

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 can 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

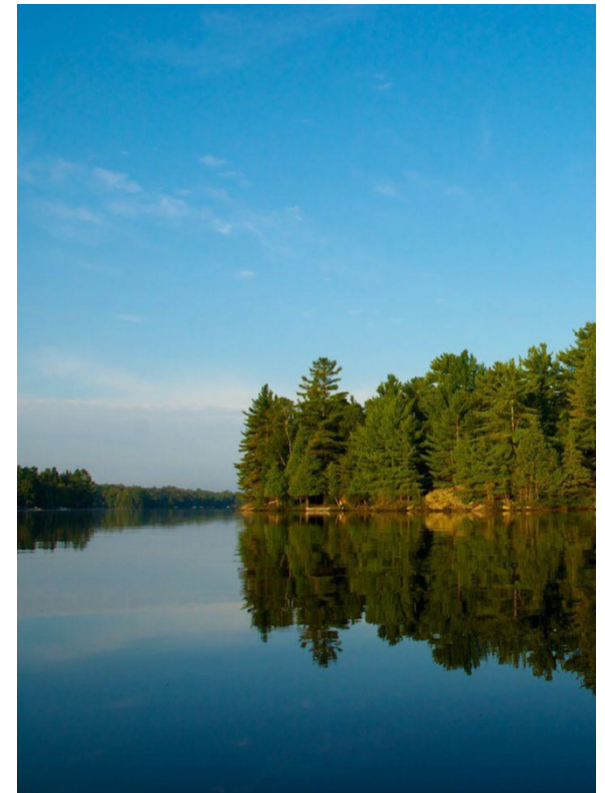
A committee created to pursue a mission of fostering environmental awareness, understanding and appreciation to protect and sustain our municipality's abundant natural resources, which enhance the quality of life for our residents and seasonal visitors.

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

www.McKellar.ca

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 see those chemicals washed into our lake, 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.
- 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 site 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 a day.



PLANT NATIVE PERENIALS 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 run-off 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 Manitouwabing 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