

# ***Planning for Thriving Local Environments***

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# **What do the following images tell us about thriving local environments?**

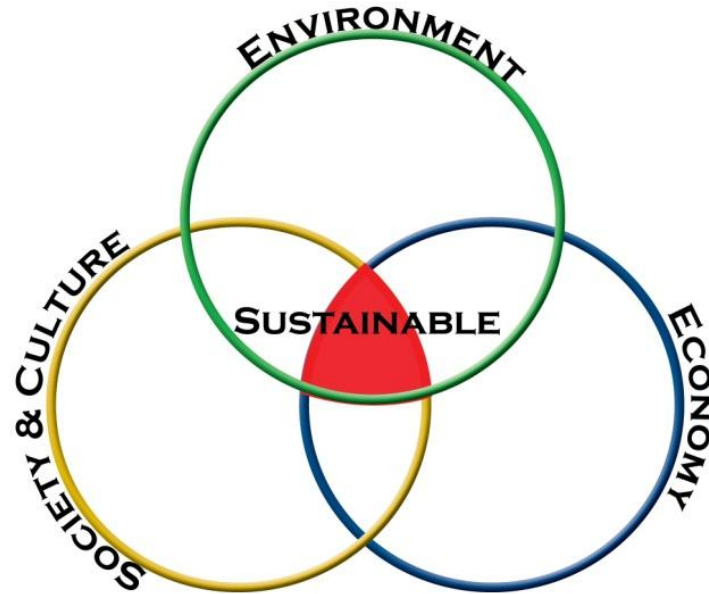
**(a number of the photos sourced from [www.manitobaphotos.com](http://www.manitobaphotos.com))**





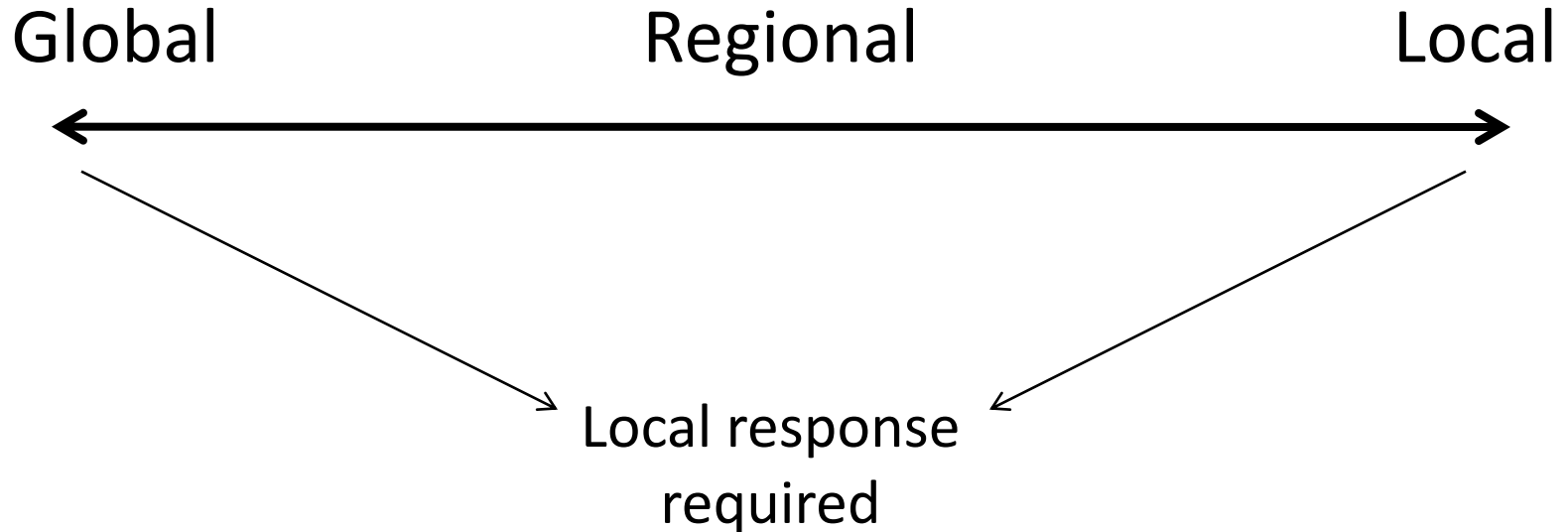


For me these photos reflect  
a broad definition of environments...



