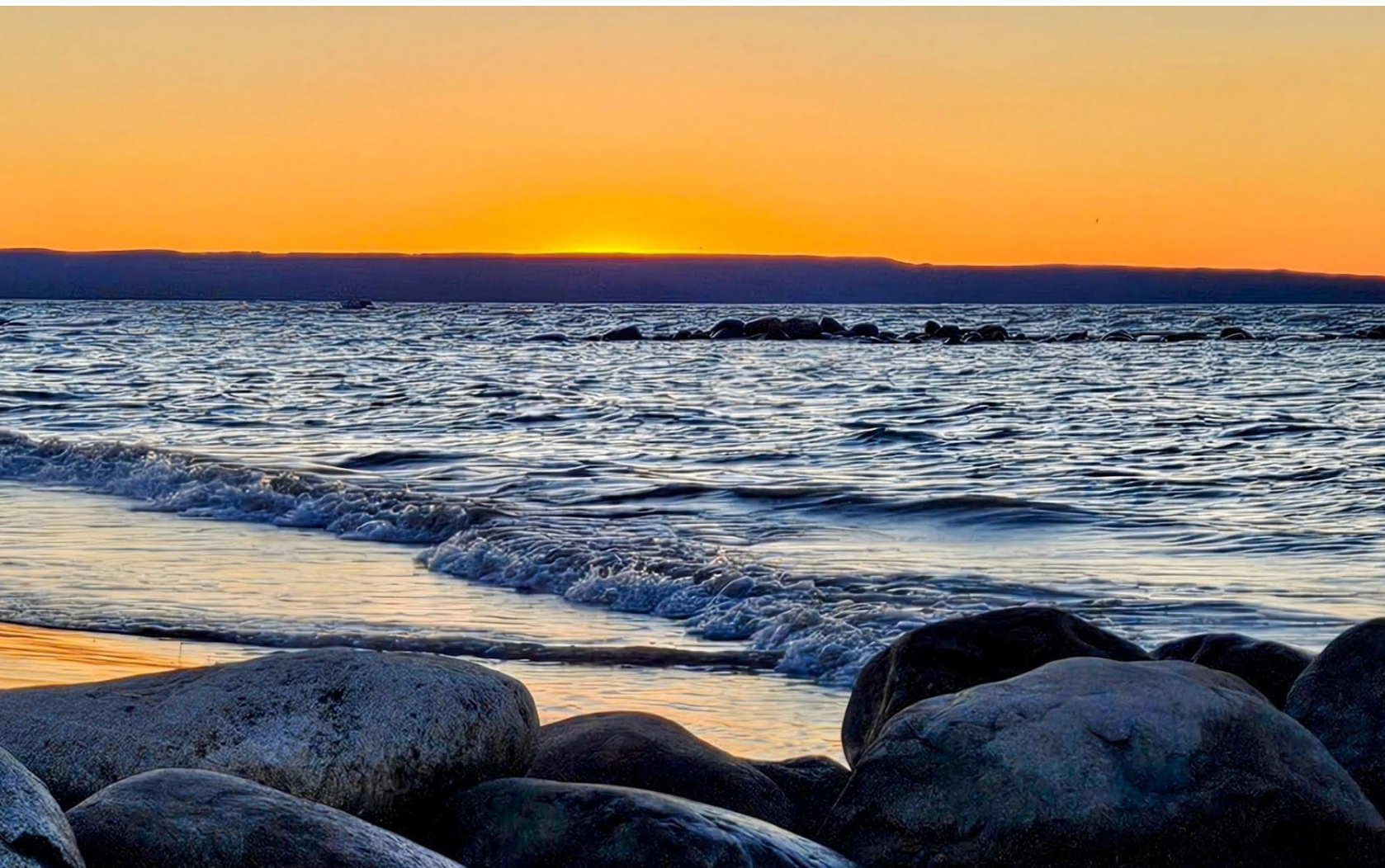




FUTURE-PROOFING *The Georgian Bay Ecosystem*

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Henry Currie
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Short-term thinking is a dangerous way to address environmental issues. In a capitalist and political sense, short-term thinking prioritizes quarterly profits, election viability, and tangible gains, while neglecting to include long-term consequences in the decision-making process. What were once problems for future generations are now here—human-made climate change, coastal erosion, widespread food and water insecurity, extreme weather events—it's time to face these issues with long-term, sustainable action.

