

**LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP\***

**Draft Minutes**

**THURSDAY, January 11th, 2024**

\*Educational resources posted by this committee are available on the Township of McKellar Website here:

<https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf>

Item	Time	<b>Please note: These are ongoing agenda items. Only items marked with an * will be discussed at the next meeting.</b>
1.	*	<p><b>Land Acknowledgement:</b>                      In the spirit of reconciliation and co-operation, we wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Mississauga people. Its boundaries fall within the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and the Williams Treaty of 1923. We are grateful to live here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years. To honour the suffering of Indigenous people and the love and wisdom they have carried for thousands of years, we pledge to work in community and harmony with each other and the environment we inhabit and work towards Truth and Reconciliation.</p>
2.	*	<p><b>Roll Call*:</b> Tony Best (X); Ross Crockford (); Peter Duffey (X); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (X) ; Melanie Jeffrey (); Axy Leighl (X) ; Carl Mitchell (); Suzanne Poff (X); Nick Ryeland (); Rick Speers (X).                      We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (Y)                      Chris Clayton, a McKellar resident who is a retired landscape architect, was approved by the Township Council for membership in LSEC on December 19<sup>th</sup>.                      Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof? No</p>
3.1	*	<p>Motion to accept the minutes of Dec 14th, 2023. (attached)                      Moved: Sue      Seconded: Peter      Approved: (Y)                      Amendments: none</p>
3.2	*	<p>Motion to accept the Agenda as presented.                      Moved: Sue      Seconded: Axy      Amendments: none                      Approved: (Y)</p>
3.3	*	<p><b>Jan 11 2024</b></p> <p><b>Members agreed that the work of the subcommittee to discourage the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers is completed. The pamphlet is at the printers and will be ready to insert with the tax bills. Also the work of the Water Testing subcommittee is complete for now. Add Chris Clayton to Shoreline Planning Subcommittee.</b></p> <p>The following subcommittees have been set up:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shoreline Planning <b>Ross, Sue, Jennifer, Rick, Chris</b> (include leaves?)</li> <li>2. Discourage the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers <b>Finished</b></li> <li>3. Recycling choices. Melanie, Tony, Ross, Jennifer <b>Add Rick and Nick</b></li> <li>4. Water testing program Tony, Carl, Peter, Jennifer <b>Finished for now</b></li> <li>5. How to facilitate a cultural shift. <b>Axy, Nick</b></li> <li>6. Lead weights, lures and jigs (“get the lead out”) <b>Tony, Jennifer</b></li> </ol>

	<p>Proposed subcommittee members were polled by email to ensure that they were in agreement with their subcommittee roles.</p> <p>The following subcommittees have met: Discouraging the use of Pesticides etc., Recycling Choices, Water Testing program. Also, Jennifer and Tony met to draw up the 2024 budget.</p> <p>Nov 9. Strategic Planning – The November 2023 LSEC Achievement Assessment document was sent to committee members in the last week of October to review what this committee has accomplished in the past. We decided on the following topics which should have priority for our efforts for the upcoming year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lead weights, lures and jigs (get the lead out) Delay</li> <li>2. <b>Shoreline planning to protect the lake from excess runoff. –</b></li> <li>3. What to do about leaves. Delay</li> <li>4. MLCA newsletter updates. Ad Hoc as needed</li> <li>5. <b>Discourage the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.</b></li> <li>6. Turtle/animal road signs. Delay? (in the budget)</li> <li>7. <b>Recycling choices.</b></li> <li>8. Drinking water source protection. Delay?</li> <li>9. <b>How to facilitate a cultural shift.</b></li> <li>10. Fish habitat. Delay</li> <li>11. Fish stocking. Delay</li> <li>12. <b>Water Quality Monitoring Design program subcommittee. (suggestion was made to include samplers on this committee). (Tony, Carl, Jennifer, Peter)</b></li> </ol> <p>Jennifer tabulated the votes for the top 3 or 4 priorities and send the results to committee members, as the poll function was not working on zoom. (initial results tabulated after the meeting are bolded). We need to decide on priorities and establish who will work on each topic.</p>
4. Goals	<b>General Updates on Current Issues.</b>

