

# Reducing Our Impacts Means Practicing Erosion Control



BEFORE

Preventing and controlling erosion is essential to protect streams, rivers and water ecosystems. Effective erosion control prevents adverse effects. Eroded particles of soil, or sediments, can easily move by flowing water and high winds and end up in water bodies or neighboring lands.

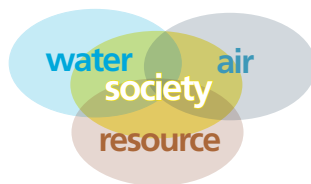
## SEDIMENT IN WATER BODIES CAN:

- reduce the amount of sunlight reaching aquatic plants
- clog or abrade fish gills causing suffocation
- smother aquatic feeding sites and spawning areas and
- interfere with fishes' ability to navigate

Controls often involve the creation of a physical barrier to absorb energy from the water or wind that is causing erosion. On construction sites, erosion controls are often implemented in conjunction with sediment controls such as riprap, ditch liners, check dams, hay bales and silt fences.

## PROPER EROSION CONTROL IS A LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- The Canadian Fisheries Act prohibits the deposit or release of a deleterious substance to fish-bearing waters.
- The Ontario Water Resources Act prohibits the discharge of any material in any waters or on any shore or bank that may impair the quality of the water.
- Environmental Assessments and approvals for stormwater systems and construction projects specify erosion control methods. Not meeting those requirements results in non-compliance with the conditions of approval.
- Most municipalities have bylaws making it illegal to allow sediment laden water to enter municipal storm drains or ditches.



AFTER



Whether simply replacing a driveway, re-landscaping a yard, or undertaking a large scale constructing project, planning ahead for erosion prevention and sediment control can save time, money, potential legal implications and help protect our environment.



## QUESTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

1. What erosion controls do you have in place on your site?
2. When have you used erosion controls?
3. Where could you have used erosion control methods and did not?
4. What were the implications?
5. What lessons have you learned from using erosion controls?

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.  
Mahatma Gandhi  
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**EARTH 1st** Reduce Our Impacts  
**Our Environmental Messenger™**  
PRACTICING EROSION CONTROL  
COMMIT ■ CREATE ■ PARTICIPATE



# Our Environmental Messenger™

Reducing Our Impacts

## PRACTICING EROSION CONTROL

### COMMIT ■ CREATE ■ PARTICIPATE

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Delivered by \_\_\_\_\_

Other topics discussed \_\_\_\_\_

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### RECORD RESPONSES

1. What erosion controls do you have in place on your site? .....
2. When have you used erosion controls?.....
3. Where could you have used erosion control methods and did not? .....
4. What were the implications? .....
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### EARTH 1st CHAMPIONS

This month's Environmental Champions are the employees at Niagara Waste. They did a great job during an in depth inspection by the Ministry of the Environment in February. All aspects of site operations are in full compliance with their Certificate of Approval & Environmental Regulations. **Thank you to everyone at Niagara Waste for a job well done!**

We would also like to thank the Ground Maintenance/ Litter control crew for all their hard work on the clean-up of Taylor Road after some very windy days in April. We appreciate your quick response and the actions taken to minimize the impact on the surrounding community. **Great job everyone!**

### Who do you know who commits, creates and participates in EARTH 1st?



You can email us at: [environment@walkerind.com](mailto:environment@walkerind.com)  
 You can write us at: Environmental Performance Department, P.O. Box 100, Thorold, ON L2V 3Y8  
 You can call us at 905.680.3693

### Who have you spotted "Going Green"?