



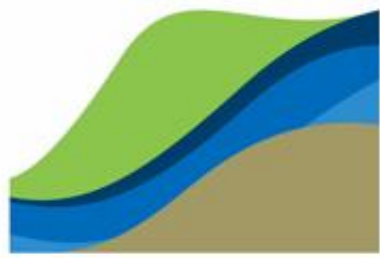
May 2024

# Healthy Lake Huron

- Since 2010 a multi-agency/stakeholder group has worked together to coordinate actions to protect and improve water quality along the southeast shores of Lake Huron from Sarnia to Tobermory. Co-chaired by MECP/OMAFRA.
- Actions focus on reducing soil loss and improving soil health and include the installation of stream buffers, berms, and use of cover crops. Other actions include things like septic system inspections and upgrades, and restricting livestock from streams.
- Outreach and education are another key piece of this initiative



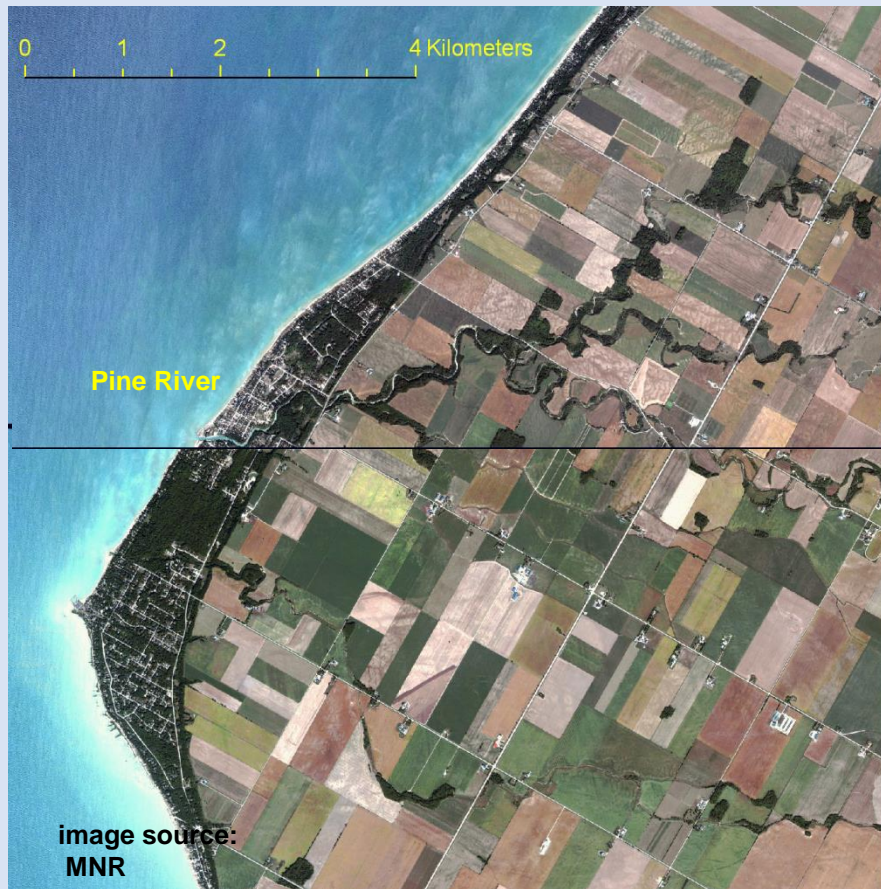




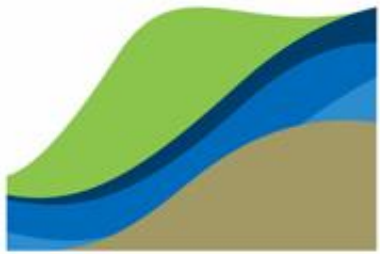
# Healthy Lake Huron

Clean Water, Clean Beaches

## Factors driving nearshore water quality problems



- Nutrient & fecal pollution from tributaries
- High density of shoreline properties serviced by septic systems
- Changing ecology of nearshore due to invasive species
- Geomorphic features of area exacerbate problems
- Improved understanding of scope for improvement or actions needed to best achieve change in incidence of shore fouling by algae