4.1		<p><b>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection –</b>  Dec. 14 The new Shoreline Planning Subcommittee should meet in January.</p> <p>Nov. 21 – Jennifer presented the proposed new revised Tree Canopy and Naturalized Vegetation Policy to Council. Ina will consult with other townships and references (sent in by Jennifer).</p> <p><b>Oct 12, 2023.</b> New policy adopted.</p> <p><b>October 5, 2023</b> – Jennifer sent committee members a draft policy in the past few days for review.</p> <p>References used to write the amended policy include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Natural Shorelines and their Role in the Protection of Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat: State of the Science Report. Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Limited, Aug 18, 2021.</li> <li>2. The Science Behind Vegetated Shoreland Buffers: Why the Ribbon of Life Matters, Watersheds Canada, 2022.</li> <li>3. Shoreline Buffers and Water Quality, South Carolina Native Plant Society, 2020.</li> <li>4. Lakeshore Capacity Assessment Handbook: Protecting Water Quality in Inland Lakes, Ontario Government, retrieved October 10, 2022.</li> <li>5. A Shoreline Owner’s Guide to Healthy Waterfronts, Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association, 2019.</li> <li>6. Planning for our Shorelands, Watersheds Canada, 2022.</li> <li>7. Lake Protection Workbook: A Self-Assessment Tool for Shoreline Property Owners, Lake Links (Watersheds Canada) 2022.</li> <li>8. A Regulatory Guide to Achieving Environmental Net Gain at the Waterfront, Watersheds Canada, 2022.</li> </ol>
4.2	*	<p><b>Water Sampling</b></p> <p><b>Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 2024</b>  <b>For the past 23 years, MLCA has been active in organizing volunteers to acquire lake water samples from Lake Manitouwabing, arranging these samples to be analyzed in a lab and recording the results. Data was collected for E. coli for the first 20 years. In the last few years, five more lakes of McKellar Township (Armstrong, Grey Owl, Mary Jane, McKellar and Moffat Lakes) have been included. We have also begun to collect data on phosphorus, calcium and various parameters used to evaluate the health of freshwater lakes such as oxygen, salinity, pH etc. MLCA has provided the volunteers and the equipment and McKellar Township has funded the lab analysis.</b></p> <p><b>The Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations promoted this data sharing through DataStream, a foundation that facilitates this data sharing process for the freshwater lakes and ocean shorelands of Canada. Over the past six months, with the help of a data analyst from DataStream, Meghan McLeod, we have been working to shape the data in order to share it with researchers. This involved "flattening" the data - instead of presenting the data in a table that is easy for people to read, every data point includes all of the location identification and the date and time of collection together on the same line - in order to make it readable by computers.</b></p>

When sharing the data, DataStream recommends using the DOI link: <https://doi.org/10.25976/168q-zm19> . Unlike so many other links on the internet, this one is assured to never break, and will always resolve back to our dataset. This [documentation page](#) explains how to find and explore our data page (the graph and the map). The visualizer is a great tool to visualize the data without needing to open excel. Also, this data can be updated with new data on an annual basis.

Dec. 14 The new Water Quality Monitoring Design Program Subcommittee met to evaluate the water quality monitoring in McKellar Township. (This report was presented to Council on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> by Jennifer.)

Tony read his report, as follows:

#### Water testing 2024

On December 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, a subcommittee met to review the McKellar water testing program.

The goal was to do a complete due diligence review to ensure that the LSEC's proposed water testing plan for 2024 is based on current scientific knowledge and is designed for the needs of the McKellar lakes.

The meeting thoroughly reviewed each segment of water testing, Benthic, E. coli, and phosphorus and related deep-water tests. In each case the testing method, the frequency and the locations were examined.