Georgian Bay Forever and the far-reaching conservation work we are able to accomplish rely on the foresight and holistic thinking of our discerning supporters, partners, volunteers, and donors. While the overarching global systems are, more often than not, designed to generate immediate gains, our planet's future will come down to the actions of those who prioritize the long-term health of the environment.

A Message from
Robert Turner,
Chair of Georgian Bay Forever



Welcome to summer—our boats are out of storage, our above- and underwater data-gathering vehicles are tuned up, and our summer students have been hired. Off we go!

In 2025, GBF translated a record of nearly \$1.4M in revenue into measurable ecological gains. We strengthened our scientific capacity, expanded community engagement, and achieved impressive outcomes within our changing environmental landscape. Our projects delivered real-world, quantifiable results, and you can expect 2026 to be even better.

This edition’s theme is future-proofing Georgian Bay, and it highlights concepts of our long-term thinking. We reiterate what we hear from our donors: “Water is our most valuable natural resource;” and what we hear from our partners: “Water is life—let’s treat it that way.” As such, supporting water quality and focusing on its conservation stays paramount.

Enjoy this edition’s articles that drill down on this theme; and please get outside to celebrate, revel in, and help everyone protect our amazing Georgian Bay.

GEORGIAN BAY FOREVER
Research, Education, Action

Georgian Bay Forever is a community response to the growing need for major research and education to sustain the Georgian Bay aquatic ecosystem and the quality of life its communities and visitors enjoy.

We help monitor Georgian Bay’s well-being, throughout the seasons, year after year.

We fund the research needed to protect the environmental health of Georgian Bay and the surrounding watershed. Using our research findings, we inform and educate the general public and governments about threats to environmental health, and propose possible solutions.

Through workshops, seminars, and online communication, we are educating the Georgian Bay community. By teaming up with reputable institutions, we enhance the credibility of our research and strengthen our ability to protect what’s at stake.

Georgian Bay Forever is a registered Canadian charity (#89531 1066 RR0001). We work with the Great Lakes Basin Conservancy in the United States, as well as other stakeholder groups all around the Great Lakes.

Georgian Bay Forever is steered by our esteemed board of directors, a group of dedicated individuals who are committed to ensuring the functionality and purpose of our organization. They bring their experience and expertise to all aspects of operation, with the common goal of protecting and conserving Georgian Bay.



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Canadian citizens may send their donations to the address above.
U.S. citizens wishing to make a donation to support our work can do so by giving to: Great Lakes Basin Conservancy
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This newsletter is just a snapshot of our work. For the most up-to-date information on our projects, longer versions of newsletter articles, and breaking news about Georgian Bay, please become a regular visitor to our Facebook page and website:

GBF.ORG

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Short-Term Concepts of Value: Industrial Growth at the Expense of Freshwater

By Laura Thippawong

Water is now widely considered by scientists to be the most crucial natural resource in need of protection. Though all natural resources are significant to the Earth’s ecosystem, water is finite, under severe threat, and essential for all life on this planet. Yet, in high income areas of the world, the priority of economic growth often surpasses the vital need for sustainability. In short-term thinking, as long as clean water is flowing from the tap, water conservation is not an urgent issue. But despite the falsely perceived endlessness of clean water in economically advanced regions, the veiled threat of unchecked industrial growth to clean water is increasing.

