



What is Sustainable Balance?

Maintaining balance between the environment, community, equity and economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Report Card 2022 - 2023

The Township of Georgian Bay shares the responsibility of our environment with our residents. As a designated UNESCO Biosphere, and home to the World's Largest Freshwater Archipelago, we support Environmental Stewards leading the way to Sustainable Balance.

What is a designated UNESCO Biosphere?

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.

Biosphere Reserves are designated under the intergovernmental MAB Programme by the Director-General of UNESCO following the decisions of the MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB ICC). Their status is internationally recognized.

Depaving Paradise

Staff and members of Council joined SSEA to remove the asphalt located at the Honey Harbour Park. This project was funded by Depave Paradise. Native plants have been put in their place and other areas for pollinators have been created.

Composting



Staff have a place to deposit their food waste in the lunchroom.

The Food Cycler reduces food waste weight and volume by up to 90%, creating a sterile, odorless and nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be used as a fertilizer for your plants or garden.

Conscious Printing

Internally the administration office has decreased its printing, and changed the supplies to recycled products.



Short Term Rentals



Staff are working towards developing a plan with the Short Term Rental suppliers in the area to develop a sustainable, green way to operate business. Utilizing technology, and programs that are already in place like the Food Cycler, and green step or B Certified.



Georgian Bay was recognized as a biosphere in 2004.

OUR PARTNERS



The Honey Bee Festival has continued to support the efforts of the Georgian Bay Biosphere. With the annual event generating funds to go towards operations and studies.



WHAT DID WE ACCOMPLISH IN 2022?



GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Application for Green Municipal Fund Grant for 50th Anniversary of the Township of Georgian Bay assessment of Municipal properties.
- \$200, 000 was granted.

1



BY-LAWS

- Dark Sky By-law
- Noise By-law
- Firework By-law
- Animal Control By-law

2



ONLINE CUSTOMER SERVICE PORTAL

The development of more online ways to serve our residents. Decreases the amount of travel and paper usage.

3



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Tesla EVSE Chargers installed fall 2022.

4



AWARENESS PROGRAMS

The effects of Grey Water from boats in our lake system. Signs installed at prominent docks.

5



COMMUNITY GARDENS

- Created MacTier Community Garden
- Together the community gardens donate over 100 lbs of fresh produce to the food bank

6



FIRE SERVICES

- Jaws of life gas powered to battery operated.
- All flashlights to rechargeable
- Battery operated chainsaw
- Changed generators to fuel efficiency inverter generator.

7





Information provided by SSEA for the full report see gbtownship.ca/waterquality



WATER QUALITY

Report 2022 - SSEA

Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is making a splash! They test the waters throughout the Severn - Sound watershed, annually.



	North Bay	South Bay	Honey Harbour	Port Severn	Open Waters
Phosphorus (P)	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
Nitrogen (N)	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Water Clarity	↓	↓	↓	↔	↓
Chlorophyll a	↔	↔	(insuff. data)	(insuff. data)	↔
Algae	↔	↑	↑	↑	↔
Min. O ₂ at 1m off bottom	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔

↔ No change
 ↑ Increase
 ↓ Decrease

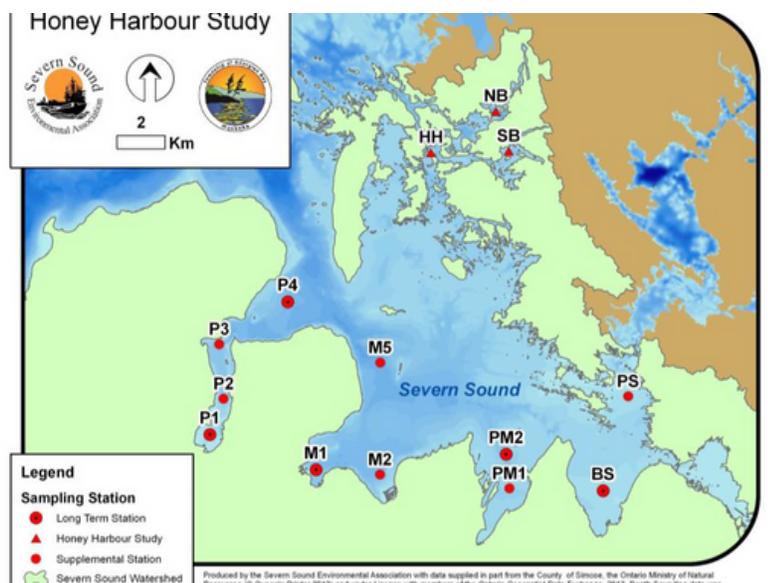
Results based on Mann-Kendall trend tests. Positive or negative trends are statistically significant.

Temperature and Oxygen

- Water column in NB and SB becomes thermally stratified each year, cutting off the bottom waters from the more oxygenated surface waters.
- Dissolved oxygen (DO) reaches anoxic levels (<2 mg/L) by mid summer each year in the bottom waters of NB and SB, and also at mid water column in NB. This anoxia has not worsened.

Water Quality

- Low oxygen causes phosphorus, ammonia and some metals (e.g. iron) to accumulate in a narrow zone above the lake bed at NB and SB beginning in mid summer. This internal nutrient loading fuels algae growth.
- Trends in nutrients shows P has remained stable at all sites; N has decreased at all sites.
- Water clarity has decreased at all sites except PS.



HOW TO BECOME A WATER STEWARD

- Share goals with neighbours and friends.
- Maintain your septic with regular pump-out and inspections
- Eliminate use of fertilizers.
- Maintain your natural shoreline
- Reduce runoff and soil erosion by planting or maintaining vegetation.
- Encourage native rooted aquatic growth
- Do not restrict natural water circulation around docks etc.





Local Climate Change Action Plan

Progress Report

2022 - 2023



Our Progress on the 18 Key Recommendations

Understanding our Carbon Foot Print

- ⚙️ Deliver a collaborative education program.
- ⚙️ Develop a program to advocate for seasonal and local produce.
- ⚙️ Establish a water education program.
- ⚙️ Promote tree protection and land owner knowledge
- ✓ Produce a regional pollinator strategy.

Building capacity for local climate action

- ✓ Create an GHG inventory set reduction targets.
- ⚙️ Review and update emergency planning.
- ✓ Integrate provincial policy.
- ⚙️ Continue to monitor, measure and report.

Engagement with the community

- ⚙️ Develop relationships with energy service providers.
- ⚙️ Identify partners for low-impact development.
- ⚙️ Explore opportunities to increase municipal use of low-carbon renewable energy.
- ✓ Create a multidisciplinary working group to advise on action strategy.

Reducing GHG Emissions

- ⚙️ Improve the availability of data for GHG (Engage Georgian Bay).
- ⚙️ Identify and maintain a database for energy retrofits at municipal facilities.
- ⚙️ Prepare a transportation strategy. Undertake a municipal waste audit.
- ⚙️ Work to support the increase of electric vehicles and programs.



 Continually monitoring our progress on the Climate Change Action Plan.

 Environmental Awareness Signage at the Port of Honey Harbour.



MacTier Community Garden.

 Establishing a taxi service/ride share program.

 Supporting local organizations on invasive species education.



Gypsy Moth Awareness & Maintenance Spring 2022.



FCM Grant Application to evaluate energy efficiency our municipal buildings.

 Fill it Forward - Local and Global water charities getting the community involved.

 Prioritizing ongoing protection of the natural environment within the municipal strategic plan.

 Phragmites Awareness Campaign Spring 2023.



For More Information
 Director of Sustainability
 Jennifer Schnier, MAES., Ec.D (F)
 jschnier@gbtownship.ca