The validity and value of each type of testing were carefully reviewed.

The committee greatly benefited from the expertise of committee member Dr Carl Mitchell, a professor at the U of Toronto and a limnologist and also a long-time property owner in the township.

The subcommittee concluded that each of the 3 segments of the testing have substantial value in monitoring the water quality of the lakes in McKellar especially in the current climate warming trend. In particular, it was noted that dangerous Algae blooms are occurring at lower levels of phosphorus than has been the case in the recent past.

The subcommittee recommends 1 fewer Benthic test for 2024. In addition, minor changes were suggested for the frequency and locations of E. coli and Phosphorus testing. As a result of the review there will be a small reduction in the water testing budget for 2024.

The Township can now be assured that there has been a full and complete review and that the water testing program proposed for 2024 has been based on current needs and not a simple extrapolation of past practice.

An informal estimate by Dr Mitchell suggested a dollar value of the volunteer contribution would be in excess of \$75,000. per annum. In addition, the Lake Association purchased \$8,000.00 in of water testing equipment in 2023.

4.3		<p><b>Septic Education –</b>  Nov 9 – Concern has been raised confidentially by a local resident about the condition of septic systems in Air B n B rental residences. Jennifer mentioned that she had laminated a copy of the “Help Your Septic System and our Lakes” flyer and placed it in the guest bathroom, and guests commented on it. Propose that we make laminated versions of this flyer available in the library for area residents. Moved: Sue. Seconded: Ross. Approved.  July 6 – A flyer entitled “Help Your Septic System and Our Lakes” has been printed and delivered to the Township Office. The invoice has been submitted and paid to Aquagraphics. It was included in the tax mailing at the end of July.</p>
4.4		<p><b>Presentations</b> - YouTube videos from this committee are posted here: <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf</a> along with other videos</p> <p>Our <b>postings</b> (listings and a table of contents) are uploaded on the township web page under “Residents/Environment.” Jennifer has been gradually updating the page with Mary Smith’s help. <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</a></p>
4.5		<p><b>Microplastics/Microfibres/ Washing Machine Filters</b> – video on our YouTube channel posted</p>
4.6	*	<p><b>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes / Recycling</b></p> <p><b>Jan 11<sup>th</sup> - In our research for the recycling subcommittee, we discovered that the province is moving forward with a shift to manufacturer-funded recycling and all municipalities have been given a date to shift to the new recycling program. The date for McKellar Township is July 1, 2024. The recycling subcommittee addressed some questions to the Township staff. During the interaction at that time and at the Council meeting, we have been asked to help the Township design educational materials for the new recycling program. I see this as an excellent opportunity to work cooperatively with the staff and Council and create a big win for McKellar. The operations agreement and the blue box transition will be presented to Council on Jan 23. There were suggestions that we could possibly hand out flyers at the transfer station, perhaps have an educational meeting and demonstration – what items get rejected</b></p> <p><b>Also there is a new style tag for the transfer station which will be sent out with the tax bill.</b></p> <p>Dec. 14 The new Recycling Subcommittee has met. From our discussion, Ross generated a list of questions which were the basis of a discussion Tony held this week with Karlee Britton, Deputy Clerk. The Township is preparing for the new recycling program to be initiated in the Township as of July 1, 2024, according to the provincial mandate. Staff have expressed an interest in LSEC collaborating with the staff on education for Township residents.</p> <p>October 5, 2023 – Melanie will let us know when she is ready to do a presentation on recycling.</p> <p>July 6 - The “Clean Up Our Lakes” sign is badly damaged.</p> <p><b>Recycling</b> was raised as an issue. There should be clear guidelines as to what plastics are successfully recycled and whether to remove labels etc in order to maximize the success of plastic recycling in our area. Melanie is an expert in this issue and offered to give a presentation at a future meeting. Request was made to record this session to be included in our resources.</p>

