



One Simple Act Newsletter Issue 76 - May 2, 2011

Inspiring Albertans one simple act at a time.

One Simple Act

Living by Water

Change begins at home. By evaluating how you live on your property, you will become more aware of your impact on the lake. Small actions such as adding native vegetation to your property can improve the environmental health of your lake. Your one simple act for the lake can inspire others in your lakeside community to make positive changes. By committing to make small changes to your property, you will save money, increase your property value, improve the health of your lake and enhance your community. There are many water conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction actions you can take at the lake to reduce your environmental footprint. Commit to one and see how easy it is.

Shoreline

1. I will plant native vegetation and allow already established vegetation to flourish on the shoreline.
2. I will soften rip rap and retaining walls on the shoreline by planting native vegetation.
3. I will allow aquatic and wetland vegetation to flourish (only removing a small section for boat access if necessary).
4. I will allow natural debris to accumulate on the shoreline.
5. I will allow my shoreline to return to a natural state by removing human made sand beaches on my property.

Yard

6. I will monitor and pull all invasive plant species.
7. I will replace hardened surfaces like driveways and sidewalks with gravel.
8. I will use toxin-free materials such as latex paints and natural oils for staining, and cedar or wood composite for decks.
9. I will eliminate the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Home

10. I will have my sewage holding tank inspected regularly.

11. I will have my sewage holding tank pumped out every two weeks. I will have my field system pumped out every 2 years.

12. I will use phosphate-free, biodegradable soaps and cleaners.

Recreation

13. I will safely refuel my boat using spillage control devices like a spill guard system, fuel whistle, flow-control fuel container, or a no spill recovery system.

14. I will reduce my boat speed near the shoreline (slow down to 5 km/hr within 160m of the shoreline).

15. I will maintain my watercraft motor with regular inspections.

16. I will replace my motor with one that meets EPA 2006 guidelines.

17. I will operate my recreational vehicle (ATV) in designated areas avoiding shorelines, wetlands and water bodies.

18. I will share a dock with my neighbor or use a community dock.

19. I will build a low impact dock.

Make every day a water day with One Simple Act.

Together, we make a difference, one simple act at a time. Share one or two things on how you live responsibly by water on the One Simple Act website, [Add Your Voice](#).

Get Involved in One Simple Act

There are many ways to help grow *One Simple Act*. Become a fan of *One Simple Act* on [Facebook](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#)! Inspire others to make a [One Simple Act commitment](#)!

People across Alberta are [adding their voice](#) to the *One Simple Act* campaign. Now it's your turn! Tell everyone about your *One Simple Act* commitment. Talk up the positive changes you've seen in your home, in your workplace and in your community. We'll be watching what you write and will select motivational messages to profile on the *One Simple Act* website.

Send the website onesimpleact.alberta.ca or this newsletter to friends, family, neighbours and colleagues so everyone start making small changes to improve our environment.