... although for my presentation I will focus on  
environmental issues and approaches

# Responding to Community Issues



*Sustainability: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".*

# Outline

- Environmental Issues in Rural Communities
- Advancing the Environmental Agenda: case studies
- Sustainability: A Balanced Approach



*An Environmental focus...*

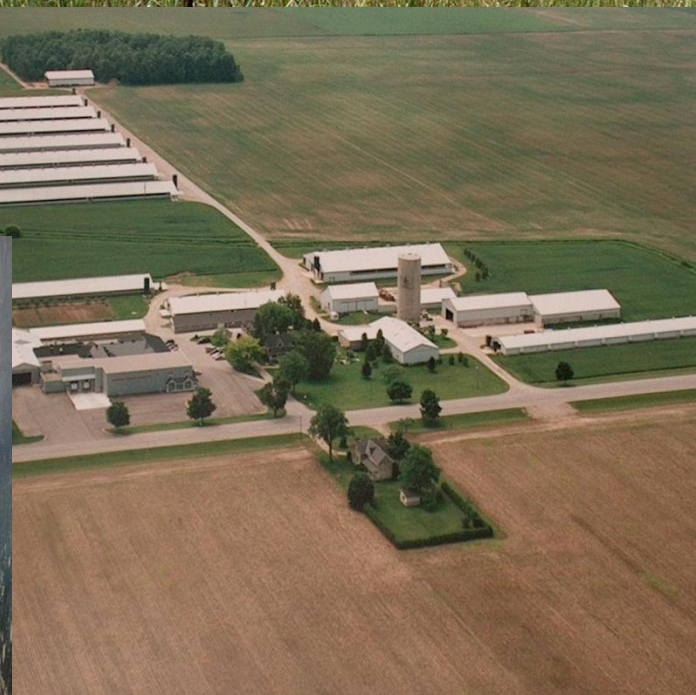
**What are the Key Environmental Issues  
in Your Community?**

**Much of my career has been with  
communities near the Lake Huron  
Shoreline...**

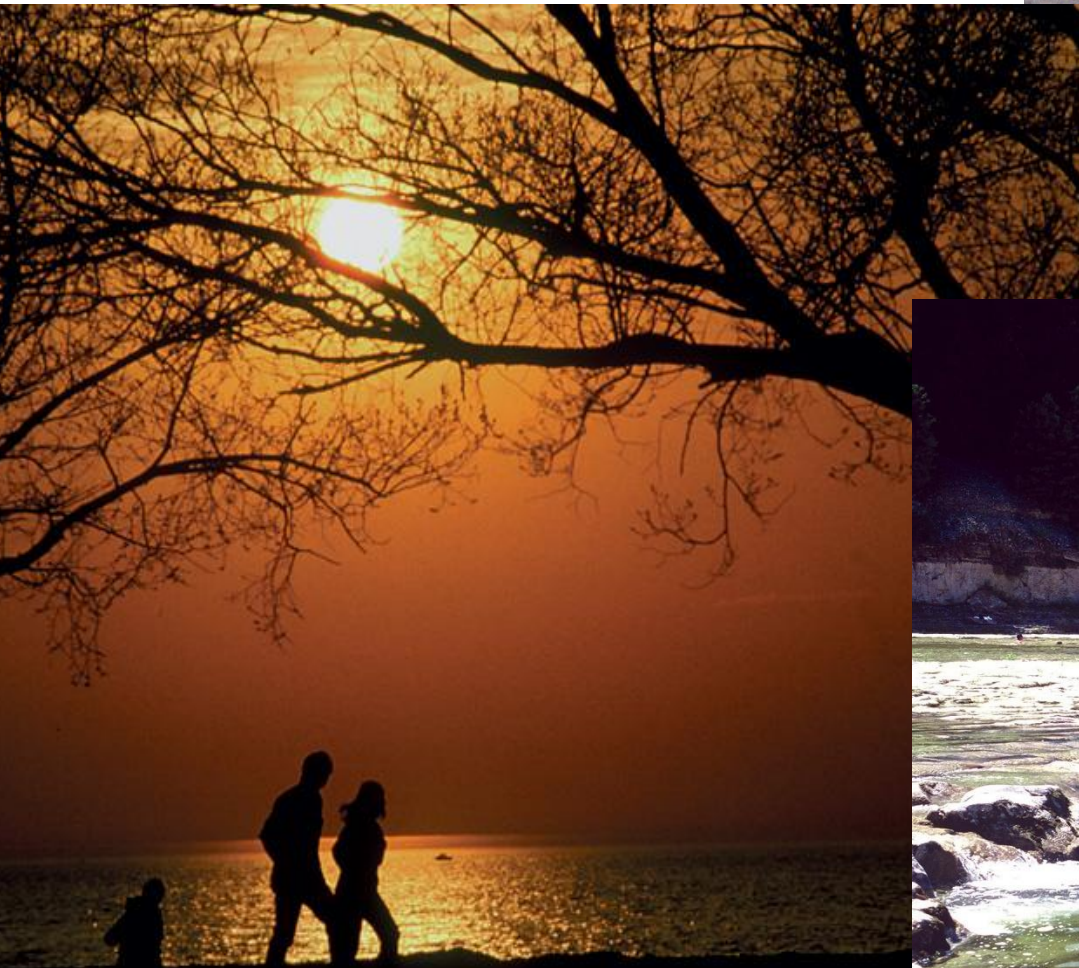
Lake Huron...



