



Few, if any, property owners think it's acceptable to dump tires, machine parts, plastics and other unnatural trash into our waterways. But many still believe it's okay to deposit organic material like leaves and grass onto a lakeshore, or into the lake itself.

Well, when it comes to lake dumping, even organic doesn't "cut it".

Many leaves will naturally fall into the water, but as property owners, we should be mindful not to upset nature's balance. Leaves and grass clippings should never be dumped in or even next to a lake or stream.

Yard waste is the 2nd largest category of all discarded trash. When these materials are put into the lake, they begin to decompose and use up the critical, life giving oxygen in the water. Yard waste can also 'super-fertilize' the lake and can lead to algae blooms that can be toxic and harmful to people, animals and fish. Additionally, the disposal of yard waste into the lake can smother fish spawning areas, and can compromise the aesthetic and recreation experiences of downstream residences. Also when large amounts of yard waste are deposited into the lake it can produce a foul smell.



Illegal dumping of leaves can be harmful to the lake

Nutrient pollution is one of the most widespread, costly and challenging environmental problems, and is caused by excess nitrogen and phosphorus in the water. Nitrogen and phosphorus are natural parts of aquatic ecosystems. Too much nitrogen and phosphorus in the water causes algae to grow faster than the ecosystem can handle, and can cause algae blooms.

Yard waste contains both nitrogen and phosphorus and should be composted well away from the lake where nutrients can be returned back to the soil. Yard waste can also be taken to the Scotch line landfill site free of charge.

Under the Ontario Water Resources Act "Every person that discharges or causes or permits the discharge of any material of any kind into or in any waters or on any shore or bank thereof or into or in any place that may impair the quality of the water of any waters is guilty of an offence".

Remember clean water starts with you.



Source Nutrient content	% Nitrogen	% Phosphorus
Cow manure	0.7	0.5
Sheep and goat dung	2.0	0.51
Poultry manure	2.9	1.26
Lawn clippings and leaves	3.0	0.30

Table Source: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/y5053e/y5053e0e.htm>