The essentiality of water goes overlooked not for a lack of global crisis, but because of the beliefs held by many regarding that crisis. People in developed countries tend to hold an abundance bias regarding water: in many communities surrounding the Great Lakes, for example, the ability to turn on the tap and receive a seemingly limitless supply of clean, drinkable water is enough to placate any fear of water scarcity. The UN, however, has recently declared a state of “global water bankruptcy”, with global demand for freshwater projected to exceed supply by 40% by 2030, and many regions having already exhausted their supplies through overextraction and pollution. Water suited for human use is in short supply, with a rising global demand, and deadly shortages estimated for over 2 billion people. Given the vast interconnectedness of water, a freshwater deficit could become a reality for any community.

One way forward is to embrace personal accountability and an analytical outlook regarding industrial water waste of the more insidious offenders, the ones whose effect on water may be easily obscured from the public. Fast fashion and high-volume discount online market industries are responsible for roughly 10% of the world’s carbon emissions and for consuming an estimated 79 billion cubic metres of water per year, making it the second-largest water-wasting industry in the world. Likewise, the monolithic growth of new technologies such as generative AI and cryptocurrency for the sake of frivolous use-cases indirectly contributes to the extensive waste of drinking water required to cool hyperscale data centers and power the massive electrical output needed to support the ubiquity of these technologies. In Ontario alone, two known Microsoft data centers have been quietly cleared by governmental authorities to consume



substantive amounts of drinking water. According to CBC, Microsoft’s Etobicoke data centre “was approved to use up to 39.75 litres of water per second for cooling purposes.” A spokesperson for Microsoft assures the Canadian public that they will keep water conservation in mind, but recent history shows us otherwise. In 2021, a Microsoft data center in the Netherlands used 84 million liters of water, four times their annual projection, while locals were asked to limit their own water use. These industries have something in common: while there are legitimate needs for clothing production and technological development, the commercial push for every consumer to weave these products into every aspect of daily life comes at the cost of the environment. Most people don’t need to buy new clothes every week (the average person buys 60% more clothing since 2000); people don’t need and mostly don’t want AI-generated media content or entertainment (prompting a five-second video requires roughly 3.4 million joules, the equivalent of running a microwave for over an hour). But a consumer’s gratuitous use of a product is the goal. Those at the tops of these industries will not self-impose regulations as long as the accumulation of wealth is at stake. It falls to the consumer to adopt a critical mindset and demand environmental accountability from dominant industries.

The value of freshwater is foundational to all life on Earth. Protecting the health of water and allowing for sustainable regeneration is essential, but regardless of this basic truth, the momentum of profit-fueled industry growth continues to devastate the limited natural resources available to sustain our global ecosystem. Without intervention and the public’s demand for industry regulation, rapid industrial growth will continue barrelling toward irreversible disaster. It’s up to the public, the long-term thinkers, and those concerned for future generations to demand sustainable practices. How we choose to take care of natural resources will determine the ultimate prognosis for life on this planet.



An Interview with Pengfei Xue

This interview is the abridged version. For the full version visit our [blog](#).

IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH AN ANONYMOUS FOUNDATION, GEORGIAN BAY FOREVER WAS CHOSEN IN 2026 TO HELP GUIDE AND FACILITATE THE SELECTION OF FIVE PROJECTS, LED BY OUTSTANDING US RESEARCHERS, DIRECTLY IN LINE WITH OUR MISSION TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE GEORGIAN BAY THROUGH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR LONG-TERM IMPACT. DUE TO DISBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS, THIS FUNDING COULD ONLY BE GIVEN TO ORGANIZATIONS REGISTERED IN BOTH THE US AND CANADA, SO WHILE GBF COULD NOT DIRECTLY RECEIVE FUNDING, WE WILL CONTINUE DOCUMENTING THESE PROJECTS IN THE YEARS TO COME. WE ARE HONOURED TO INTRODUCE THE FIRST OF THESE PROJECTS HERE.

Project: Building Coastal Resilience in Georgian Bay
Primary Investigator: Dr. Pengfei Xue
Institution: Michigan Technological University

How would you describe this project to someone you just met?

