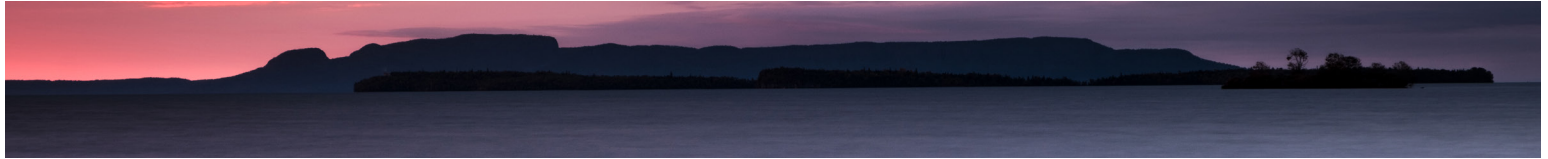




LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

PROTECTING WATER

February 2021



We all play a role in keeping Thunder Bay's sources of water abundant and as free from pollutants as possible. Lake Superior, the world's third largest freshwater lake, may be vast but still requires protection from contaminants such as household hazardous and non-hazardous waste, pesticides and herbicides, winter salt and fuel. Naturalizing shorelines and creating riparian buffers is only one part of the equation in protecting our water. Limiting pollutants in stormwater runoff is essential to maintaining the health of our watershed.

7 WAYS TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE WATER FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME:

- 1) Properly dispose of hazardous waste:** dispose of hazardous waste at the Thunder Bay Landfill Household Hazardous Waste Depot. Examples of household hazardous waste include paint, motor oil, antifreeze, fuel, pesticides, fluorescent lamps, smoke detectors, electronics, etc.
- 2) Stop using fertilizers and pesticides:** synthetic chemicals found in pesticides poison fish and contaminate our water, while excess nutrients in fertilizers cause algae blooms and eutrophication in rivers and lakes. Try organic alternatives such as mulch and manual weeding to suppress weeds and the use of cover crops to replenish your soil.
- 3) Maintain your septic tank:** it is the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure septic leaching beds and pipes are up to date and regularly maintained to prevent contamination of surface and groundwater resources.
- 4) Apply winter salt only as needed:** there are no biological processes that will remove salt from the ecosystem; its impacts are observed as biological dead zones in bodies of water due to salty pockets of water, and damage to trees and vegetation as far as 200 metres away from roadsides.
- 5) Choose non-toxic chemicals and cleaners:** when you use volatile organic compounds such as phosphorous, nitrogen and ammonia in your toilets, sinks and dishwashers, the chemicals are rinsed down the drain and added to the Lakehead Watershed. These volatile organic compounds are not removed by waste treatment processes and accelerate the growth of algae that clog waterways and crowd out other aquatic plants and animal habitat.
- 6) Keep fuel away from storm drains:** store fuel with care. Chemicals in gasoline have been found in drinking water with increasing frequency. These chemicals are easily dissolved in water and are possible carcinogens.
- 7) Reduce runoff and erosion near streams and lakes:** adding vegetation to lakes and riversides that cross through your property promotes water quality by filtering contaminated runoff before it enters the watershed. Read more about it on LRCA's webpage: www.lakeheadca.com.



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