

Biosphere Program Updates

SUMMER - 2018



GEORGIAN BAY
BIOSPHERE RESERVE



The Township of the Archipelago (TOA) has partnered with the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) since 2014 to deliver environmental programming to ratepayers.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact GBBR staff:
info@gbbr.ca
705-774-0978
www.gbbr.ca

Follow us:
@GBayBiosphere



Explore Our Shores

Join GBBR to learn about the 2018 State of the Bay ecosystem health report during a short talk and guided paddle. Themes include: water quality, fish communities, coastal wetlands, food webs, climate change, and citizen science.

Saturday July 21, 10am - 12pm

Crane Lake Resort, 510 Blackstone Crane Lake Rd

Sunday July 22, 10am - 12pm

Gibraltar Point, Bayfield Inlet
Coordinates: 45.62072, -80.52114

Please bring your own boat and safety equipment. In the event of inclement weather, visit gbbr.ca for cancellation notices.



Kids in the Biosphere is Growing!

To celebrate six years of outdoor adventure in the GBBR, the Kids in the Biosphere program is EXPANDING! This summer it will be available across the entire Township of the Archipelago.

How does the Kids in the Biosphere program work?

Register online at <https://bit.ly/2GuTSKa> to receive a free Activity Kit: a reusable bag containing outdoor games, crafts, a nature notebook and a Kids in the Biosphere Activity Booklet. Once you register, GBBR will email with details on where to pick up your Activity Kit.

If you wish to track your progress, you can use the Summer Scorecard in the Activity Kit. At the end of the summer, or your stay in the Biosphere, bring your Scorecard to the GBBR office (11 James St., Parry Sound) or to a program volunteer to receive a prize. You'll be entered to win one of three grand prizes!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact kids@gbbr.ca.



Phragmites

The TOA website now has new resources on the invasive reed *Phragmites*.

Learn more at:
www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/environment

Forest Health Updates

- Beech Bark Disease continues to have a devastating impact in eastern Georgian Bay and Muskoka.
- Introduced Pine Sawfly (IPS) populations appeared to have remained at lower levels over 2017 (compared to 2015). Experts believe small IPS outbreaks will continue, as Crown land will not likely be treated for IPS.
- Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive insect that continues to move north. As of 2017, it had advanced to the Lake Simcoe area.
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is damaging and killing hemlock trees. HWA has been found in two locations in Ontario to date.

State of the Bay

Do you ever wonder about the state of Georgian Bay?
How is the water and habitat for wildlife and fish?
How climate change is affecting our local environment?

In 2008, conservation groups launched a research program that led to the first "State of the Bay" report in 2013 to help answer those questions. They used scientific monitoring programs to report on trends for several key indicators of ecosystem health.

Now, a new edition of the "State of the Bay: ecosystem health report for eastern and northern Georgian Bay" has been released and is available in magazine and online formats. Researchers at the GBBR, working with expert advisors, have produced a science magazine for all ages to report on environmental changes and help plan for the future.

It is a summary of the best available science for Lake Huron-Georgian Bay and measures indicators for water quality, wetlands, fish species, and landscape biodiversity to see how healthy our environment is, and where we should be worried. It also talks about climate change, invasive species, and species at risk.

Using data from researchers, provincial and federal agencies, and citizen scientists, the report gives a snapshot of key issues on our coast. It looks at the shocking decline of nutrients like phosphorus, and what impacts that may have on the lower food web and on fish communities. It asks about the legacy of invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels, and what other changes invasive species will bring. Thirty years of data about water temperatures and ice cover on the Bay shows a warming trend that matches global climate change predictions and raises questions about what the impacts will be, and how we should respond.

Research shows that the archipelago of '30,000 Islands' acts as a natural land-water corridor for species movement. Relatively few roads and lower development have made the UNESCO Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve an important place for species conservation. Learning about how our area supports globally rare species reminds us that we all have a role in taking care of Georgian Bay for future generations.

Pick up your copy of "State of the Bay" soon, or visit stateofthebay.ca.



If you would like information on water quality in your area, please visit the TOA website and download the 2017 Water Quality report.
www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/environment