This project is about helping Georgian Bay prepare for a future with more extreme coastal conditions driven by climate change. In recent years, we’ve seen record-high water levels, stronger storms, reduced winter ice cover, and accelerated shoreline erosion across the Great Lakes region—but right now, there isn’t a comprehensive, science-based picture of where these hazards are most severe, how they interact, or how they’re likely to change in the future. Our team is building what I’d call a “coastal resilience map” for Georgian Bay. We simulate water levels, waves, storms, sediment movement, ice dynamics, and shoreline change under present-day and future climate conditions;

all tailored specifically for the unique and highly diverse coastline of Georgian Bay.

Ultimately, the goal is to turn all of this science into practical, map-based tools and datasets that Georgian Bay Forever and its partners can use for conservation planning, community decision-making, and long-term climate adaptation. We want to bridge the gap between what advanced coastal science can tell us and what people on the ground need to protect their shorelines and ecosystems.

How did you get started in this area of research? What interests you about this field of study?

I have always been fascinated by water and the natural environment. Growing up, I was deeply interested in how

lakes, oceans, weather, and climate interact with each other. That curiosity eventually led me to study oceanography and environmental fluid dynamics during my academic training.

What motivates me most is that this research has very real impacts on people and ecosystems. Climate impact is not an abstract future problem, it is already affecting communities, shorelines, habitats, and infrastructure around the Great Lakes. It’s one thing to publish a paper about wave dynamics or sediment transport—it’s another to put tools in the hands of communities and decision-makers that help them move from reacting to disasters toward proactively preparing for them.

I also find Georgian Bay especially inspiring because it is both environmentally and culturally significant. It contains extraordinary coastal ecosystems, wetlands, islands, and shorelines that deserve long-term protection. Being able to contribute science that helps preserve such an important region is very meaningful to me personally and professionally.

Why does Georgian Bay and the environment at large need this research right now?

The urgency comes from the fact that climate-driven coastal changes are already happening, and our response is lagging behind a new reality: extreme variability. While the 2019–2020 record highs were a dramatic wake-up call for Georgian Bay, the true new normal is a volatile tug-of-war between rapid rises and sudden drops. This unpredictability driven by shifting evaporation and intense storm surges means that today’s flooded dock can become tomorrow’s stranded shoreline, leaving communities and ecosystems caught in a constant state of transition.

One major challenge is that we still lack detailed, integrated scientific information about where the greatest risks are located and how those risks may evolve. Georgian Bay’s coastline is incredibly diverse—rocky headlands, sandy beaches, wetlands, erodible bluffs—and each respond to climate stresses differently. We need an integrated, Bay-wide assessment that accounts for how extreme water levels, wave dynamics, sediment transport, and ice conditions interact across this complex coastline.

The sooner we develop reliable science-based tools, the more effectively we can reduce future environmental and economic impacts.

How will this project affect the ecosystem of the Georgian Bay area and the Great Lakes in the long run?

This project is designed to create long-term scientific and management benefits rather than immediate physical changes to the environment. The greatest impact will come

“SUSTAINABILITY IS NOT ONLY ABOUT LARGE GLOBAL ACTIONS, IT IS ALSO ABOUT CONSISTENT LOCAL STEWARDSHIP AND LONG-TERM THINKING.”

from improving our ability to anticipate and respond to coastal risks before they become severe environmental problems.

In the near term, the project will identify which shorelines are most vulnerable to flooding and erosion and where erosion hotspots are developing. That information alone is highly valuable, it allows conservation organizations like Georgian Bay Forever to prioritize where to focus stewardship efforts, where habitat protection is most urgent, and where climate adaptation strategies are needed most.

The ripple effect comes from how the information gets used over time. Ultimately, the goal is to help communities and ecosystems become more resilient, to move from reactive responses after a disaster to proactive planning that anticipates change.

What advice would you give to individuals who want to help create a more sustainable environment?

One of the most important things people can do is recognize that sustainability is not only about large global actions, it is also about consistent local stewardship and long-term thinking. Environmental systems are interconnected, and small decisions about shoreline management, land use, water protection, and community planning can collectively have major impacts over time.

I would encourage individuals to pay attention to the water and land around them. Environmental change doesn’t always announce itself with a dramatic event. Sometimes it’s a shoreline that looks a little different each year.