	<p>The Clean Up our Lakes campaign is scheduled annually for the end of April to end of May – suggestion was made to include roads and add it to the slogan – “Clean up our Lakes, Rivers and Roads” for publicity this spring.</p> <p>June 8, 2023 - Moved that We hold the Clean Up Our Lakes campaign in 2024 without ordering bins. Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue approved</p>
4.7	<p><b>Fishing / Wildlife –</b> <b>December 14<sup>th</sup> – Jennifer, in her role of Lake Steward, has communicated with Tianna Burke about conducting a workshop on building Turtle boxes and generally how to assist Turtles. Lynne Campbell, McKellar Library has booked the Auditorium of the Community Centre for 10 AM on April 27<sup>th</sup>. We need help building kits.</b></p> <p>Dec 14. Lake Map – Jennifer (and Patty Duffey) received a request from Cathy Jones of Birds Canada for the names of various areas in the lake. MLCA is working on this as well. Cathy and Patty have made some progress with this. Jennifer expressed the importance of using the names that have been used historically in the township, which may not be well-known. She will contact Vivian Moore, President of the McKellar Historical Society, in the new year.</p> <p>Nov 9 – Tony gave a brief update on the day long Watersheds Canada meeting in Perth that he attended. One speaker that he connected with there suggested that there may be a way to work with MNR on stocking, even though we have been initially refused (see <a href="#">FMZ-15-Draft-Management-Plan-Highlights-Summary-V3.pdf (mckellar.ca)</a> ). Tony also mentioned a campaign conducted in another area to “<b>get the lead out</b>” of fishing by using fish weights and lures that are made of other metals. These have proven especially toxic to loons. Melanie reported that they are also a danger to children. These suggestions will be considered as part of our strategic planning.</p> <p>Sept 14 – Lumber and some T bars have been given to this group by committee members in addition to their independent receipt of township funds. July 6 – Al requested help with <b>bird boxes for raptors</b> that are on the decline. Sue and Al will work together on this. Steve Bradley has built a bird nesting boxes for raptors in response to a request from Tianna Burke.</p> <p>Additionally, it would be a good idea to build <b>turtle nesting protection boxes</b>. Al will draw up a list of materials needed, and we will all draw on the stores in our garages to fulfill the needs. Tony will work with Al on this.</p> <p><b>Loon counts.</b> MLCA carried out a loon count over the July long weekend. Responses came in with loon sightings in various areas of the lake. Jennifer will be working with one of the respondents to summarize the input for this and for the next two long weekends. The plan is to submit information to Birds Canada and eBird. Loon counts will be carried out over the four long weekends between May and September in 2024.</p>
4.8	<p><b>Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake</b> - are up at Armstrong Lake beach. <b>June 1 2023</b> – sign is well back from the portable outhouse and visible.</p>
4.9	<p><b>Catch and Release Signs</b> are up at township launch sites. Copies of the Catch and Release sign are on the back of the Safe Boating flyer and were printed for distribution by the Township with the tax mailing to all households at the end of February 2023.</p>
4.10	<p><b>Benthic Study –</b> <b>Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – see Water Quality</b></p>

