



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

The Town of Lakeshore is committed to protecting and safeguarding our environment for the benefit of existing and future generations.

Our commitment takes many forms, including 1) providing residents with information on alternatives to pesticides, 2) educating residents on the proper use of pesticides and 3) providing information to residents on protecting our water supply.

Pesticides – Alternatives & Proper Use

In early 2006, Council for the Town of Lakeshore considered the passing of a By-Law that would provide for the eventual ban on the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes within the municipality. After obtaining public input, it was concluded that there was a lack of public support for a “ban” on the use of pesticides. Alternatively, the public was more supportive of a program of “education” in terms of promoting alternatives to pesticides and providing education on the proper use of pesticides. In response to public opinion, Council has adopted a program of education.

Pesticide Reduction Awareness

As the starting point towards a Pesticide Awareness program, the Town of Lakeshore has issued a flyer entitled “[Pesticide Reduction Awareness](#)”. This flyer is available online at www.lakeshore.ca or can be obtained at the Town Hall.

Pesticide Warning Signs

Where possible the Town of Lakeshore urges you to find alternative methods, but if pesticides are the chosen alternative, we urge you to use pesticides responsibly. Read and follow the product instructions carefully! Pesticide warning signs should be posted 24 hours before the use of pesticides and remain posted for 3 to 10 days following the application. The posting of warning signs is a courtesy to your neighbours and their kids and pets.

Pesticide warning signs are available to the public free of charge at the municipal office, pool, arenas and libraries. Or click [here](#) to print your own. Remember, it is a two-sided sign and both sides should be displayed.

Clear Alternatives for Landscape Management (“C.A.L.M.”)

A booklet entitled [Clear Alternatives for Landscape Management \(“C.A.L.M.”\)](#) provides additional information on alternatives to pesticides and the proper use of pesticides and is available online to residents of the Town of Lakeshore by accessing the link above. This booklet is an initiative of the Best Management Practices Committee of the City of Windsor.

Our Water, Our Future, Ours to Protect!!

Our water supply is one of our most vital resources and protection of our water supply should be one of our highest priorities.

The Town of Essex has shared and provided information regarding pesticide use and has also allowed the Town of Lakeshore to use its series of posters to promote water preservation. While these posters have been altered slightly to meet our specific requirements, we acknowledge the Town of Essex’s initiative and thank them for their assistance.

Seven simple steps to clean water

Did you know we all live by a lake or stream? It’s true – while you might not be able to see a lake or stream from your window, it’s there. It might be a small stream or ditch or even the storm drain in the street. All of these lead to a river or lake. So it’s important to remember that what we do at home affects our rivers and lakes!

1. **Help keep pollution out of storm drains**
2. **Fertilize sparingly and carefully**
3. **Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil**
4. **Clean up after your pet**
5. **Practice good car care**
6. **Choose earth friendly landscaping**
7. **Save water**

Help keep pollution out of storm drains - *Keep pollution out of storm drains!*

Storm drains and roadside ditches lead to our lakes and streams. So any household cleaners, chemicals and oil, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizers or dirty water from washing your car or other outside activities that enters a storm drain can enter our lakes and streams.

How can you help? *Simple!* Dispose of household cleaners, chemicals and oil properly, pick up and properly dispose of your pet’s waste, reduce pesticide use, apply fertilizer carefully and sparingly and clean your vehicle at a commercial car wash. All of these actions will reduce the amount of pollutants entering storm drains. Remember, only rain in the drain!

Fertilize sparingly and caringly - *Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn!*

Storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams. While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it is bad for our water. Fertilizer in our lakes and streams contributes to algae growth. Algae can form large blooms and use up oxygen that fish need to survive. With 12,500 homes in the Town of Lakeshore, all of us need to be aware of the far-reaching effects of our lawn care practices.

Read the directions on the package for the proper application of fertilizer prior to use.

What can you do? *Simple!* Use a “no” or “low” phosphorous fertilizer, select a slow release fertilizer that lasts all season long. Keep the fertilizer on your lawn so it doesn't have the opportunity to enter storm drains, lakes and streams. Not only will our lakes and streams thank you, but so will your pocketbook. A healthy lawn is the first approach to controlling insects, weeds and diseases.

Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals and oils - *Remember, household cleaners, chemicals & oil are not just toxic to you!*

Did you know that many household products are dangerous to you, your children and pets and the environment? Prevent these materials from entering our storm drains, lakes and rivers by disposing of these materials properly.

What can you do? *Simple!* Take household cleaners, pesticides, gasoline, antifreeze, used oil, and other dangerous products to a Household Chemical Waste Depot near you where the trained and friendly staff will be pleased to assist you with your disposal needs. Contact the Town of Lakeshore at (519) 728-2488 for more information or view the online Essex Waste Calendar for more details.

Clean up after your pet - *Remember, you're just not walking the dog!*

Did you know that pet waste has bacteria that make our lakes and rivers unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities? That happens when pet waste, left on sidewalks and yards, gets washed into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers.

What can you do? *Simple!* No matter where you are, dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the toilet or trash.

Practice good car care - *Remember, you're not just washing your car!*

Practicing good car care helps protect our lakes and streams. How? Storm drains and roadside ditches lead to our lakes and streams. So, if motor fluids are washed or dumped into our storm drains, they can pollute our local waterways.



What can you do? *Simple!* Keep your car tuned and fix leaks promptly and recycle used motor oil and other fluids. Take your car to a commercial carwash whenever possible as they provide for the proper disposal of wash water.

Choose earth-friendly landscaping - Remember, you're not just getting rid of weeds, insects & diseases!

Did you know you can protect yourself, your kids, your pets and the environment from the harmful effects of pesticides by choosing earth-friendly landscaping? Pesticides can wash off our lawns and gardens into our storm drains, which lead to our lakes and rivers.

What can you do? *Simple!* Spot treat for specific weeds, insects and diseases, or remove by hand. Mulch around plants. Water your lawn only when it needs it.

Read the directions for the proper application of pesticides prior to use.

Attract butterflies and birds by adding plants that are native to Essex County.

Save Water- Remember, you can save water!

When we over water our lawns, the excess water can carry pollutants into storm drains and ditches that lead directly to our rivers and lakes.

What can you do? *Simple!* Water when necessary, instead of watering on a fixed schedule. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways. Direct hoses and sprinklers on the lawn, not the driveway.

The Town of Lakeshore...committed to protecting our environment!

