



GEORGIAN BAY
BIOSPHERE
MNIDOO GAMII

Annual Report

2021/2022



Aanii, Greetings,

Our past year was one of growth and reflection, as we deepened our commitment to community and conservation after a period of uncertainty created by the pandemic. Our strategic priorities in the areas of education, conservation, climate action, and cultural revitalization helped us see a glimpse of a more sustainable, equitable future for eastern Georgian Bay.

We saw collective commitments from area councils to address climate change and engaged community volunteers in outlining a Regional Climate Action Plan. We heard the excitement in our communities as 3,000 turtle eggs were saved from road construction, giving species at risk a boost. And we watched Oshkinigig, a birch bark canoe built by the Georgian Bay Anishinaabek Youth, become a teacher as she visited communities throughout Mnídoo Gamii.

While the pandemic required extra precautions, we began to offer more outdoor events and workshops, connecting with people interested in learning about native plants, invasive pests, cultural protocols and the changing State of the Bay.

For all these positive activities in the community and impacts on the landscape, we want to thank our incredible staff team, our volunteers and partners, and our members and donors. Our work would simply not be possible without your support.

We look ahead with optimism and energy, as our organization grows in new directions and seeks to meet long-standing challenges. We welcome your ideas and suggestions as we map our future path with partners in Mnídoo Gamii, Georgian Bay.

Miigwech, Thank you,



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca Pollock".

Rebecca Pollock, PhD

Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ron Chase".

Ron Chase

Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Greg Mason".

Greg Mason, MES

General Manager

CARING FOR PEOPLE and Place



Sustainable communities can best be achieved by working with other groups and organizations committed to the same goals. Our work necessitates creating partnerships, facilitating dialogue and coordinating programs with others within the Biosphere region.

We carry out our mission by using our networking skills to identify opportunities for collaboration, in order to protect the environment, build a healthy economy and create vibrant communities. Sustainability initiatives include:

- Community Gardens & School Gardens
- Local Food Collaborative & Food Skills
- Sustainable Tourism & Capacity Building
- Green Buildings & Waste Diversion
- Interns, Researchers and Job Placements

We help to inform, inspire and provide leadership where it is needed. We take a balanced perspective to understand the “big picture” of activities that support conservation and sustainability in the region, and celebrate success.

Our work is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a cleaner, more equitable and sustainable world. Our core programs contribute to 8 SDGs, ranging from Quality Education and Climate Action to Zero Hunger and Clean Water.

Our team provides the logistical and planning support for social innovation that is required to tackle complex problems – from climate change to food security, ecosystem health to economic development. We are facilitators for a more sustainable region.



Biosphere reserves are sites recognized by UNESCO as models of a sustainable future that protect and celebrate cultural and biological diversity, and that empower people to engage with one another and with nature in healthier ways. Biosphere regions in Canada are designated areas where communities are actively working to conserve biodiversity and implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

FOR CONSERVATION

we bridge communities of interest to build more effective strategies for biodiversity protection, ecosystem resilience, and climate adaptation.

This was Maamwi Anjiakiziwin's third year, a collaborative project focused on strategies for species and their habitat. As one of Canada's "Community-Nominated Priority Places" in partnership with First Nations, municipalities, and other non-profits, the project involves wildlife research, land use planning and cultural knowledge application within Anishinaabek territory.

How do I pronounce Maamwi Anjiakiziwin?

Say: mom-way angie-ak-ee-zi-win.

This phrase in Anishinaabe language loosely translates to: Together, Land, Renewal, Life. It is our hope that we can improve collaborative relationships resulting in better decisions and directions for how we, as humans, use and benefit from the coast, in order to better conserve and steward these lands and waters for Species at Risk.



The goal of Maamwi Anjiakiziwin is to accelerate knowledge generation and collective decision-making so that species at risk conservation is more strategic, integrated and effective.

One of Maamwi Anjiakiziwin's field initiatives this year was to identify and address reptile road mortality threats at two high traffic locations in order to implement mitigation measures and recommend further actions. Our field biologists conducted 78 road surveys and collected a total of 508 observations of reptiles on the road, with over 92% recorded as dead.



At both locations, mapping of observations identified mortality 'hotspots' where attention should be given to reduce reptile death on roads. Specific recommendations like fencing and eco-passages were provided for both sites and we will continue to explore and implement mitigation options with partners in the next several years.

