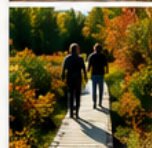


RURAL LANDOWNER STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

for the Ontario Landscape

Self-assessment for your environmental performance as a property owner

A practical, science-based workbook that helps rural landowners protect water, soil, biodiversity and natural heritage through informed choices and action on their own land.



Second Edition

Self-assessment for your environmental performance as a property owner

GUIDE



First Edition (Ontario version): 2007 | Second Edition: 2013



ORIGINS

Developed through research on water quality issues along the Lake Huron shoreline. The Guide promotes a community-based approach to environmental stewardship for rural properties.

Purpose: To help landowners understand their land, identify risks and opportunities, and take practical actions that protect and enhance the environment.



EVOLUTION & REACH

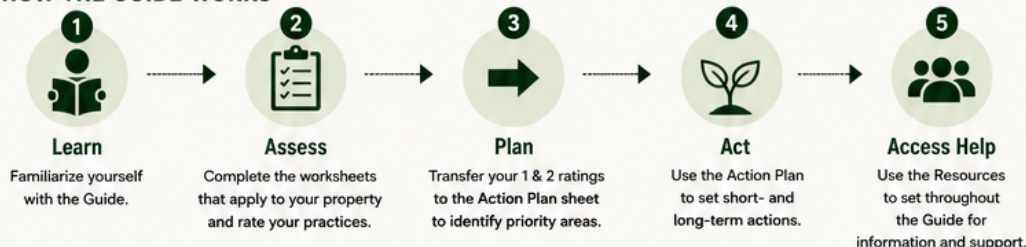
- Coastally focused Stewardship Guide for the Lake Huron Coastline published in 2006
- Ontario-wide Guide – First Edition in 2007
- Major update completed in 2012–2013 – Second Edition in 2013
- Over 200 pages with 100+ best practice activities
- Used by hundreds of rural landowners since 2007



WHAT YOU'LL FIND

- Easy-to-use worksheets and fact sheets covering key topics for rural properties
- Self-assessment tool to rate your current practices
- Resources to help you learn more and find assistance
- Action Plan forms to set priorities and take action

HOW THE GUIDE WORKS



The 1 and 2 ratings help you spot areas that could be improved and guide you toward the actions that will have the **greatest positive impact**.



TOPICS COVERED

- Water wells, septic systems & shoreline buffers
- Landscaping, nutrient & pesticide management
- Waste, chemicals & fuel storage
- Wildlife habitat, forests, wetlands & streams
- Energy efficiency & climate change adaptation
- Recreation, access & lake use
- Building & construction
- And much more...



Over 100 best practice activities to help protect your land and water.



2013 UPDATE IMPROVEMENTS

- Updated content on water quality, source water protection, species at risk and climate change adaptation
- Clearer "how to use the Guide" instructions
- Visual "do this / not this" graphics to illustrate best practices
- Modular format and binder-friendly design for easier updates
- Recommended 5-year update cycle



WHY IT MATTERS

Healthy rural landscapes protect drinking water, support biodiversity, reduce risks from extreme weather, and help sustain rural communities and livelihoods.



Every action you take on your property contributes to a healthier landscape for today and future generations.



FURTHER INFORMATION

View or download the Complete Guide, update materials and resources at:
www.stewardshipmanual.ca



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