# Healthy Lake Huron

Clean Water, Clean Beaches

## Partners





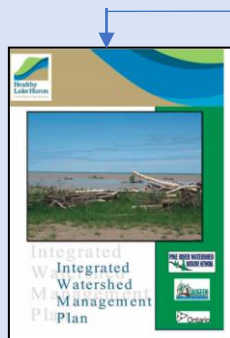
# Governance

**Steering Committee**  
MECP/OMAFRA chairs

**Working Group**  
(includes membership from all organizations involved in the HLH Initiative)

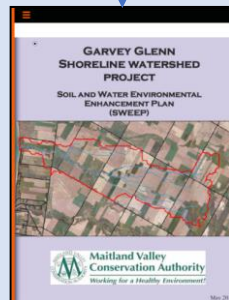
**Communications Working Group**  
MECP/ABCA chairs

## Priority Watersheds



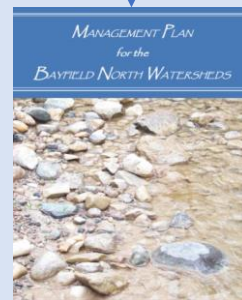
**Pine River Watershed**

Pine River Watershed Initiative Network  
Saugen Valley CA



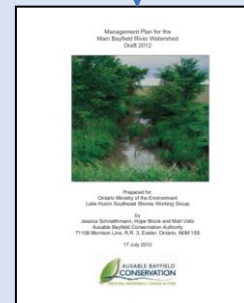
**Garvey-Glenn Watershed**

Maitland Valley CA



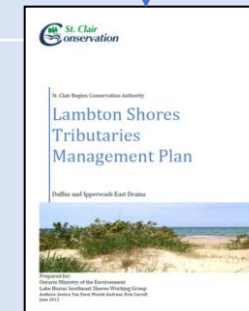
**Bayfield North Watershed**

Ausable Bayfield CA



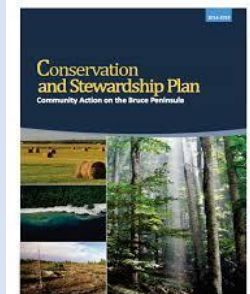
**Main Bayfield Watershed**

Ausable Bayfield CA



**Lambton Shores Watershed**

St. Clair Region CA



**Six Streams Restoration Project Watershed**

Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association





# Implementation Actions

Over 500 BMP projects completed and over \$5 million dollars invested since the project was initiated







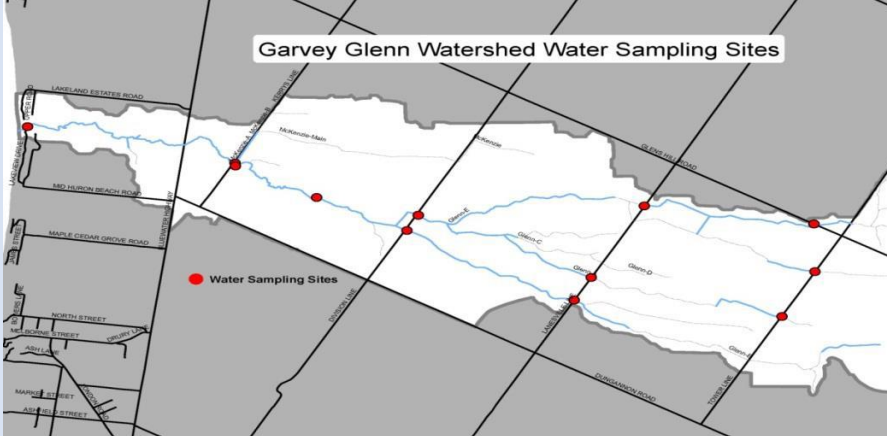
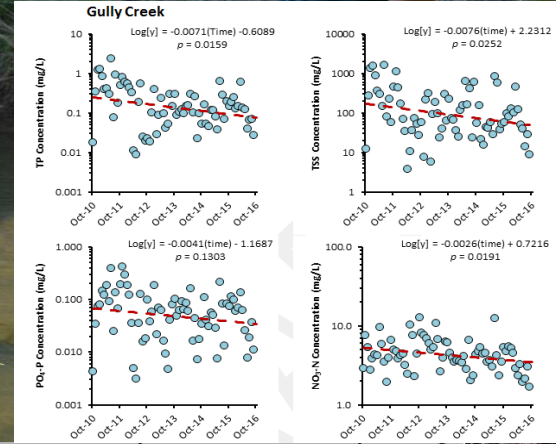
# Monitoring and Research

Long-term monitoring in priority watersheds includes:

- flow and water quality data during events
- Collection of explanatory data (e.g., crop tillage, fertilizer information, etc.)
- synthesize the data

Research has included:

- Edge of field monitoring of BMP's to determine effectiveness
- Review of rural stormwater management models







