

# PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLY: WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO!

Canandaigua Lake is a high quality source of drinking water, based on state water quality standards and evidence from our local sampling program. This is not by chance. Although we have significant natural features that help to provide for a quality water supply such as significant forests and a deep lake; there are still numerous potential pollution threats within the watershed area that need to be actively managed and monitored. The Watershed Council, consisting of the 14 municipalities and water purveyors, has updated its watershed plan to provide a higher protection of the lake.

Residents in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed can contribute pollution to the lake especially during storm events if we are not careful. Since rain that lands in these areas eventually drains to Canandaigua Lake and ultimately your faucet, human activities occurring within the watershed directly influence the quality of water you drink. The cleaner the water in the lake: the safer, easier and less expensive it is to treat. Here are some helpful tips to reduce your potential impact on the lake.

## KEEP YOUR **LAWN GREEN** AND THE **LAKE CLEAN**

What you do on your lawn can impact the lake and our drinking water, but it doesn't have to cost you your green lawn. One pound of phosphorus can generate 500 pounds of aquatic plant growth!

**Limit the use of lawn fertilizers and pesticides by using these integrated pest management (IPM) approaches:**

- Soil testing for proper fertilizing - contact Cornell Extension
- Focus on fall fertilization
- Mowing height of 3 to 3.5 inches
- Aeration, overseeding and watering
- Tolerate some level of weeds and pests before considering pesticides.
- If you choose to use pesticides, use the least toxic pesticide and spot treat, rather than spraying the entire lawn.
- Visit [www.nysipm.cornell.edu/](http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/) for more information.

**NYS law prohibits use of phosphorus fertilizer on existing lawns - unless a soil test shows it is needed. Most lawns do not need phosphorus.**



## THE LAWN IPM CHALLENGE LET YOUR LAWN BE THE SOLUTION

Challenge yourself or your lawn care company to follow integrated pest management techniques on your lawn.

Some lawn care companies typically apply pesticides 4 x each year through their set programs. By utilizing the IPM strategies to the left, landowners can dramatically reduce their pesticide usage and still maintain a health lawn. Talk to your lawn care company about incorporating IPM approaches on your lawn.

### ONTARIO COUNTY CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION CAN HELP

Russ Welser (585) 394-3977 x 436

<http://www.cceontario.org/temp1.asp?id=homes-grounds>

## SOAK IT UP!

Install rain barrels and rain gardens to reduce runoff and improve water quality in the lake!



## STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVES



### INSPECT ■ REMOVE ■ DRAIN ■ DRY

Make sure your watercraft is clean, all the bilge areas are drained and free of any vegetation before launching into Canandaigua Lake. Invasive species can cause major impacts to the lake.

## OIL AND CAR FLUIDS ON YOUR DRIVEWAY

get washed into storm drains during a storm, where they enter the Lake or Outlet untreated.

### TIPS

- Clean up spills with an absorbent material like kitty litter and dispose of it properly.
- Never dump any chemicals down storm drains - they go directly to the Lake and Outlet!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Ontario County holds household hazardous waste drop-off days for residents.

## DON'T FLUSH IT PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF

When people flush old prescriptions down the toilet, individual septic systems and wastewater treatment plants are not able to properly treat many of these prescriptions. Properly dispose of old drugs at a drop off location.

Two prescription drop offs are located in Ontario County due to a donation from the Partnership for Ontario County.

ONTARIO COUNTY MOTOR  
VEHICLES BUREAU  
20 Ontario St., Canandaigua  
Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. -  
4:30 p.m.

GENEVA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
255 Exchange St., Geneva  
24/7



## DID YOU KNOW?

PET WASTE IS FULL  
OF NUTRIENTS AND  
BACTERIA. WHEN IT RAINS,  
RUNOFF CARRIES THE  
WASTE TO THE LAKE AND  
OUR DRINKING WATER!



**Bag dog poop and throw it in the trash!**

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Contact the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council  
(585) 396-3630  
[www.canandaigualake.org](http://www.canandaigualake.org)

## GET INVOLVED

Support or join one of our citizen groups:  
Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association  
Finger Lakes Land Trust  
Both are active in education and land protection.

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