by 1.7 metres (5 ½ feet by 5 ½ feet).

Storey: The portion of a building;
a) that is situated between the top of any floor and the top of the floor next above it, or
a) that is situated between the top of the floor and the ceiling above the floor, if there is no floor above it.

Structure: Any material, object or works erected either as a unit or constructed or assembled of connected or dependent parts or elements, whether located under, on and/or above the surface of the ground.

Subsurface Sewage Disposal System: A system which contains the entire sewage envelope, including both primary and secondary beds, mantle, septic tanks and reserve areas, as per the requirements of Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code.

Surface Water Feature means water related features on the earth's surface, including headwaters, rivers, stream channels, inland lakes, seepage areas, recharge/discharge areas, springs, wetlands and associated riparian lands that can be defines by their soil moisture, soil type, vegetation and topographic characteristics.

Surficial Erosion: The physical removal, detachment, and movement of soil at the ground surface due to water or wind.

Swamp: Mineral-rich wetlands characterized by a cover of deciduous or coniferous trees. Swamps are subjected to gently flowing waters that occur seasonally, or persist for long periods of time at the surface. Many swamps are characterized by spring flooding, with dry relict pools later in the season.

Toe of Slope means the lowest point on a slope, where the surface gradient changes from relatively shallow to relatively steep.

Top of Slope means the point of the slope where the downward inclination of the land begins, or the upward inclination of the land levels off. This point is situated at a higher topographic elevation of land than the remainder of the slope.

Unconfined River or Stream System includes those where the watercourse is not located within a valley corridor with discernable slopes, but relatively flat to gently rolling plains and is not confined by valley walls. The watercourse can contain perennial, intermittent or ephemeral flows and may range in channel configuration, from seepage and natural springs to detectable channels.

Unstable Slopes: A slope that can be characterized as being unstable or hazardous due to factors such as toe or run-off erosion, lack of vegetative cover, soil type, and/or geological considerations.

Valley or Valleyland means land that has depressional features associated with a river or stream, whether or not it contains a watercourse.

Watercourse: A watercourse is specifically defined within O.Reg 41/24 as "a defined channel, having a bed and banks or sides, in which a flow of water regularly or continuously occurs." This definition includes but is not limited to lakes, rivers, creeks and streams.

Watershed: An area that is drained by a river and its tributaries.

Wave Uprush: An engineered allowance for wave surge beyond the extent of the flood plain which would occur during a regulatory flood event.

Wetland: Wetlands are defined in O.Reg. 41/24 as land that:

a) Is seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water or has a water table close to or at its surface,
b) Directly contributes to the hydrological function of a watershed though connection with a surface watercourse,
c) Has hydric soils, the formation of which have been caused by the presence of abundant water, and
d) Has vegetation dominated by hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants, the dominance of which have been favoured by the presence of abundant water."

Wetland Boundary: The point where 50% of the plant community consists of wetland plant species as listed in Appendix 5 of "The Ontario Wetland Evaluation System-Southern Manual", Ministry of Natural Resources, 1993. The wetland boundary must also meet the four points listed in the definition above.