# Outreach and Education

through annual newsletters and the initiative website, landowner workshops, one on one visits and demonstration sites

[www.healthylakehuron.ca](http://www.healthylakehuron.ca)



**COFFEE CROPS & DONUTS**

Farmer-to-Farmer workshops from the Agricultural Outreach Program.  
**FREE admission, coffee & donuts!**  
 519-367-3040 | t.vaugh@svca.on.ca  
[www.svca.on.ca](http://www.svca.on.ca)



**Healthy Lake Huron**  
Clean Water, Clean Beaches

Newsletter  
Summer 2014

**Improving Water Quality Together**

A team of dedicated environmental professionals has come together to coordinate activities that will improve overall water quality along the southwest shore of Lake Huron. This group is leading the Healthy Lake Huron Clean Water Initiative. This is a multi-year, multi-agency effort to address nuisance algae blooms and to promote safe and clean beaches and shoreline from Ontario to Lake St. Clair.

The past 10 years has seen an increase in nuisance algae blooms, including cyanobacteria and blue-green algae, posing a risk to human health and recreation. These problems are caused by a combination of nutrient and bacterial pollution from various sources, including municipal, agricultural, and residential sources. Canada and Ontario, in partnership with the United States government, have been working to address these issues through various programs and initiatives. This is the first time that the two countries have been working together to address these issues.

The five priority areas identified on the map are:

- The Blue Heron sub-watershed
- The North Shore sub-watershed (Geary Creek)
- The South Shore sub-watershed (Geary Creek)
- The North Bayfield sub-watershed (Geary Creek)
- The South Bayfield sub-watershed (Geary Creek)
- The South Shore sub-watershed (Geary Creek)

Reading up with what is happening in the Southwest Shore will become very easy now. This is the first time that the two countries have been working together to address these issues. A website is also being developed to help address water quality issues. A website will be up and running by early fall 2014.

A great deal of work has been completed in the Southwest Shore.

**GARVEY-GLENN SHORELINE WATERSHED PROJECT**

The Garvey-Glenn Drain watershed encompasses 17.5 square kilometers of farmland. The drain flows into Lake Huron, north of Port Arthur. The watershed has been identified as a priority area for the Healthy Lake Huron Initiative.

The Garvey-Glenn Project involves taking a proactive approach to watershed management in priority riparian and wetland areas, and the health of watersheds, and general water quality. It will also help to prevent erosion and sedimentation such as rock and debris.

In partnership with landowners, Mainland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) and developed a Soil and Water Conservation Plan (SWCP) for the entire watershed as well as for individual properties. This plan is a key strategy for improving water quality by addressing the impacts of soil erosion and sediment runoff. The SWCP is a site-specific approach that recognizes the unique watershed for maximum effectiveness of riparian work.

**FRAGILE LAND RETIREMENT**

- Improving the health of a watershed means lowering the carbon, and soil the components. Subsoil erosion leads to water erosion. More erosion leads to more sediment in the water.
- Trains are planted on 7.5 acres in the spring of 2014.
- There are no grass subsoil erosion: they use water and air temperature, reduce erosion levels. They maintain and enhance their own water, and allow for increased groundwater infiltration.
- Funding partners for this project include Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ontario Conservation, and the Healthy Lake Huron Initiative.

For more information call the Mainland Valley Conservation Authority at 519-367-3040 or visit us online.

**The Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association invites you to:**

**Pasture Meeting**

Thursday, February 27th 2017  
 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Northern Bruce Peninsula Municipal Office  
 Lindsay Road 6, NBP  
 RSVP by voice, text or email to (847) 885-8998 or amandastanger@me.com

**SCHEDULE**

- Welcome: John Rodgers / Mike Pedlar / Katherine McLeod
- Jacqui Empson-Lapierre - OMAFRA Environmental Specialist - The Drainage Act / Soil Conservation Strategy
- Vicki Hibson - OMAFRA Engineering - Barn Fire Prevention
- Megan Moran - Calford Strategies
- Bill Cassler - Custom Operator - Producer Club
- Networking Buffer Dinner
- Jeff Cobby - Liming Trials
- Keith Reed - ALUS 2017
- ALS - High Density Sampling
- Nests Mark - 2016/17 BPBA Six Streams Program
- Closing Remarks: John Rodgers / Elizabeth Thom



**Main Bayfield Watershed Plan**  
 JANUARY 2014

**Happy New Year!**

You are receiving this newsletter as either a landowner within the Main Bayfield watershed, or as a project partner. Now that the Main Bayfield Watershed Plan has been completed, newsletters will be one way we keep you updated and informed about the implementation of the plan.

