

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-023**

**Being a By-law to regulate the application of fertilizer to ensure the water quality of inland lakes within the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**Whereas**, Section 8 of the Municipal Act, as amended, authorizes Municipalities to pass by-laws to enable them to govern their affairs and to respond to municipal issues.

**Whereas**, Section 9 of the Municipal Act, as amended states that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under this or any other Act.

**Whereas**, Section 11 (1) and (2) of the Municipal Act, as amended allows that a lower-tier municipality may provide any service or thing that the municipality considers necessary or desirable for the public and may pass by-laws, respecting the environmental well-being of the municipality; and the health, safety and well-being of persons.

**Whereas**, at their February 18, 2026 meeting, Council directed staff to draft a by-law to regulate the application of fertilizer and pesticides to ensure the water quality of Lake Eugenia, Wilcox Lake, Irish Lake, and Brewster Lake.

**Whereas**, the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands desires to protect its inland lakes from recurring algae blooms and to ensure that the water quality and ecosystem in its inland lakes is maintained and improved.

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

**1. Short Title of By-Law**

This by-law may be referred to as the Inland Lakes Water Quality By-Law.

**2. Definitions**

2.1 Fertilizer – means any substance or mixture of substances, containing nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium or other plant food, manufactured, sold or represented for use as a plant nutrient and this shall include products identified as organic fertilizers, but excludes compost as herein defined, and subject to applicable provincial and federal legislation.

2.2 Compost - means household compost and/or leaf compost that has been produced on the property where it is to be used or applied;

2.3 Inland Lake - means Lake Eugenia, Wilcox Lake, Irish Lake, and Brewster Lake.

2.5 Water's edge - means the boundary line or point where a body of water (lake) meets the land, often referred to as the shoreline, bank, or beach.

### **3. Fertilizer Application Prohibited**

3.1 The application of fertilizer to land within one hundred (100) metres of the water's edge of an Inland Lake is prohibited subject to the following exception:

- a) fertilizer may be applied to vegetable and flower gardens that are more than five (5) meters from the water's edge.

### **4. Exclusions**

4.1 This By-law does not apply to:

- a) lands zoned as Agricultural by the Municipality of Grey Highlands Comprehensive Zoning By-law;
- b) lands actively used for agricultural purposes and which uses are permitted under the applicable zoning in the Municipality of Grey Highlands Comprehensive Zoning By-law;
- c) lands actively used for agricultural purposes and which uses are permitted under section 34(9) of the Planning Act (legal non-conforming uses).

### **5. Penalties, Compliance and Enforcement**

5.1 This by-law shall be administered and enforced by the By-Law Enforcement Officers of the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

5.2 Every Person who contravenes any provision of this By-law is guilty of an offence and, upon conviction, is liable to the penalties provided for under the Municipal Act, 2001.

5.3 Pursuant to Section 429 of the Municipal Act, 2001:

- a) a Person who is an individual is liable to a fine of not more than \$100,000;
- b) a Person who is a corporation is liable to a fine of not more than \$500,000;
- c) where a contravention is a continuing offence, the Person is liable to a fine of not more than \$10,000 for each day or part of a day that the offence continues; and
- d) where a contravention constitutes a multiple offence, the Person is liable to a fine for each offence.

5.4 Upon conviction of an offence under this By-law, the Ontario Court of Justice or any court of competent jurisdiction may, in addition to any other penalty imposed, make an order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence.

5.5 For the purposes of enforcement under Part I of the Provincial Offences Act, the set fines for offences under this By-law are as set out in Schedule "A" to this By-law.

### **6. Severability**

6.1 Where a court of competent jurisdiction declares any section or part of a section of this by-law invalid the remainder of the by-law shall continue in force.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on April 15 2026.

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

Original Signed By

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Paul McQueen, Mayor

Original Signed By

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Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

Status: Passed

**Municipality of Grey Highlands**  
Schedule A  
By-law 2026-022 Inland Lakes Water Quality

The following set fines have been established for offences under the  
Inland Lakes Water Quality By-Law, pursuant to the Provincial Offences  
Act.

Item	Short Form Wording	Provision creating or defining offence	Set Fine
1	Apply fertilizer within one hundred (100) metres of the water's edge of an Inland Lake	3.1	\$200.00
2	Fail to comply with the Inland Lakes Water Quality By-Law	3.1	\$200.00
3	Continuing offence – per day	3.1	\$400.00