



Save the Leopard Frog

It can be easy to be green

A Neighbour In Need

The Northern Leopard Frog in our community is in danger. Urban sprawl, the loss of wetland areas and chemical pollution have all contributed to this species' gradual disappearance in our area. Without your help, this frog that once flourished in our community is likely to vanish.

Meet Your Local Leopard Frog

You've likely already come across your little green neighbour. The leopard frog makes its home along the edges of neighbourhood ponds, marshes and streams. The leopard frog also ventures off in search of tall grass to find food.

Normally green or brown in colour, the leopard frog gets its name not from its low pitch snore or growl but from the distinctive dark circular spots located along its back and legs.

Sadly, over the last few decades the leopard frog population in our area and across North America has significantly declined. Without immediate action and support from residents, this friendly little dweller could disappear locally.

Did You Know?

Water and chemicals that flow into your storm drains and sewers are directly deposited into the local waterways.



How You Can Help

Being ‘green’ really can be easy. Subtle changes to household habits can have a tremendous impact on the preservation and protection of the leopard frog and our local community. You can make a difference in our community – why not give the following tips a try:

Pool Draining: It may seem obvious, but frogs and chlorine don’t mix. So why would you pour your pool into theirs?

Instead of draining the water from your pool down your driveway, let it flow gradually over your lawn or yard being cautious not to discharge your pool water onto neighbouring properties. This allows chemicals in the water to evaporate and sediment to be filtered into the earth rather than being deposited directly into the storm drain, sewers and local water streams which feed our marshes and Lake Ontario.

Tip: If pool water is allowed to sit for at least 3 days after its last chemical treatment, the chemical levels should be low enough that they won’t affect the lawn.

Driveway Salt: Got any lobsters or whales in your backyard? Likely not. So let’s aim to significantly reduce salt entering our local creeks and lakes.

Sodium chloride or “rock salt” is one of the most commonly used tools to remove ice and snow from driveways and sidewalks. What most people don’t realize is that salt residue washes down driveways into storm drains and directly into local waterways. This contaminates water sources and seriously harms local wildlife.

Instead of using rock salt this winter, try a ‘greener’ alternative to keep your driveway and walkway safe and ice-free:

- Remove as much ice and snow as possible before applying a de-icer. This will reduce the amount of product you’ll need to apply.
- Choose an environmentally friendly melting agent that is less harmful to the plants, pets, wildlife and water resources in your neighborhood.
- If you purchase a chemical de-icer, choose one that is made from a mixture of chemicals to prevent any one chemical from entering the environment in excess. No matter what chemical de-icer you choose, try applying a small amount to your driveway and sidewalk prior to a storm.

Fertilizer Use: A little bit goes a long way. Did you know that most people use too much fertilizer on their lawn? These excess chemicals leak into local water resources and harm native aquatic species including the leopard frog.

To minimize the impact of these chemicals on our local environment:

- Eliminate or reduce the amount of fertilizer you use.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn. If you do this on a regular basis, you’ll nourish your lawn just as much as fertilizer would.



A Threat To The Leopard Frog Is Also A Threat To Humans

What makes the leopard frog particularly unique is that it is highly susceptible to chemical pollution found in the air or water. For this reason, the leopard frog is considered an environmental indicator species.

What this means is that if pollutants are harming the local leopard frog, many other species in the area could be at risk too – including you! From chemicals in our water supply to contaminants in the soil where we grow our food, threats to the frog's habitat present a very real danger to humans as well.

You Can Make A Difference

Choices you make at home really do impact the plants, pets, wildlife and water resources in your area. This season, think about what you can do to be green.

Together we can preserve and protect the leopard frog population in our community and ensure it survives for many generations to come.

About Credit Valley Conservation

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is a community-based environmental organization that has been conserving, restoring, developing and managing natural watershed resources for more than 50 years. CVC is one of 36 conservation authorities operating in Ontario and is a partnership of the municipalities within the Credit River Watershed.

For more information about
Credit Valley Conservation
and what you can do to protect
the leopard frog, please visit
www.creditvalleycons.com