A huge thank you to all the landowners, community groups and advisory committee members for helping to develop this community-based watershed plan. The real challenge now is to see how much can be implemented. Great things have already been accomplished, and we look forward to working with everyone to continue this trend in 2014.

The watershed plan works with four principles: Building Awareness, Supporting Community Involvement, Taking Action, and Measuring Success. You can apply these to your own property (rural or urban) when making improvements, and know that your neighbours are doing the same.

Contact Hope Brook at Ausable Bayfield Conservation for more information, or for a copy of the plan. View the plan at [abea.on.ca/downloads/Main-Bayfield-Watershed-Plan-FINAL.pdf](http://abea.on.ca/downloads/Main-Bayfield-Watershed-Plan-FINAL.pdf)

**Wise Drain Watershed Walk**

In order to start implementing the plan, a watershed walk will be taking place in the Wise Drain watershed in the winter/spring of 2014. The purpose of a watershed walk is to gain information about how water flows over the landscape, and to understand how each property functions in a watershed context. In partnership with the landowners, we hope to walk every property and help identify low drain or erosion prone areas.

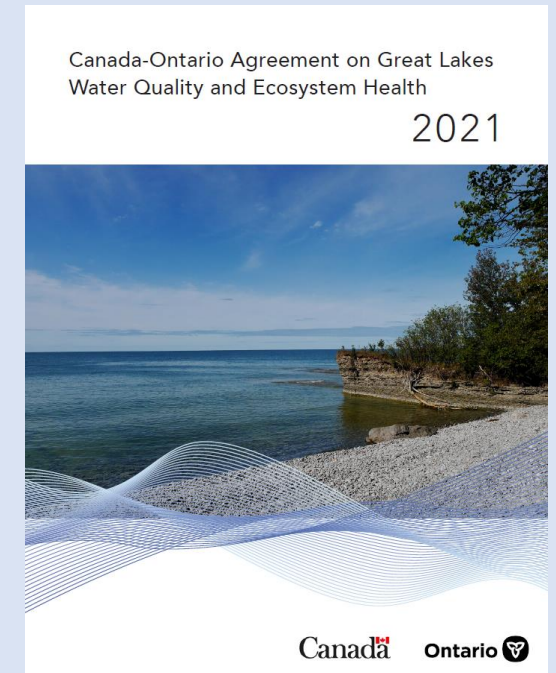
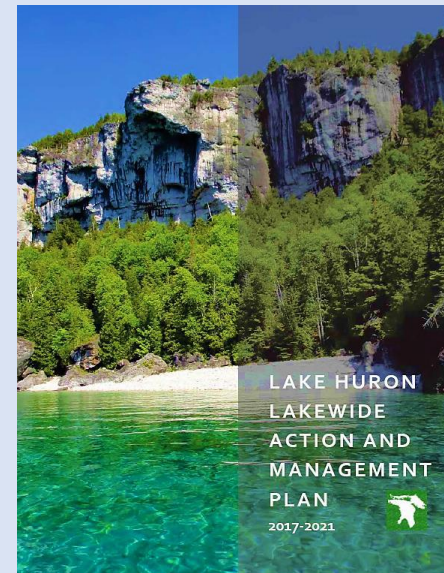
If you live in this area, we will be contacting you in the next month or so. For more information, please contact Hope Brook at 519-235-2610 or [hbrook@abea.on.ca](mailto:hbrook@abea.on.ca)





# Project Linkages to significant binational and domestic water policy programs

- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
  - Lakewide Annex
  - Lake Huron Partnership
- Canada Ontario Agreement



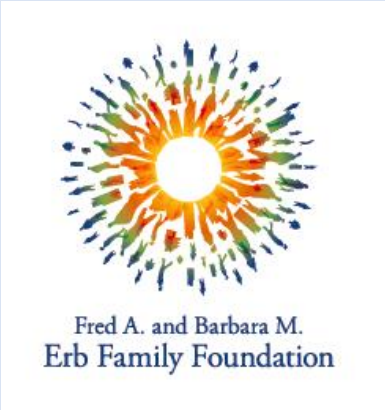


# Funding Support

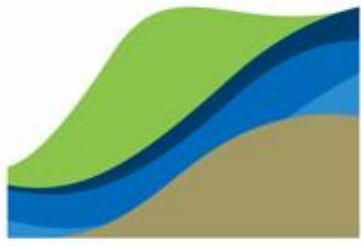
Approximately \$4 million dollars in funding has gone towards the Healthy Lake Huron Initiative from a variety of funders.



