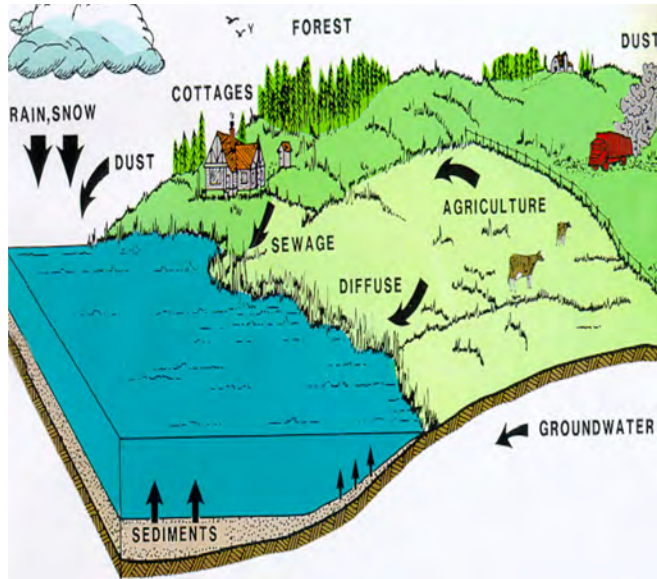


How Nutrients Enter the Lake



We as individuals can make a difference.

Pigeon Lake is a terrific place and we all benefit if we keep it healthy. It needs all of us, who live and play here, to do all we can to look after the watershed and contribute to the lake's well-being and good water quality.

Non-organic (synthetic) fertilizers on our lawns kill the natural web of life in the soil and any unused fertilizer gets dissolved and washed into the lake, feeding the aquatic plants and algae. Both phosphorus and nitrogen are bad for the lake... even small amounts. Collectively, lawn fertilization around the lake adds up to a big quantity and a big problem!

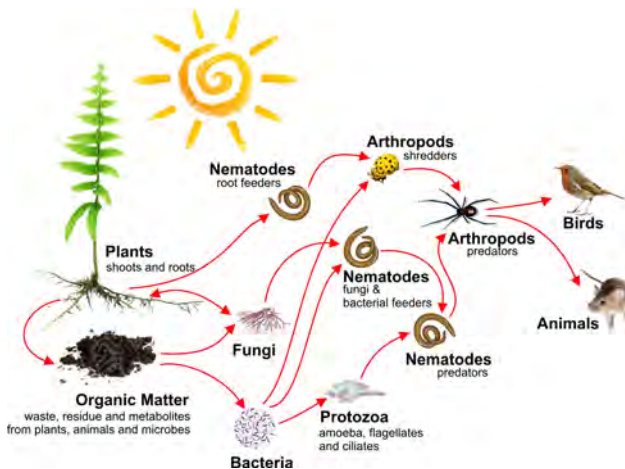
Pigeon Lake is especially vulnerable due to the small size and low flushing rate. Urgent decision action is needed to keep a healthy lake. You can do your part by eliminating synthetic lawn fertilizers and by practising lake healthy maintenance.

Be Part of the Solution

LAWN MAINTENANCE ...for a healthy lake

We are stewards of this lake

Healthy soil has its own web of life



Get Connected!

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

WWW.PLWA.CA has and will have more resources and links to help.

Members will receive seasonal emails on lake-friendly lake maintenance.

Also Visit The Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan


WWW.PLWMP.CA


Re-Naturalize!



The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) is promoting lake-healthy lake lawn maintenance through the elimination of harmful chemicals, the use of residential lawn fertilizers and the retention or re-naturalization of areas.

Why?


 People love the lake... and love to be with their families and friends at the lake.

 The health of the lake is very important to most residents. Good lake water quality is critical for personal enjoyment, thriving families, healthy communities and local economies.


 How we maintain our lawns impacts the health of the lake.

 Poor lake water quality decreases property values.

 In-depth water studies show that nutrients are entering the lake from the land all around the lake.

 In-depth scientific studies tell us that phosphorus and nitrogen, from sources such as lawn fertilizers promote the growth of aquatic plants and algae, poor water quality and the premature aging of the lake. Algae can deplete the dissolved oxygen in the lake and be a factor in fish die offs.

 A key contributor to poor lake health is lawn fertilizer.

 Watershed residents reported in a survey that while a number of people have stopped using fertilizers, a number regularly add fertilizers to their lawns.

 While synthetic nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) feed plants, they destroy the soil microbes.

 One lb of phosphorus = at least 500 lbs of algae.

 Unused nutrients from lawn fertilizers are washed into the lake by stormwater and gravity.

We have a great opportunity to help the health of the Lake.

The elimination of lawn fertilizers can have a significant impact on improving lake health.

Alternative methods of caring for your lawn are being made available.

It is time to act! We must take action for the health of the lake and support each other to adopt healthy lake practices. Together we can make a difference.

The good news is that many people have already made choices for the lake and are taking more actions for the health of Pigeon Lake.

Be Part of the Solution!

* **Choose lake health** first. Choose not to use lawn fertilizers. Maintain your lawn without harmful fertilizers and chemicals. It is a cheap and easy way to help the lake.

* Take pride in having a lawn with a **lake-friendly appearance**.

* **Less lawn - re-naturalize** parts of your lawn that you don't really need or use. Keep the edge of the lawn well away from streams and **back from the shoreline** (6 m or more). **Keep these areas natural**, ideally with native shrubs and trees. (find native trees and shrubs on www.plwa.ca)

* **Your soil is alive:** Soil organisms live among plant roots and have a natural ability to provide nutrients to maintain plant health. Additions of **high-grade compost and humus** to the lawn surface will promote soil organisms among other benefits. Insure that your lawn has **sufficient soil depth** (min. 200 mm)

* **Choose lawn seed mixes** which thrive on available nutrients and is drought & disease-tolerant (20% Kentucky Blue Grass, 30% Creeping Fescue, 35% Tall Fescue, 15% Ryegrass.)

Maintenance...

* Mow your grass at 2-3" high. Leave grass clippings on the lawn. Aerate and dethatch in the spring.

* Tolerate some plant diversity: Clover adds nitrogen to the soil. Healthy soils naturally crowd out unwanted weeds. If you cannot tolerate dandelions, manually remove.

Natural lawns are safe for children, pets and the environment.