# Where agriculture...



**...meets recreation**





# What are some of the key trends affecting water quality?

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

In addressing environmental issues  
we are often challenged by how to  
motivate different behavior...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IXh2n0aPyw>



# ***Planning for Thriving Local Environments... Examples***

# Your Community

What plans or policies exist in your community that focus on the environment?

## **Example 1: The Huron County Water Protection Steering Committee**

## **Example 2: Provincial Stewardship Initiatives**

## **Example 3: Sustainability Planning in Huron County**

# **Example 1:**

## **Water Protection Steering Committee:**

- Co-ordinate water protection efforts
- Bring together diversity of stakeholders
- Prioritize water protection projects
- Enhance and support existing or proposed projects
- Provide opportunity for networking and information sharing

# WPSC Members

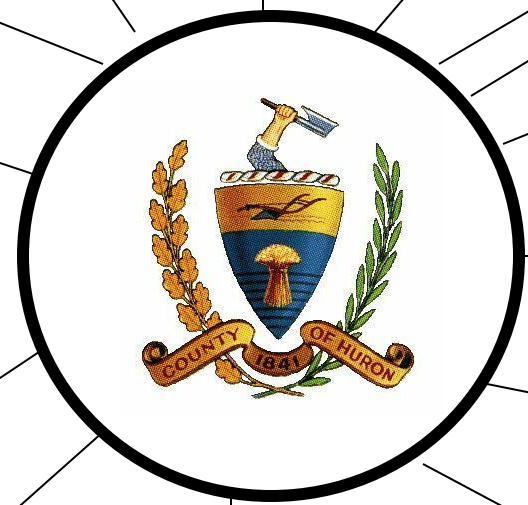


