

## Nutrient Management

Well-executed nutrient management practices by the agriculture community help protect water source areas and safeguard the watershed's drinking water. The preservation of agricultural lands that are managed with due consideration of the natural environment is an important aspect of open space and greenlands protection.



Responsible farming complements the natural environment

- The Provincial Government's Nutrient Management Act ensures that all materials applied to land that contain nutrients (fertilizer, compost, manure, etc.) are managed in an environmentally responsible manner. The Act serves to protect the natural environment while assisting with the efficient use of nutrients for cost effective agricultural practices.
- The protection of surface and groundwater resources is the most important motivation behind the Nutrient Management Act.

## Summary

Conservation Halton's viewpoint is the preservation of agricultural lands and effective nutrient management practices contribute to the health of our watershed and demonstrate that farming and conservation can work together to protect the natural environment.

- Nutrient management practices must recognize all potentially sensitive sites such as wells, groundwater, creeks, lakes, and wetlands.
- Conservation Halton is committed to working with farmers in the watershed to encourage good stewardship and best management practices that will safeguard the natural environment. Detailed information about the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program is provided in this Viewpoint.
- Conservation Halton does not support the land application of untreated sewage in its watershed.
- Conservation Halton supports the preservation of agricultural lands in its watershed and recognizes the value of the farming community in improving the health of the watershed.
- Agricultural lands that are managed with due consideration to the natural environment complement protected conservation lands and significantly contribute to the health of the watershed.

### Included in the Nutrient Management Act

- Clear environmental protection guidelines for Ontario's agricultural industry and municipalities.
- Province-wide standards for the management of waste materials containing nutrients.
- Roles and responsibilities of farmers and municipalities.
- Best practices for nutrient management by farmers.
- Nutrient management planning guidelines.
- Corrective or remedial actions to be taken when contamination occurs.

## Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program

The Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program began in 1994 for the purpose of protecting and enhancing environmentally significant lands. Through this program, free on-site consultations are offered to Halton landowners. Professional stewardship technicians meet with landowners on their properties to discuss concerns and stewardship objectives and provide advice on low-cost, environmentally friendly ways of managing properties with natural features such as woodlots, wetlands, meadows, and creeks.

Landowners of natural areas and watercourses in our watersheds may be eligible to receive a grant toward a portion of the cost for approved projects that reflect beneficial management practices to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Projects that improve water quality and habitat fall into a number of categories such as livestock waste management. Past projects in this category have included creating fences to keep cattle out of watercourses, putting eavestroughs on barns, and installing manure storage facilities.



For more information about the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program, please visit the official website at:

<http://conservationhamilton.ca/environment/stewardship/>.

- Compliance and enforcement of regulations by the Ministry of the Environment.
- Approval process for Nutrient Management Plans by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

## Conservation Halton Natural Champion for a Healthy Watershed



Conservation Halton is the community based environmental agency that protects, restores and manages the natural resources in its watershed. Conservation Halton has staff that includes ecologists, land use planners, engineers, foresters and educators, along with a network of volunteers, who are guided by a Board of Directors that includes municipally elected and appointed citizens. Conservation Halton is recognized for its stewardship of creeks, forests and Niagara Escarpment lands through science based programs and services.

For more information about Nutrient Management contact Conservation Halton:

[www.conservationhalton.ca](http://www.conservationhalton.ca)

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