Stay informed, and engage with the science. You don’t have to be a scientist to understand a hazard map or a flood risk assessment. Informed citizens make better advocates and better decision-makers. And support the organizations doing the work like GBF are essential connectors between science and action, translating complex research into real conservation outcomes.

The world needs people who can bridge rigorous science with practical outcomes and that’s exactly the kind of work this project represents.



Dr. Pengfei Xue, Michigan Technological University
Associate Director, Great Lakes Research Center
Professor, Civil, Environmental, and Geospatial Engineering
Director, Center for Environmental Engineering, Sensing, and Integrated Modeling

Henry Currie is an International Development student at the University of Waterloo. Growing up in Georgian Bay, his studies build on his passion for community, environmental sustainability, and social justice. He has worked with Georgian Bay Forever on their Plastic Pollution Team both as program assistant and as a team lead.

When I was a child, I was lucky to have been taken care of. I was supported, loved and protected. Part of that protection included a lack of autonomy; decisions were made for me because I was too young to know better. When it comes to the International Development field and tackling issues such as water insecurity or climate change, there is often an assumption that those most impacted, especially in the Global South, much like a child, do not know better. International organizations or nations assume that the local communities where issues arise lack the knowledge and means to solve them on their own, thereby justifying the need for intervention. This is often done by deploying technical experts to the region to develop a solution. However, this top-down strategy does not always lead to success.

As a hypothetical example, a rural area in Zimbabwe has less agricultural activity than other towns in the region. As part of the Sustainable Development Goals, an international organization might send a team to address food insecurity concerns. Each member of this team is an

expert in their field, with rigorous training and experience in Western nations. They enter the community and, within a few months, have constructed a farm. Upon completion, the project is declared a success, and the team moves on to the next project. However, six months later, they return to find the farm has been abandoned. Perplexed, the team interviews the community to find out what happened. They did everything right, so why was the town not using it?

After living and working in Zimbabwe for months, this was the first time the team had ever interacted with the locals. They walked through the town, seeing children playing and elderly women laughing while they wove baskets. No one looked malnourished or hungry, as they had assumed. After speaking to one of the older women, she explained that every day, one family member would walk to the next town over to get their food. In exchange, the town provides other goods or services, such as medicinal plants, clothing, or childcare. None of them was willing to give up the tradition of mutual support, social interaction, and community building. Even though the area seemed to be struggling on paper, they are doing just fine without a

farm or intervention, because they have other people to rely on. Anyone in the village could have informed the team, but they never thought to ask.

Unfortunately, examples like this are far too common in reality. There is often a fundamental separation between the people who are supposed to benefit and the “product” being developed. Within this gap is the assumption of universal applicability, that technical solutions developed in one area of the world will automatically work in another. Therefore, intervention becomes a series of pre-packaged solutions rather than a collaborative process.

This gap is common in the environmentalism space as well. Sustainability is often viewed through a technical and scientific lens, without acknowledging the cultural impact on

communities. Public engagement in sustainable discussions about our infrastructure, energy use, and pollution is often an afterthought rather than central to the solution. The focus becomes getting people on board with a project rather than involving them in its development. There is, then, surprise when such projects are shut down due to public opposition—a waste of time, money, and energy. While science and innovation have the potential for positive impact, they are often proposed as value-neutral. Viewing issues and regions solely through this lens ignores the lived reality of the people who reside there. This is why local participation is so critical. A localized strategy for sustainability, often known as a bottom-up or grassroots approach, functions differently. Rather than treating the area’s residents as an obstacle to overcome, it starts with their values, history, and needs.