Related field work was the collection of at-risk turtle eggs on roads undergoing construction by our field biologists. A total of 3,824 Snapping, Map, Midland Painted, and Blanding's turtle eggs were collected, incubated, and the hatchlings released into the wetlands from which they came. Thank you to all our partners for such a successful year!



To learn more, visit: maamwigeorgianbay.ca



Lake Sturgeon

This was a busy year for Shawanaga First Nation and GBB staff who are partners on a multi-year project to enhance Lake Sturgeon protection, conservation, and recovery efforts in eastern Georgian Bay. Staff monitored two rivers within the Biosphere region for spawning activity, which includes installing temperature loggers and underwater cameras, setting egg mats and drift nets, and continuously checking for activity. Evidence of lake sturgeon spawning was confirmed in one of the monitored rivers. In addition, more than one dozen adult lake sturgeon were observed by staff while scouting a third river for future monitoring.



Citizen Science

The Georgian Bay Biosphere Project on the citizen science app iNaturalist has over 3,500 observers, 4,200 species recorded, and 65,000 observations! The information helps us better understand threats, and where efforts into research, mitigation, and conservation initiatives should be directed. We are grateful to the Biosphere community for volunteering as citizen scientists and helping us collect a digital biodiversity inventory of eastern Georgian Bay.

Water Quality Monitoring

In the summer of 2021 with partners from six townships and ratepayer associations, we tested 20 sites on 16 lakes, and identified over 6,000 benthic invertebrates! “Benthic monitoring” is the collection and identification of macroinvertebrates that live at the bottom of lakes. Macroinvertebrates are good indicators of water quality because they vary in their tolerance to disturbances and pollution - changes in their type and abundance over time paints a picture of an aquatic ecosystem’s health and how it responds to stress. The reports produced from the monitoring help inform the bigger picture around water quality in the Biosphere region.

FOR EDUCATION & LEARNING,

we increase ecological literacy,
citizen science and stewardship activities in our communities.



Since 2010, we have been connecting kids to nature. We take classes on hikes and do hands-on learning during the school year. The focus of our Lessons-in-a-Backpack is on biodiversity and stewardship for ages 5 to 15. This year, over 500 students participated in our classroom programs in eight schools across the region.

Outside of the classroom, our Kids in the Biosphere activity program reaches children in summer camps and cottage associations. Kits include field equipment and activity instructions for outdoors, recipes for edible wilds, and how to identify local frogs. This year, 124 youth participated in the program!

Our education programs reach people of all ages. Our interpretive nature hikes had over 900 participants, and our webinars had 750 attendees!



FOR CULTURE, WE HONOUR

Treaties and walk a path of respect
and learning with all Indigenous peoples to reconcile with
the land and with each other.



Since 2018, we have had the privilege of working with Georgian Bay Anishinaabek Youth (GBAY) as their organizational mentor. GBAY is an Indigenous youth-led, grassroots organization that works to support land and culture based learning along eastern Mnidoo Gamii (Georgian Bay). We work with GBAY on project management, community outreach, shared learning opportunities, and we even share an office space!

GBAY delivered a multitude of programs and activities - some were even a hybrid of in-person and online! Early in 2021, GBAY began to create a short documentary about the creation, impact, and legacy of Oshkinigig. The documentary captures stories told by youth and Knowledge Holders, as they reflect on the 2019 canoe build of Oshkinigig.

Shortly after the filming of the documentary, GBAY paddled Oshkinigig on a 4-day canoe trip with Wasauksing First Nation. The trip is called “Bemishkaajig” which is an Anishinaabe name gifted by Duncan Pegahmagabow-ban. The name speaks to a journey of young people paddling along the water and connecting to our homelands while learning about ourselves and identities.

A major program highlight was the at-home tea and medicine workshop. GBAY staff harvested local medicines and prepared materials, including an Anishinaabemowin learning sheet and travel mugs for youth to make traditional Anishinaabek tea. One youth participant said “this allowed me to keep connected with my culture while being in school and living away from home”. The GBAY mailed out workshop materials throughout the year to keep youth connected and engaged. This eased some of the barriers to participating in land-based learning during a pandemic.

FOR CLIMATE ACTION,

We bring communities together to address climate change.



This year our climate team worked with dozens of volunteers and a network of community partners. Together we analyzed practical ways to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and shared new ideas for climate action. Over 30 expert citizens donated time to identify the best bets for energy conservation and climate mitigation in the areas of buildings, transportation, and waste. More than 250 actions were proposed initially and then narrowed down for the “Regional Climate Action Plan” planned for 2023.

