What you can do

You can help keep Lake Simcoe clean!

What happens ANYWHERE ON THE LAKE SIMCOE WATERSHED has a huge impact on water quality. Lake Simcoe needs more shade, and less phosphorus (a fertilizer) and sediment flowing into it.

Help keep our environment clean with these tips:

ON YOUR PROPERTY

✓ Use sand instead of salt to melt snow where possible.
✓ Keep your property free of fertilizers and pesticides.
✓ Plant native species of flowers, trees, and bushes that attract pollinators.
✓ Keep your grass long. Longer grass means longer roots, which means better absorption of water into the ground, and less run-off into the lake.
✓ Retain water from rain, snow and ice on your property by using rain barrels, rain gardens, bioswales, permeable patios and driveways. This keeps phosphorus and other chemicals from washing down storm sewers and into the lake. It also saves water and money — you don’t have to use expensive, treated municipal water for grass and gardens.
✓ Scientists recommend a 30 meter vegetated buffer on shorelines and river-banks. Bushes and shrubs keep Canada Geese off your shoreline too!
✓ Leave branches and trees in the lake. They provide shade for fish and attract wildlife to the shoreline.
✓ Pump out your septic system every two years.

Learn about and report invasive species sightings at www.invadingspecies.com Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program

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**IN YOUR LIFESTYLE**

Climate change hurts us all, including the lake. You can reduce your carbon footprint:

- ✔️ When upgrading a car, heating/cooling system, or lawn mower, choose one with a low carbon footprint. In Ontario that means more electric, less fossil fuel sources of energy.
- ✔️ Plan before you drive. Create lists so that many chores are combined into one car trip.
- ✔️ Choose eco-friendly, phosphate-free cleaning products, or make your own from simple ingredients.
- ✔️ Buy locally to support our farmers and to reduce carbon emissions from transportation.

**WITH YOUR BODY AND SOUL**

- ✔️ Vote. Always. For the lake.
- ✔️ Get involved, and celebrate success.
- ✔️ Share your knowledge with friends and family. The most effective way to create change is through social networks.
- ✔️ Tell your MPP and Mayor you want them to protect Lake Simcoe. Find their contact info at ontla.on.ca and on your municipal website.
- ✔️ Call your municipality or Councillor to report spills, soil erosion from farms and developments, and to support investment in Lake Simcoe, especially at municipally owned beaches and parks.

**WITH YOUR MONEY AND TIME**

- ✔️ Donate or make a transfer of securities at www.rescuelakesimcoe.org/donate
- ✔️ Host a fundraiser for the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition. We would love to come out and present to your group!

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