

# What is the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan?

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan is the best watershed-based legislation in Canada. But, it is up for review in 2019 by the Ontario government, and may be changed. The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition is here to educate people about the importance of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. Join us to Protect Our Plan!

## WHAT DOES THE LAKE SIMCOE PROTECTION PLAN DO?

- ✓ The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) is a comprehensive plan to protect and restore the ecological health of Lake Simcoe and its watershed, comprised of all the land that drains into Lake Simcoe directly or via rivers and streams, by addressing long-term environmental issues;
- ✓ It prohibits development and site alteration within a key natural heritage feature (wetlands, significant woodlands, significant valleylands, and natural areas abutting Lake Simcoe), a key hydrologic feature (wetlands, permanent and intermittent streams, and lakes other than Lake Simcoe) and within a related vegetation protection zone;
- ✓ It establishes tough phosphorus pollution caps on sewage treatment plants' effluent;
- ✓ It prohibits new sewage treatment plants to be built unless they are replacing an old one;
- ✓ It requires new development applications to use an enhanced stormwater management plan;
- ✓ It requires development decisions to conform to the designated (having legal effect) policies of the LSPP;
- ✓ It makes clear that Official Plans and zoning bylaws must conform to the designated policies of the LSPP;
- ✓ Where a conflict between policies occurs, such as between the Growth Plan and the LSPP, the provision that provides the greatest protection to the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe watershed prevails.

**There are 118 policies in the LSPP; this is a short list.**



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## RESCUE LAKE SIMCOE COALITION'S "PROTECT OUR PLAN" PRIORITIES

- ✓ Develop sector-specific interim targets to achieve the 44 tonnes per year phosphorus loading target of the LSPP. Measure, monitor and adapt through an improved Phosphorus Reduction Strategy;
- ✓ Protect 40% of the watershed's greenspace, to achieve the high-quality natural cover target of the LSPP;
- ✓ Add the Lake Simcoe Climate Change Adaptation Strategy policies to the LSPP in order to reduce phosphorus loads, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and increase natural cover;
- ✓ Reduce total amount of effluent being discharged into the lake by all sewage treatment plants;
- ✓ Strengthen enforcement of stormwater, development, and agricultural policies to bring down sedimentation, run-off, and phosphorus loads;
- ✓ Get the public and businesses on board through targeted funding for collaborative, locally driven stewardship activities;
- ✓ Continue to work on bringing down salt levels.

*The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition (RLSC) is a lake-wide umbrella organization that provides leadership and inspires people to take action to protect Lake Simcoe. The RLSC represents 22 member groups in the Lake Simcoe watershed. The RLSC spearheaded the campaign to get the Lake Simcoe Protection Act in 2008, and Plan, in 2009.*

### Join us to Protect Our Plan!



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