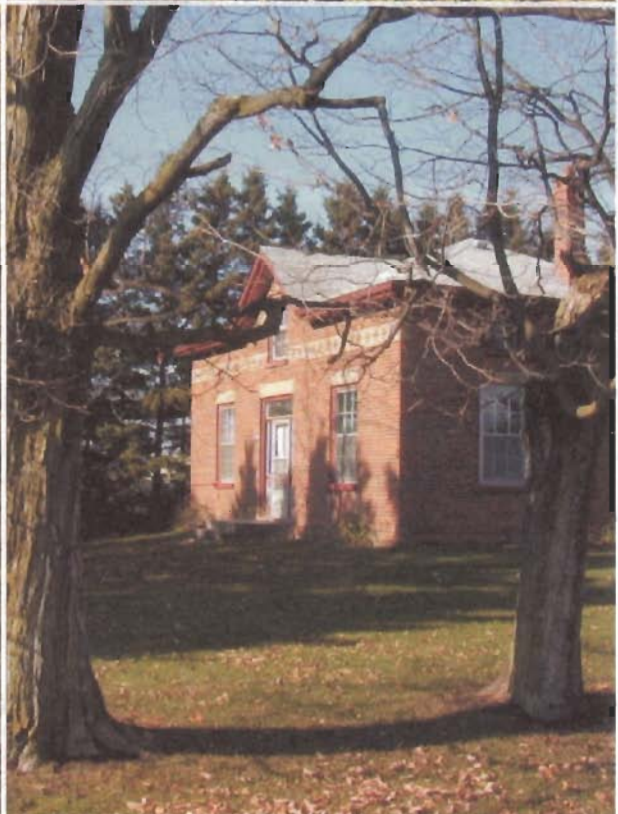




Taunton North Community

HOMEOWNER'S ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDE





CONSERVATION FOCUS

- **Go natural!** Consider alternatives to fertilizer and pesticides. Landscape your yard with low maintenance natural vegetation, mulch your lawn clippings, and view the occasional non-grass plant as a welcome addition of diversity to your lawn eco-system. When fertilizer and pesticides are necessary, use them efficiently and effectively. Follow the instructions and apply no more than is needed. Investigate **organic gardening** products. Save money and reduce the possibility of excess nutrients running off your lawn or leaching into groundwater.
- **Save some rain!** Install rain barrels, ponds or cisterns in your yard. Storing rainwater on your lot will reduce the load on the stormwater management ponds and provides water for your yard.
- **Let it sink in!** When possible, do outdoor washing jobs such as cars, yard and lawn equipment, furniture, etc. on grass. Use cleaning products that are **phosphate-free** and do not contain toxic ingredients. Your lawn gets watered at the same time, and by allowing the water to infiltrate into the soil, you are reducing water run-off.
- **Be careful with chlorine!** Water from your swimming pool will kill fish and other aquatic organisms in Lynde and Pringle Creeks if it is discharged directly into storm sewers. Learn to manage your pool properly. Do not release water from your pool until the chlorine or bromine levels have been reduced. When the chemical levels have dropped, drain your pool onto a grassed area so that some of the water can infiltrate into the ground.



Organic gardening: gardening without the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides or fungicides; to improve soil health using natural materials such as compost and manure.



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Phosphate, a chemical commonly found in cleaning detergents to soften hard water, is also a fertilizer. When introduced into a body of water, it promotes the sudden growth of algae, which in turn uses up the oxygen in the water killing fish and other aquatic organisms. The pond pictured below is suffering from an algae bloom.