**Friends of the Bayfield River**

**Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association**



**Ministry of the Environment**



**Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**



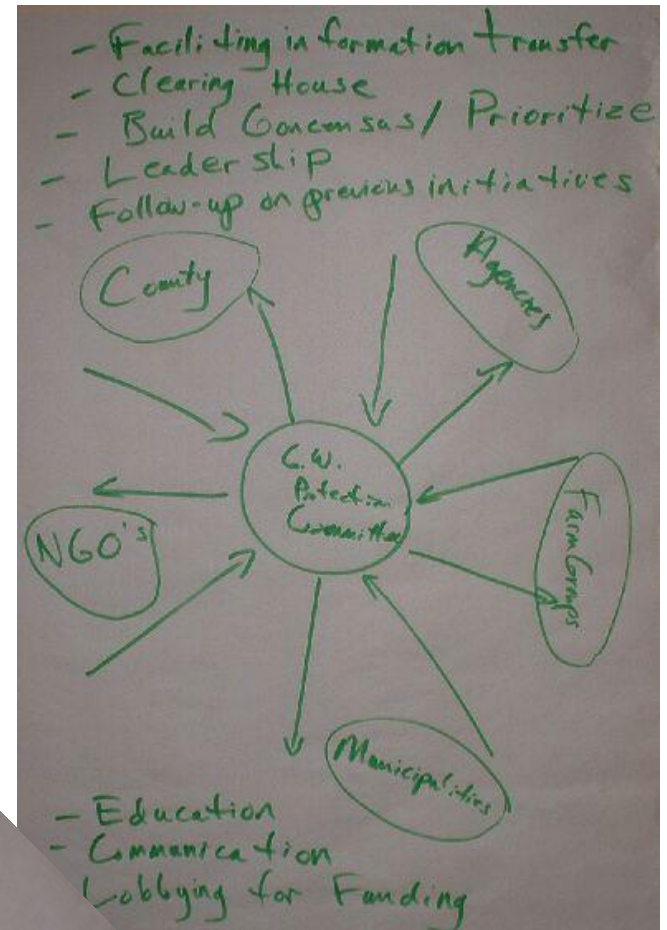
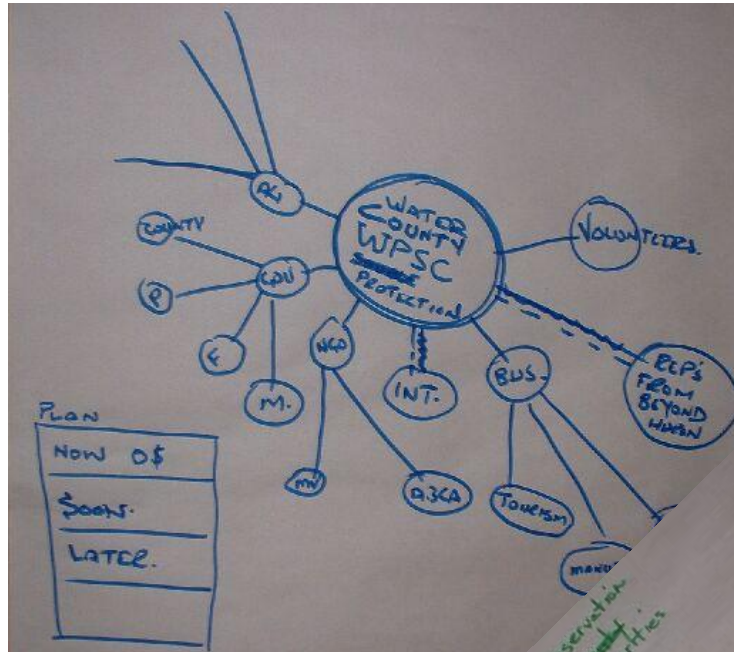
**Ashfield Colborne Lakefront Association**



**On the Shores of Lake Huron**

# **Improving the Quality of Communications Between All Stakeholders**

# Strategic planning, strategic planning, strategic planning... engaging the community to set priorities



overcoming perceptions with reality...

through information, coordination and partnerships with...

multiple actions





# Sample Actions of the Water Protection Steering Committee: Zurich Drain Project



- Local citizens visit landowners
- Co-ordinate CA extension visit
- Extension staff discuss management practices
- Direct to grant programs



# Sample Actions of the Water Protection Steering Committee:



# Huron County

## CLEAN WATER PROJECT

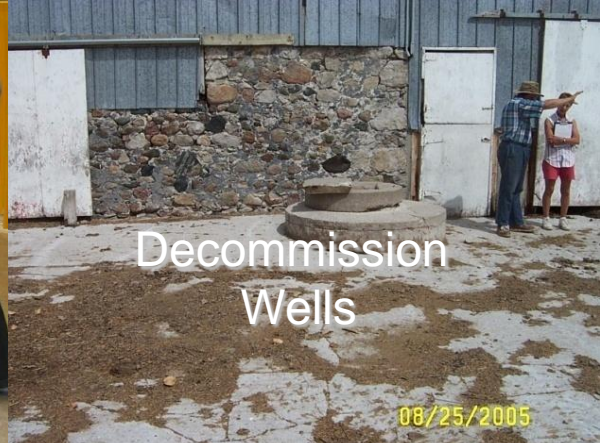
Improving and protecting  
ground water and surface water  
in Huron County and Lake Huron