GBB is proud to coordinate this work on behalf of municipalities and First Nations participating in ICECAP (Integrated Community Energy & Climate Action Plans) partnership. ICECAP is an efficient and cost-effective way for our communities to inventory their GHG emissions, set targets for mitigation, and take specific actions to meet those goals. The program also tracks progress towards goals and identifies local and regional opportunities for funding for major projects.

Early in 2022, we launched a Climate Action Survey and had over 600 responses representing residents, First Nations, and cottagers. People who took the survey identified actions that could be taken by individuals, households, communities and local governments, while also recognizing support was needed at higher levels. Survey results recommended more education, energy retrofit and waste reduction programs, new plans and policies from local governments, and infrastructure improvements. Key benefits identified were energy cost savings, improved air quality, more connected communities, and risk management for severe weather events.

“Our climate action survey made it apparent that there are real concerns about the costs to individuals, particularly those who are disadvantaged or in need. The term ‘climate justice’ conveys the need for climate action that is equitable, affordable and accessible to all. Our plans to address climate change should not worsen historical inequities but focus on creating a livable future for all.”

Benjamin John, Climate and Energy Programs Manager

Our Team

Directors

Ron Chase

Peter Koetsier

Barb Wohleber

Marilyn Capreol

Enid Wray

Glen Barnden

Erika Kramer

Jessica Fargher

Peter Ashmore

Jack Tynan

Ian Scott

Dan Reeves

Anita Chechock



Staff

Rebecca Pollock, PhD
Executive Director

Greg Mason, MES
Director of Operations

Laura Peddie, BA
Organizational Manager

Kyla Judge, BA
Cultural Programs Manager

David Bywater, B.Env.Sc
Director of Lands and Waters Programs

Delaina Arnold, BERS
Education Program Manager

Katrina Krievins, MS
Aquatic Conservation Programs Coordinator

Tianna Burke, MSc
Conservation Biologist

Ruth Beattie, BA
Bookkeeper

Sherrill Judge
Maawaanji'iwe Manager

Isabelle Moy, MREM
Climate Change & Energy Program Coordinator

Dawson Bloor
Indigenous Youth Assistant

Sam Cunningham, MWS
Climate and Sustainability Technical Lead

Aliena Hoskins, BA
Education Assistant

Taylor Judge, BA
Anishinaabek Youth Intern

Emily Holdsworth, BSc
GIS Technician Intern

Olivia Fines, BSc
Communications Assistant Coordinator

Angela Vander Eyken, BBRM
Landscape and Wildlife Technician

Aliena Hoskins, BES
Education Assistant

Parker Tabobondung
Indigenous Educator

Mackenzie Ruffo, BSc
Biosphere Interpretive Guide

Kayla Martin, B.Env.Sc
Species at Risk Field Technician

Bradley Engelking, BSc
Species at Risk Field Technician

Erin Kerr, B.Env.Sc
Species at Risk Field Technician

Heather Van Den Diepstraten, BSc
Natural Heritage Intern

Kyle Vincent, BSc
Species at Risk Field Technician

Eden Graves
Fieldwork and Outreach Assistant

Benjamin John, MREM
Climate and Energy Programs Manager

FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue	2022	2021
Government Grants	\$957,116	\$871,682
Foundation & Other Program Contributions	\$199,863	\$265,754
Service Provision	\$281,320	\$149,821
Donations & Fundraising	\$209,549	\$133,283
Interest	\$2,153	\$2,545
Total	\$1,650,001	\$1,423,085

Expenses	2022	2021
Conservation	\$793,827	\$642,467
Community & Culture	\$330,761	\$350,436
Education	\$198,457	\$175,218
Fundraising	\$40,570	\$61,014
Administration	\$111,265	\$120,865
Total	\$1,474,879	\$1,350,000
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$175,122	\$73,085

Assets	2022	2021
Cash	\$506,424	\$487,695
Accounts Receivable	\$482,372	\$231,897
Prepaid expenses	\$12,122	\$17,564
Short-Term Investments	\$12,024	\$39,504
Capital Assets	\$21,867	\$15,336
Total	\$1,034,809	\$791,996

Liabilities	2022	2021
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$154,134	\$240,382
Deferred contributions	\$318,269	\$164,330
Total	\$472,403	\$404,712

Net Assets	2022	2021
Net assets internally restricted	\$28,081	\$22,487
Unrestricted net assets	\$534,325	\$364,797
Total	\$472,403	\$387,284