Landowners



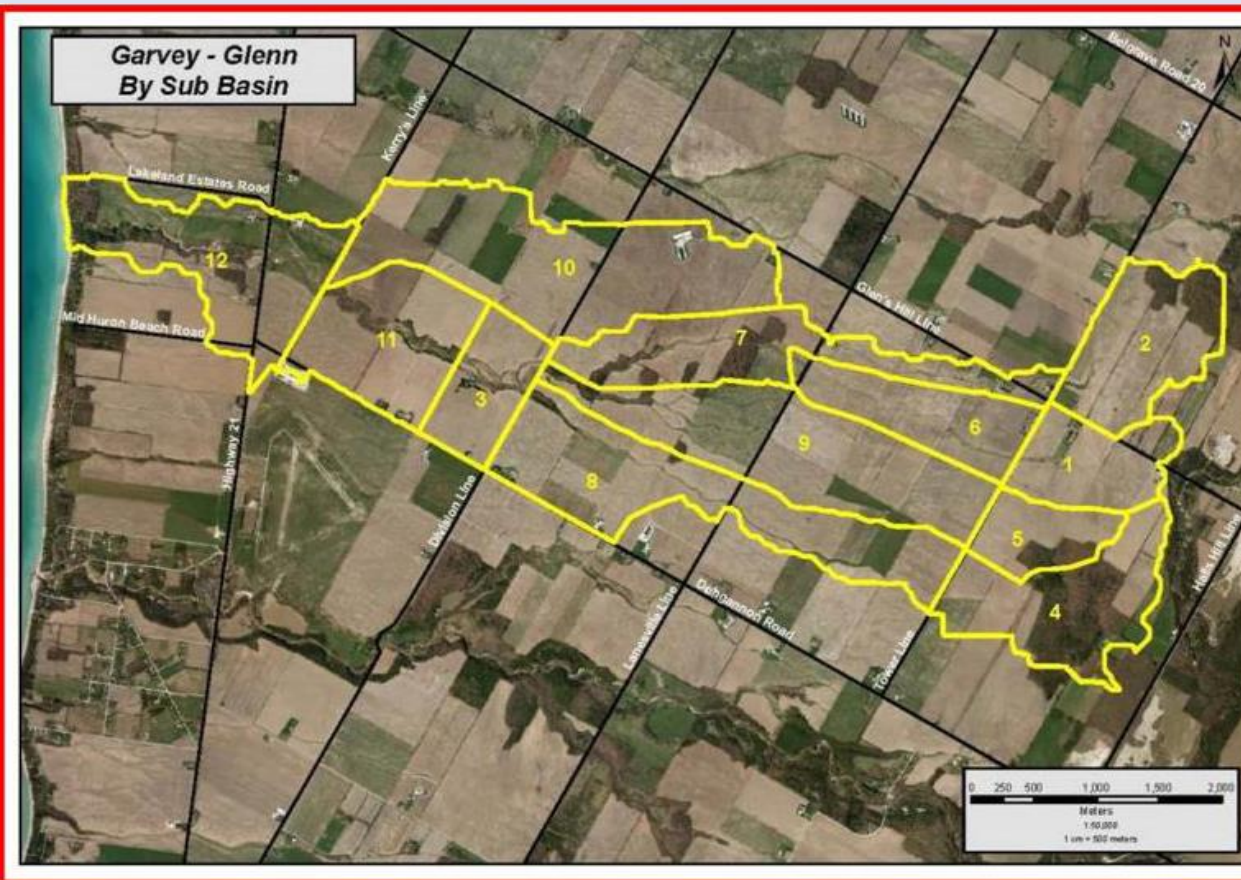




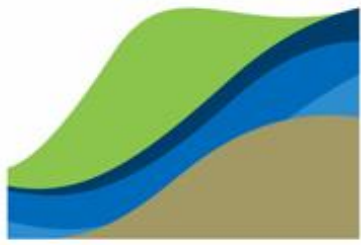
**Healthy  
Lake Huron**  
Clean Water, Clean Beaches

5 Year Action Plan Updated in 2020

Identify Remaining Key Contributing Areas within the HLH Region







**Healthy  
Lake Huron**  
Clean Water, Clean Beaches

## Healthy Lake Huron

### What Have We Learned

- Partnerships are key
- Outreach, education, promotion, one on one
- Maintaining momentum can be a challenge
- Linking environmental outcomes to management require long term monitoring

#### Communication/Education