		<p><b>The report was sent by GBB in November</b>  <a href="https://mckellar.ca">Manitouwabing environment report 2023 (mckellar.ca)</a>  <b>Sept 14<sup>th</sup></b> – The property at 85 Cole Point Trail, which has been used as a sampling site for the benthic studies for the past 4 years has been sold. Jennifer has spoken with Katrina at GBB and will write to the Clerk to inquire about the new owner to inquire whether they will allow GBB to continue to use that property as a sampling site. 2023 sampling has been completed and the report will be issued by GBB shortly.</p>
4.11	*	<p>Pesticides/Fertilizers –  <b>Jan 11<sup>th</sup> - The new brochure is being printed. It will be available for distribution in the tax mailing in November. Please see pages 10 and 11.</b></p> <p>Dec. 14 The new Discouraging the Use of Pesticides, Herbicides and Fertilizers Subcommittee has met and Peter Duffey has designed a brochure entitled Protecting the Waters of McKellar Township (attached), which the Subcommittee has approved (attached). We would like to send this to be printed in time for the February 2024 tax mailing.  <b>Resolution 2023 (# 7)</b>  Moved: Jennifer Seconded: Tony to approve printing 2000 copies of the Pamphlet on Pesticides, Herbicides and Fertilizers, entitled Protecting the Waters of McKellar Township at a cost of no more than \$1000.00 and to deliver it to the Township office in time to be distributed with the February tax mailing. Approved.</p>
4.12		<p><b>Invasive Species –</b>  Oct 12 – Chair has had discussion with Greg Gostick about the occurrence of phragmites beside Centre Rd at the previously identified spot.</p> <p><b>Sept 14<sup>th</sup></b> – Sampling was completed in August for detecting the presence of two invasive plants: European water chestnut and water soldier by eDNA, through the auspices of FOCA.</p> <p>July 6<sup>th</sup> - Al Last, assisted by Jeremy Sintzel, has been putting up the new Invasive Species signs from FOCA at the boat launches.</p> <p>June 8<sup>th</sup> – Council approved replacing the old Protect our Lakes from Invasive species signs and replacing them with the new signs from FOCA. We also need to map and list where the signs are placed in the township. Need someone to place signs again.</p>
4.13		<p><b>Dark Skies –</b>  From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning:  Sue and Jennifer will continue the work on Dark Skies.</p>
4.14		<p><b>Water Levels –</b> A paper detailing previous work on water levels is posted on our section of the web page. <a href="https://mckellar.ca">Water-Levels-on-Lake-Manitouwabing-JGF-Amended-July-2022.pdf (mckellar.ca)</a></p>
4.15		<p><b>Pollinator Patches / Gardens–</b>  <b>Oct 5<sup>th</sup></b> – Tony watched the geese to identify how they access Minerva Park and Jennifer has written to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to request permission to plant low shrubs in those areas. Sue and Jennifer met with Greg Gostick to discuss locations for the plants and the buried power cables. Planting took place Sept 28<sup>th</sup> at 0900. We had nine plants and will need to complete planting in the approved areas with more plants in the spring. Thanks to <b>Anna Michieli</b> for volunteering to help plant and weed!</p>

		<b>ICECAP</b> – This item removed. Council will communicate directly with GBB about this.
4.16		<b>EV Chargers</b> –
4.17		<p><b>Organic Waste Planning</b> investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future</p> <p>Dec 14 – Council received a presentation on the Food Cycler on December 5, 2023 and Tony attended to answer any questions arising. Tony attended the Council meeting. Discussion at this meeting was that the Food Cyclers work very well, and the company seems to have addressed the concern that the filters were not recyclable, the question of whether there would be financial savings to the Township as a result of subsidizing the price of a number of these units remains uncertain.</p>
4.18		<p><b>Drinking Water Source Protection</b></p> <p><b>Dec 14</b> – Jennifer reported that she had discussed this briefly with MLCA and had been encouraged to take a presentation to other lake associations next summer.</p> <p>From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning:</p> <p><b>Nov 9</b> – A presentation was made to Council on this topic on Oct 17. (attached at the end of these minutes).</p> <p>Sept 14<sup>th</sup> – There are new guidelines for communities <b>without</b> Drinking Water Source Protection under the Clean Water Act. Jennifer has been collecting links and information (attached in September mailings) for a future discussion on this topic. Mandatory septic inspection is included in the Drinking Water Source Protection Zones established under Ontario’s Clean Water Act. <b>McKellar Township is not included in this program.</b></p> <p>Oct. 13/2022 Jennifer will start to research the background on <b>Drinking Water Source Protection</b> with a view to eventually having McKellar Township included in such a program. This will likely be a multi-year project as it involves working with other townships and communities in the local watersheds and finding a Conservation Association willing to manage the program.</p>
5.	*	<p><b>Budget</b> –</p> <p><b>Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 2024</b> – our approved budget with amendments attached. Council viewed this on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, and approved only the portion to be spent on the flyer about pesticides and fertilizers, reserving further approval for a later meeting.</p> <p><b>Dec 14</b> – 2024 Budget (attached) (Jennifer)</p> <p>Motion to accept the proposed budget for 2023</p> <p>Moved (Ross) Seconded (Tony) Approved with amendments as attached (Y)</p> <p>Jennifer will present the amended budget to Council on December 19<sup>th</sup>.</p>



Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee Budget – 2024 final draft

	Budget Estimate 2023	2023 April Budget Revision	2023 Actuals	2024 Budget Detail	2024 Budget
E. Coli Sampling	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,350.21	\$4,500.00	
Phosphorus and calcium sampling	\$4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,038.02	\$2,500.00	
Microcystin	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	0	REMOVE	
Standardizing solutions (q2yrs)	\$150	\$150	\$209.05	\$250.00	
Benthic 4 sites	3 sites \$ 5,260	3 sites \$ 5,260	\$5,260	two sites \$4,000	
Water Testing					\$11,250.00
Educational Materials	\$ 2,000				
Signs (recycling, animal/turtle crossing)				\$200	
200 copies of Septic Smart	\$1,985 + tax			\$2,243.00	
Educational Materials <i>Consolidated (Flyers and other educational materials Presentations)</i>	\$1,500	\$2,500 (consolidated in April) (plus January costs already done)	All leaflet printing (3 – 2- sided, colour) \$3,328.30	\$3,500	
Educational Materials	\$ 500				
Pamphlets	\$2000				
Honorariums for talks				\$900	
Demonstration Pollinator Garden	\$ 2,500.00	\$500	0		
Education Activities					\$6,843.00
Sub Total	\$22,210.00				
PLUS GBB ICECAP	\$8,000*		0	Remove	
Grand Total	\$ 30,210	\$16,710	\$15,185.28		\$18,093.00

Nov 9 – a proposed budget for 2024 will be sent out before the Dec 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
Our revised budget for 2023 was accepted by Council in April 2023

6. Dec 14<sup>th</sup> is LSEC decided to continue to meet *usually* on the second Thursday evening of each month *and to change the time to 7 pm.*

**LSEC Meeting Dates in 2024:**

January 11 <sup>th</sup>	July 11 <sup>th</sup>
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	August 8 <sup>th</sup>
March 7 <sup>th</sup> (first Thursday)	September 12 <sup>th</sup>
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	October 17 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	November 14 <sup>th</sup>
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	December 12 <sup>th</sup>

7.		Motion to adjourn. Moved: Tony    Seconded: Peter    Approved: Y    Time: 7:28 pm

## Protecting Our Natural Resources For Future Generations

We all know the township is growing in population and with it, the pressure on our watershed is increasing. The use of chemical-based pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers contributes to those pressures.

As the residents of McKellar, we all share a responsibility to protect our natural resources for generations to come. Why not consider some more natural alternatives?

Excess chemicals and fast release fertilizers are easily washed into our lakes and down into the aquifer during periods of heavy rainfall. That can have an adverse effect on the aquatic environment and in the case of phosphorus fertilizers entering lakes, it will contribute to the development of blue green algae blooms.

The more steps each of us take to reduce the use of chemicals around our community, the more we help preserve our ecosystem for future generations.

Together, we can all help reduce the threat herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer have on our watershed by using more organic and natural alternatives. In doing so, we will help ensure our watershed remains healthy for generations to come.