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,034,809	\$791,996
---	--------------------	------------------

Grantors & Foundations

Assembly of Seven Generations
 Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
 Benefaction Foundation
 Canadian Parks & Recreation Association
 Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association
 Community Foundations of Canada
 District of Muskoka
 Employment and Social Development Canada
 Environment and Climate Change Canada
 Environmental Careers Organization of Canada
 The Fyfe Foundation
 Ganawenim Meshkiki
 Great Lakes Basin Conservancy
 ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
 Iron City Fishing Club
 Laidlaw Foundation
 McDougall Township
 Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
 Muskoka Community Foundation
 Near North District School Board
 Northern Ontario Heritage Foundation Corporation
 North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit
 Ontario Nonprofit Network
 Ontario Trillium Foundation
 Rotary Club of Parry Sound
 Sequin Township
 Shawanaga First Nation
 TD Friends of the Environment
 Town of Parry Sound
 Township of Carling
 Township of McKellar
 Township of Georgian Bay
 Township of the Archipelago
 United Way
 University of Toronto
 Municipality of Whitestone

Sponsors

30,000 Island Cruise Lines
 Beacon Marine
 Blackfeather
 Desmasdon's Boat Works
 FAD Architects
 Georgian Bay Landing
 Georgian Bay Spirit Co.
 Killbear Provincial Park
 Ontario Sea Kayak Centre
 Parry Sound Anglers & Hunters
 Parry Sound Area Active Transportation
 Rotary Club of Parry Sound
 Trestle Brewing Company

THANK YOU, MIIGWECH!

The Georgian Bay Biosphere is a registered charity. Our members and donors make our conservation, education, and sustainability work possible. Our gratitude to those who contributed between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.

\$1 - \$249

Beth & Peter Adams
Aerin Anbinder
R. Edward Armbrust
Lyne Arseneau
Linda Bangay
John Barber
Diana Bayley
Ruth Beattie
Mary Lynn Becker
Tony Best
Victoria Best
Joanne Beveridge
Bigredworks Inc.
Sandy Boeckh
Karine Boucher
Ben Bradshaw
Tynan Bramberger
Pamela Bray
Coco Brennan
Susanne Broe-Vayda
Maureen Buchanan
Canadore College
Chris Chambers
Emily Chan
Heather Charles
Kathy Clark
Wendy Connelly
Kevan Connors
Michael Corson
Patsy Cross
Laura Cupper
Bruce Davidson
DDMLighting Inc
Ian Digby
Sylvia Dunk
Joanne Emerson
Chuck Erion
William Este
Stu Fargher
Terry Feldman
Gwen Fines
Alan Florence
Sue French
Catherine Fretwell
Peter Frost
Kevin Garland
Monica Gemeinhardt
Georgian Coastal Water Taxi
Amber Gordon
Ruth and Paul Gray
Daniel Groot
Rob Haag
Aidan Haak

Steve Hagen
Caylen Heckel
Sandie Heckel
Heldman
James Higgs
Beverly Hitchman
Curtis Honey Harbour Boat Club
Karen Hood-Caddy
Aileen Horler
Hughes Bros. Custom Builders
Darlene Jamieson
Lisa Jennings
Rebecca Johnson
Stella Juhas
Maria Julia
Trudy Kavanagh
Leena Kennedy
Judy & Les Kovacs
Trish Kruusmagi
Kristy Kujala
Peter Laurie
Carolyn Levett
Kerry Little
Daphne Loukidelis
Glendon Macgregor
Donald Marshall
Dave Martin
Helen Mason
Vivian McCaffrey
Louise McCann
Nadyne McConkey
Jim McLarty
Colleen McLean
Linda McLellan
Kerry McLorg
Doug McNaughton
Graham Meader
Michael Milne
Scott & Ellen Moody
Monica Moore
Thom Morrissey
Municipality Of Whitestone
Dr. Carolyn Muriel Shields
Kerri Mutrie
Trish North
Heather O'Halloran
Rosemarie Olver
Pardon My Garden
Parry Sound & District
Horticultural Society
Sharon Penrose
Nadine Perron
Tony & Marie Poxleitner
Lane Prentice
Marian Riach
Ritchie Insurance