Septic Re-Inspection



Community Projects



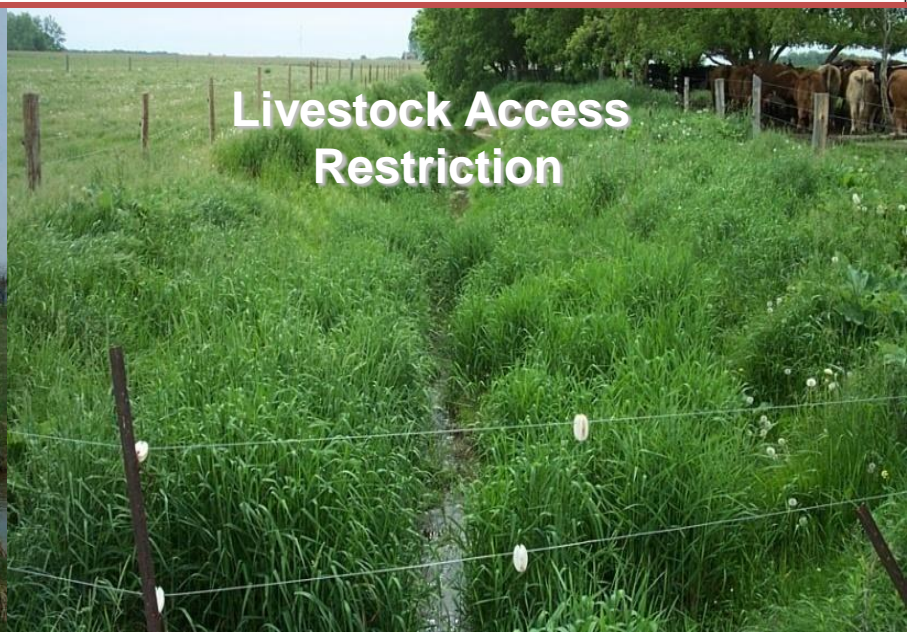
Decommission Wells



Clean Water Diversion



**Huron County**  
**CLEAN WATER PROJECT**



Livestock Access Restriction



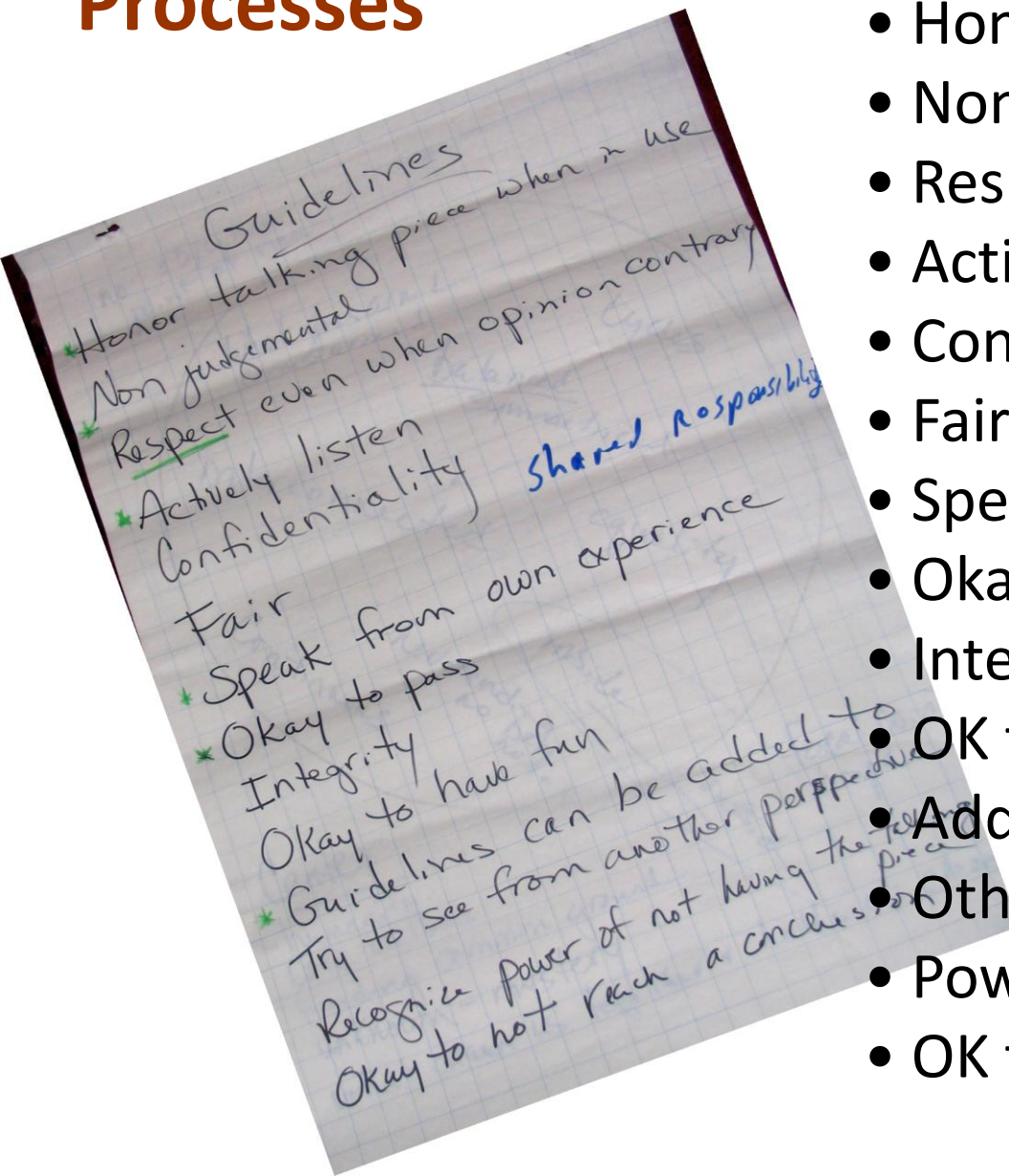
Fragile Land Retirement

# Sample Actions of the Water Protection Steering Committee:

Support for “Circles” as a tool to encourage dialogue between farmers and lakeshore residents...



# Develop Values and Guidelines to Guide Processes



- Honour talking piece
- Non judgmental
- Respect
- Actively listen
- Confidentiality
- Fair
- Speak from own experience
- Okay to pass
- Integrity
- OK to have fun
- Add to Guidelines
- Other perspectives
- Power without talking piece
- OK to not reach conclusion

# ***Planning for Thriving Local Environments... Examples***

**Example 1: The Huron County Water  
Protection Steering Committee**

**Example 2: Provincial Stewardship Initiatives**

**Example 3: Sustainability Planning in Huron  
County**

# Stewardship Initiatives: A Community Based Approach to Solving Water Quality Issues

## A STEWARDSHIP GUIDE FOR THE LAKE HURON COASTLINE

*Enhancement and Expansion of  
the Rural Landowner's  
Stewardship Guide*



*Self-assessment of your environmental  
performance as a property owner*

## RURAL LANDOWNER STEWARDSHIP GUIDE *for the Ontario Landscape*



*Self-assessment for your environmental  
performance as a property owner*





# ***Built With Strong Community and Provincial Partnerships***

We are grateful for the support received from the following organizations in preparing this manual.

- Ashfield-Colborne Lakefront Association**
- Ausable-Bayfield Conservation Authority**
- Bluewater Shoreline Residents Association**
- Canada Ontario Agreement**
- Canadian Water Network**
- County of Huron**
- Ducks Unlimited**
- Environment Canada**
- Environmental Farm Coalition**
- Friends of the Bayfield River**
- Grand Bend Community Fund**
- Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Fund**