Produced by:

### The Township of McKellar Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee

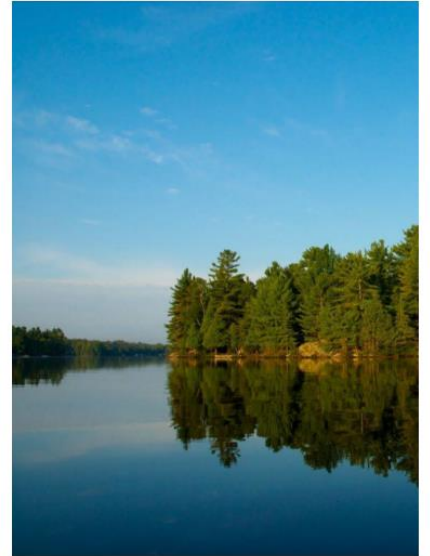
A committee created to pursue a mission of fostering environmental awareness, understanding and appreciation to protect and sustain our municipality's abundant natural resources, which enhance the quality of life for our residents and seasonal visitors.

For more information on what you can do to help protect our precious natural resources for future generations, go to:

[www.McKellar.ca](http://www.McKellar.ca)

and visit the Environment tab for residents.

# PROTECTING THE WATERS OF McKELLAR TOWNSHIP



## GIVING CONSIDERATION TO THE USE OF ORGANIC CONTROL SOLUTIONS

## A GOOD LOOKING LAWN

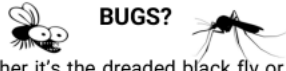
For many people, a good-looking green lawn is a source of pride and enjoyment. Synthetic fertilizers typically release their nutrients quickly and a heavy rainfall will wash those chemicals into our lakes, rivers and streams and possibly seep into our aquifer. It goes without saying that fish and other aquatic animals in our environment do not react favourably to these kinds of chemicals being released into our water. Let's also not forget many of us draw our drinking water from these same sources and our treatment systems may not be designed to remove these types of chemicals.

So how can you achieve a green healthy lawn without the use of chemicals?

- consider using organic fertilizer.
- deep watering once a week develops healthy roots.
- create your own compost to spread on your lawn.
- allow grass clippings to sit on the lawn and decompose into natural fertilizer.
- Good mowing habits can be key:
  - \* mow every 5 days or so
  - \* keep your blades sharp
  - \* cut to a height of about 7cms
  - \* avoid mowing a wet lawn
  - \* avoid mowing during drought



## WHAT ABOUT THOSE PESKY BUGS?



Whether it's the dreaded black fly or the legendary Canadian mosquito, biting bugs are not a welcome sight for most residents and cottagers. Over the years, that has led to many people turning to chemical-based solutions to reduce bugs on their property including fogging the surrounding forest.

The problem with many chemical-based solutions is that other bugs, such as our vital pollinators and dragonflies, can be affected. Not to mention birds like chickadees who need to bring their chicks 5000 to 9000 bugs as they raise them.

Instead of chemicals, consider:

- encouraging bats to roost by installing a bat house
- encouraging dragonflies to visit your yard by planting native plants that attract them such as Black-eyed Susan. Dragonflies also love to bask on rocks to stay warm so having some spots available for them to perch will help attract them. Eliminating the use of pesticides will also help the dragonflies to flourish. A single dragonfly can eat hundreds of mosquitos and blackflies a day.



## PLANT NATIVE PERENNIALS AND SHRUBS

One of the best ways to help protect the environment and our bodies of water in general is to plant native plants in our gardens and along shorelines. Native perennial plants will attract pollinators like butterflies and bees and they will help attract dragonflies. Also, being native plants, they require little to no maintenance getting most of their nutrient requirements naturally. These plants can enhance the beauty of your property by maintaining a natural look.

When planted along the shoreline, these native plants form a protective barrier between the land and the water. Properly selected plants will develop deep root systems that absorb excess water runoff and help remove many toxins before they ever reach the water. Additionally, a well-rooted shoreline of native plants will help prevent erosion and deter geese from coming ashore.

There are many organizations available to help residents develop a naturalized shoreline plan and doing so is one of the most effective ways to help our watershed. Locally, the Manitowabing Lake Community Association (MLCA) offers such assistance. If you'd like help developing a shoreline plan, reach out to the MLCA at:

[admin@mlca.ca](mailto:admin@mlca.ca)