Sarah Rodin
Steph Romaniuk & Sue Pilling
Robert Root
RTP Mechanical Limited
Lisa Ruggles
Kate Schneider
Susan Scott
Helen Scutt
Anaia Shaw
Scott Sheard
Brenda Skerratt
Wendy Smeh
Victoria Smith
Steven Smyth
Laurel Stauffer-Daly
Meghan Steele
Sylvia Szot
Tina Tabobandung
Katherine Teeple
Karen Tippet
Maureen Vallieres
Peter Van der Valk
Stephanie van Gilst
Martin Virta
Jennifer Walsh
Rosemary Webb
Pam Wedd
Rachel White
Cheryl Whitehead
Sue Whitley
Ken Williams
Judy Williams
Witt Medicine Corporation
Janet Wong
Richard & Sue Woodhouse
Susan Wright
Gloria Young
Theresa Young
Anonymous (344)

\$250 - \$499

Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Ass.
Douglas Barrett & Hatty Reisman
Michael Brunton
Margarete Cameron
Chris Chambers
Michael Clarke
Colucent Environmental Inc.
Angelica Devos
Belinda Elysee-Collen
Kirk Gabel
Ralph Gardave
Geoffrey Hodgetts
Rod and Joanne Jones
Robbie & Dorinda Keith

Kathleen Kidd
Roger & Sandi Little
Jonathan Mahood
Michael McCain
Kenton Otterbein & Glenda Clayton
Margaret Pomeroy
Katherine Rein
Dave Sharpe
Dr. Kimberly Warwick
Jane Whitwell
Allan Will
Anonymous (17)

\$500 - \$999

Aqua-Cage Fisheries Ltd.
Kayla Babcock
Allan Barnes
Zack Crafts & Emma Kitchen
Kevin Garland
William & Kevin Hill
Peter Ketchum
John and Marion Morris
Gerard Morton
Kerry and AJ Mueller
Muskoka Turf & Property
Management
Andrea J. Tang
Libby Wildman & John
O'Connell
Anonymous (15)

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Dr. Jonathan Collins
Ed & Kathy Garner
Aaron Gascoyne Kayak Ontario
Jan Ruby & Mary Thomson
Dave & Cathy MacMillan
Richard & Karen Zurawski
Anonymous (6)

\$2500 - \$4,999

Dr. and Ms. James D. Curtis
Tom & Cathy Kavassalis

\$5,000 - \$9,999

The M. H. Brigham Foundation
Val Koziol
Anonymous (2)

Business Memberships

30,000 Island Cruise Lines Inc.
Ardeleana Chambermusic Society
Ballentine Construction
Beacon Marine
Big Canoe Project
Black Stock Financial
Born On the Bay
Brady Carpenter Graphic Designer
Brightlight Health Consulting
Coco Can
Community Business & Development Centre
Coolearth Architecture Inc.
Desmasdon's Boat Works
Diamond Waters Sailing
Distler Construction Ltd
Ecophylla Consulting
Elm Cove Cottages
Empringham Bridger -
RBC Dominion Securities
For the Bees Farm
Hall Construction
Healey Lake Property Owners Assoc.
Huckleberry's
Mary Street Centre
Oak Bay Luxury Getaway
Ontario Sea Kayak Centre
Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association
Parry Sound Forest School
Parry Sound Insurance
Point Pleasant Marina
Popovich Associates
Querencia Partners
Rumball Camp Of The Deaf
Sail Parry Sound
Sound Boat Works
South Channel Association
Town of Parry Sound
Township of Perry
Tree Chic Design
Trestle Brewing Company Ltd.
White Squall
Wright's Marina



GEORGIAN BAY BIOSPHERE MNIDOO GAMII

Visit us at gbbr.ca

705.774.0987

P.O. BOX 662
Parry Sound, ON
CANADA P2A 2Z1

info@gbbr.ca

[@GBayBiosphere](https://www.instagram.com/GBayBiosphere)

In Memory

James Bradshaw
Peter Cribbie
Julie Davis
John Winniett Digby
Jessica Hume
Gloria Malach
Paul McDonald
Ken and Thelma Prentice
Roy Schatz
Elizabeth (Keefe) Snook
Carl Tang
Grant Thompson
Phil Throop
Jack F. Wilson
Robert Young
Walter & Stella Yusko

In Honour

Catherine Allen-Voll
Tom Baker
Paul Dunning
Emily Fells & Ghislain Henry
GBAY
Katrina Krievins
Len & Erica Loevenmark
Bill Loughheed
Will Maich
Helen Mason
The Outer Islands Project
Nick Pol
Nicky Recollet

We are very appreciative of your support of the Georgian Bay Biosphere! Please reach out to us if you would like to learn more about the work we do or if you have questions.

Thom Morrissey 