- Huron Stewardship Council**
- Municipality of Central Huron**
- Ontario Farm Coalition**
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs,  
*New Directions Research Program***
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources,  
*Natural Spaces Program***
- Ontario Nature**
- Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)**
- Rotary Club of Grand Bend Ontario, Inc.**
- TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation**
- University of Guelph**
- Wildlife Habitat Canada**



## Caring for Species at Risk Stewardship Workshops for Southern Ontario Rural Landowners



ARD

### Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide

Protecting and enhancing our natural resources together through education and action.

Workshops & programs supported jointly by:

Grand River Watershed Edition 2009

### HORSE OWNER STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

for the Ontario Landscape

Self-assessment for your environmental performance as a horse farm owner

Delivered with:

### Life on the Bay

A Stewardship Guide for Eastern Georgian Bay

### A STEWARDSHIP GUIDE FOR THE LAKE HURON COASTLINE

Self-assessment of your environmental performance as a property owner

### Your Guide to Caring for the Credit

A Practical Handbook for Countryside Living

CVC

### LAKE SIMCOE STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

- Self-assessment for your environmental performance as a property owner

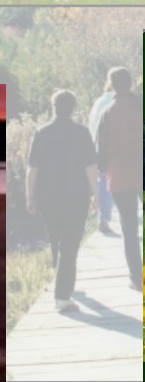
LSCWC  
Lake Simcoe Coastline and Watershed Stewardship Guide

### RURAL LANDOWNER STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

for the Lake Huron Watershed

Self-assessment for your environmental performance as a property owner

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# Purpose of the Guide

- To develop or expand environmental awareness.
- To educate about how to improve practices that mitigate negative environmental impacts.
- To work with others to accomplish this.
- Have fun!

