



## Lake Huron/Georgian Bay Watershed: A Canadian Framework for Community Action

---

*This project was provided partial funding through the Lake Huron/Georgian Bay Framework for Community Action to increase the capacity of local organizations, engage the community, and turn local interests and concern into environmental action consistent with 'Framework' principles – see [www.lakehuroncommunityaction.ca](http://www.lakehuroncommunityaction.ca)*

### Project Synopsis

**PROJECT TITLE:** Environmental Stewardship and Nutrient Monitoring in eastern Georgian Bay

**RECIPIENT:** Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) (<http://www.gbbr.ca/>)

**RECIPIENT'S MANDATE:** *To facilitate cooperative action in support of the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development through education and public outreach, that will foster a shared responsibility for the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve for the next seven generations.*



### PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The project seeks to encourage landowners to better understand their impact on the Georgian Bay environment. Through stewardship workshops highlighting citizen methods to improve local water quality, the project aims to ensure Georgian Bay's environmental health and vitality remain intact for generations to come. Continuing in this effort, the project seeks to connect with partners and train volunteers to expand existing nutrient monitoring capacities.

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), Township of Georgian Bay, Township of the Archipelago, Georgian Bay Association, Georgian Bay Forever, and various ratepayer associations and volunteers.

**PROJECT LENGTH:** 12 months

### PROJECT SUMMARY:

Over the summer of 2016, GBBR partnered with municipal government and ratepayer associations to deliver stewardship workshops aimed at encouraging landowners to assess - and adapt - their personal impact on the Georgian Bay environment. Additionally, the reserve sought more volunteers to increase Lake Partner Program coverage in the Coordinated Nutrient Monitoring Project which is successfully mobilizing partners at the local level to support a tiered nutrient monitoring strategy for eastern Georgian Bay.

Finally, the project is contributing to a coordinated communication effort to prepare an ecosystem health report card for the eastern and northern Georgian Bay shores, known as the State of the Bay report. Once completed,



Enhanced nutrient monitoring in Woods Bay



## Lake Huron/Georgian Bay Watershed: A Canadian Framework for Community Action

---

*This project was provided partial funding through the Lake Huron/Georgian Bay Framework for Community Action to increase the capacity of local organizations, engage the community, and turn local interests and concern into environmental action consistent with 'Framework' principles – see [www.lakehuroncommunityaction.ca](http://www.lakehuroncommunityaction.ca)*

the report will communicate the status of indicators (e.g. fish communities, water quality, wetlands), report on key ecosystem health threats and trends (e.g. SAR, AIS, climate change), and identify relevant stewardship actions and best practices.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Hosted stewardship workshops to communicate best practices for water quality maintenance
- Increased volunteer engagement in the Coordinated Nutrient Monitoring project
- Contributed to the development of environmental attribute frameworks for the upcoming State of the Bay report

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Collect and review MOECC water quality data and report on 2016 monitoring outcomes, as well as identify locations that require volunteers for 2017
- Liaise with ratepayer associations to identify volunteers to monitor at recommended locations
- Collect, review and report on MOECC enhanced nutrient monitoring data for Woods Bay and Sturgeon Bay
- Continue public outreach and education (e.g. ratepayer AGMs, public workshops, municipal deputations, etc.) to present results from the Coordinated Nutrient Monitoring project and support these partners in establishing a consistent monitoring and reporting strategy for eastern Georgian Bay

### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

- There is a need for a regional water quality reporting for eastern Georgian Bay that includes federal, provincial, and municipal data
- Coordination takes a lot of effort and time, and success is dependent on strong relationships and partner support

### **POTENTIAL FOLLOW-UP PROJECTS:**

- Develop a regional water quality report for eastern Georgian Bay that includes federal, provincial, and municipal data
- Develop a Community Action Plan for the Big Sound that would identify monitoring, research, stewardship and restoration needs