# Worksheet Themes

## 1. Getting to know your property

- buying a rural property, construction

## 2. Water

- wells, septic systems, runoff management

## 3. Gardening & Landscaping

- water efficiency, buffers, trees, plant selection and use

## 4. Ecosystems & Wildlife

- forest, stream/drain, wetland and meadow management

## 5. Miscellaneous

- waste management, storage of fuels/chemicals, lowering your energy bill

Topic	Best <b>4</b>	Good <b>3</b>	Fair <b>2</b>	Poor <b>1</b>	Your Rating
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**QUALITY OF WASTEWATER** *continued*

<b>5</b> Water softener discharge	Water softener does not discharge to septic tank.	Water softener discharges to septic tank but the system is properly designed to accommodate discharge water.		Water softener discharges into septic tank not designed to accommodate discharge water.	<b>?</b>
<b>6</b> Grease and oils	No disposal of household grease or oils into plumbing system,  AND household wastes only.	Minimal disposal of household grease or oil into plumbing system and oil and grease wiped from cooking utensils before washing.	Moderate disposal of household grease or oils into plumbing system,  OR no attempt to reduce disposal of grease and oil from household.	Frequent disposal of household grease or oils into plumbing system.	<b>2</b>

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM**

<b>7</b> Design and construction	Has Building Permit or Certificate of Approval,  AND system adequately sized,  AND system installed by a licensed installer.	<b>tip</b> If on clay soil, plant grass over the leaching bed. If on sand, plant beach grass or leave without a ground cover.  Don't park or drive any vehicle or any heavy equipment on the leaching bed of your septic system.	<b>tip</b> All septic systems eventually need replacing but with proper maintenance your system can last at least 15 years or longer.	<i>*No Building Permit or Certificate of Approval,  OR system not sized according to regulatory requirements,  OR system not installed by a licensed installer.</i>	<b>4</b>
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\* These conditions may violate provincial legislation or municipal by-laws.

# Stewardship Guide on the Web

[About the Guide](#) | [Additional Resources](#) | [Join the Discussion](#) | [Links](#)


## Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide

### About the Guide

In 1991, farmers in Ontario recognized the need to identify and deal with environmental concerns relating to agricultural production. The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is the product of this farmer-driven initiative. Based on the Environmental Farm Plan, the Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide Program was developed as a response to the awareness that the health the rural landscape depends upon the actions of all rural landowners, and not of farmers alone.

The overriding goal of the Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide is to protect and enhance the quality of our natural environment – both groundwater and surface water such as streams, rivers, ravines, creeks, wetlands and lakes, and the natural landscape features that support these ecosystems.

The entire manual is available for download in a PDF version (click on image below). The manual should be printed in landscape format, double-sided in B&W (except for the Cover page, which should be printed in colour on cardstock paper with page 2 on the flipside). The entire document can then be bound on the left side for distribution.



**Contact Us**

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Wayne or Jess at:

[stewardshipmanual@gmail.com](mailto:stewardshipmanual@gmail.com)

### Links

- [Huron Stewardship](#)
- [Stewardship Network of Ontario](#)
- [Conservation Authorities](#)

### News

- The 14th Annual A.D. Latorell Conservation Symposium takes place Nov 14th-Nov 16th!

\*Note: Right-click to save document. The file is large (~25MB) and may take some time to download.

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

***Planning for Thriving Local  
Environments... Examples***

**Example 1: The Huron County Water  
Protection Steering Committee**

**Example 2: Provincial Stewardship Initiatives**

**Example 3: Sustainability Planning in Huron  
County**



# ***Sustainability: A balanced approach***

# Why Sustainability?

- 1) Interdependence of environmental, economic and social health.
- 2) Our actions have regional, national and global implications.
- 3) Community involvement, awareness and education.
- 4) Inform and guide Municipal policy and actions.
- 5) Helps to put the Municipality into a leadership role.



# Why Sustainability?

## Converging Macro-Factors

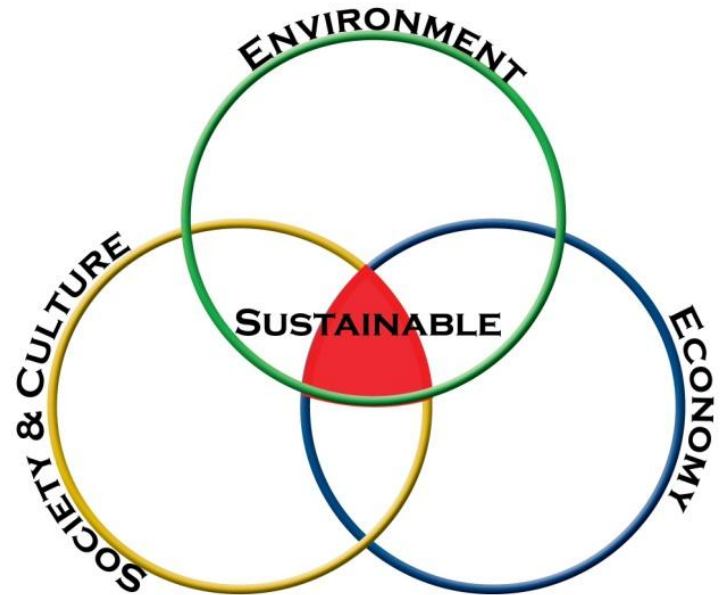
- Peak Oil
- Global Competition China and India
- Geopolitical Conflict
- Environmental Strain

## Emerging Local Effects

- Rising Energy Prices
- Loss of manufacturing jobs
- United States travel habits
- Smog

## Adapting to Change

- Strategies to reduce effects
- New opportunities
- Community viability (taxation, infrastructure, etc.)





## Objectives of Sustainability



<http://www.huroncounty.ca/plandev>

- **Social/Cultural Sustainability**
- **Environmental Sustainability**
- **Economic Sustainability**

# Towards a Sustainable Huron County



## “Sustainable Huron”

A community-wide initiative to raise awareness and develop actions to reduce Huron's vulnerability and to enhance community capacity in the face of global macro-factors such as rising energy prices, global competition geopolitical conflict and environmental strain.



**SUSTAINABLE HURON**

Take Action Report

**DOWNLOADS (PDF)**

DRAFT *Take Action Report* - Revised

**JUMP TO SERVICE**

Choose service



*sus.tain.abil.i.ty* (*noun*): social, economic and environmental needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

**Sustainable Huron**

*Sustainable Huron* is a community-wide initiative to enhance community capacity in the face of changes in: climate, energy prices, economic competition and other trends.

**This report is comprised of 10 Goal Areas which provide direction towards a commonly desired future:**

**Sustainable Huron: Table of Contents**

<b>Take Action for Sustainable Huron</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction	2
<b>Community Engagement</b>	<b>3</b>
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<b>Implementation and Coordination: Moving Towards Sustainability</b>	<b>15</b>



**Introducing the 'Take Action for a Sustainable Huron' Report**

# Vibrant and Prosperous Economy



# Transportation Network





# Agricultural Strength and Diversity



# Energy Conservation and Generation



# Livable Communities



# Healthy Natural Environment



# Population Growth and Diversity



# Vibrant Downtowns



# Community Needs and Services



# Healthy and Active Communities





# What does “Sustainable Huron” mean?

## **Viable Economy**

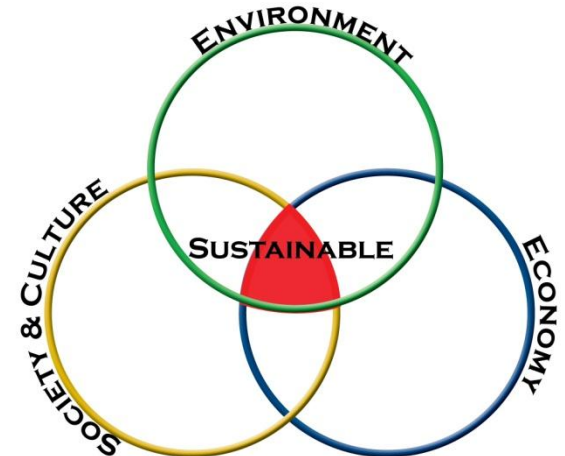
- Think Globally, Act Locally
- Developing local skills and resources (local food, local businesses and manufacturing, local workforce)

## **Social Well-Being**

- High quality of life for all residents
- Equitable access to health care, education and social services
- Adequate and affordable housing
- A vibrant culture

## **Healthy Natural Environment**

- Viable Ecosystems
- Clean water
- Diverse and healthy forest ecology
- Accessible recreational opportunities



## Your Community

What plans or policies exist in your community that focus on the environment?

# Summary... An approach

Ten steps...

- 1. Identify and Engage Community and Political Leaders**
- 2. Engage diverse stakeholders**
- 3. Attach Resources from the Municipal Level**
- 4. Create a Vision**
- 5. Strategic Planning – Identify and Invest in Priority Areas**
- 6. Build Strategic Partnerships with Other Organizations**
- 7. Keep the Community Engaged and Informed**
- 8. Make it Action Oriented**
- 9. Leverage Other Levels of Government**
- 10. Be Open to Different Ideas, Approaches, and Processes**

**Questions? / Thank You**