In ecology, scientists acknowledge that each ecosystem is unique. While there are many recognized similarities, each is treated as worthy in its own right rather than as a replica of another. This is the strategy we need for people who are as embedded in the ecosystem as anything else. As members of the community, our goal should be to connect sustainable goals and interventions



“Real sustainability is more than new energy sources and market shifts. It is social, cultural and environmental.”



to things that people care about. We should be finding ways to use sustainable practices to improve people’s everyday lives. That means what communities have to say matters. Real sustainability is more than new energy sources and market shifts. It is social, cultural and environmental. It is a pairing of old and new ideas to create something better. Most of all, it is the acknowledgement that people are not separate from nature, but rather a part of it. A sustainable future does not exist without us. It will not be effective if decisions continue to be made for us, about us, and without us, regardless of which country they are made in. If we want to grow a better tomorrow, we need to start from the ground up.

By Henry Currie

GROWING A BETTER FUTURE

WHY WE NEED MORE LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

HOW BUILDING A STRONG DATA SET TODAY PROTECTS GEORGIAN BAY FOR THE LONG TERM

By David Sweetnam

If we want to protect Georgian Bay for future generations, we need more than good intentions—we need evidence—strong, long-term, high-resolution evidence.

If we want to protect Georgian Bay for future generations, we need more than good intentions—we need evidence—strong, long-term, high-resolution evidence. Georgian Bay Forever’s research program is built on a simple premise: the Bay experiences great change, and the only way to safeguard it is to understand those changes with scientific precision. Now, with significant water quality project support from donors, we are investing in continuous sensor networks, deploying our AUV (in partnership with Western University and Wilfrid Laurier University) and ROV for lakebed imaging, and testing with our newly added bacteriological equipment. Our Remotely Operated Aircraft System, which carries a multispectral camera for species-identification surveys, even allows us to see the year-over-year changes in invasive species’ extent in our precious coastal wetlands. Together, these tools allow us to build a data set capable of guiding long-term sustainability decisions across the entire ecosystem.

Over the past decade, climate change, invasive species, nutrient shifts, shoreline development, and storm driven runoff have altered the Bay in ways that are often subtle and cumulative. These pressures do not announce themselves. They appear in temperature profiles, dissolved oxygen

curves, sediment movement, microbial activity, and the quiet expansion of nuisance algae. Without data, these signals remain invisible. With data, they become actionable.

AUV: Seeing the Bay in High Resolution

Our Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) is transforming how we understand the Bay’s underwater landscape. Instead of a handful of sampling points, we can now collect thousands of measurements in a single mission, all mapped across depth and geography.

This matters because Georgian Bay is not one environment; it is many. AUV based surveys give us the spatial resolution to detect these differences in environment, identify vulnerable habitats, and track early signs of ecological stress before they escalate into crises.

A Visual Record of the Lakebed

Alongside chemical and physical measurements, GBF is building a living visual archive of the lakebed. High-definition imagery allows us to document habitat conditions, invasive mussel colonization, vegetation changes, and sediment dynamics. These images serve as a



Our AUV in Action

baseline—a reference point that allows us to detect change over time.

When we return to the same sites year after year, we can see whether native vegetation is recovering, algal mats are expanding, or storm events are reshaping the shoreline.

Sensors That Capture the Bay’s Rhythms

While AUVs give us depth and detail, our new network of sondes and sensors will give us continuity. These instruments measure temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, and other indicators around the clock and upload them to our servers, capturing the Bay’s daily and seasonal rhythms.

Continuous data is essential because the Bay is dynamic. In-situ sensors allow us to understand not just what is happening, but why.

Adding to Our Bacteriological Baseline

This year, GBF added a new capability: advanced bacteriological testing using our TECTA B 16 system. This allows us to measure E. coli, total coliforms, fecal coliforms, and enterococcus with laboratory grade precision. These tests build on the foundational 10-year bacteriological

study funded by GBF in the Township of Georgian Bay, the high-frequency coliform testing completed in 2012, and the microbial source tracking investigations we published in 2014 to examine sources of bacteria in the water, and ongoing programs—work that remains posted on our website and continues to guide shoreline stewardship today.

By updating and expanding that baseline data-collection capability, we can now track and partially automate how warming waters, stormwater pulses, wildlife pressures, and shoreline development influence bacterial levels. This is critical for both ecological health and human safety.

Understanding Nuisance Algae and Water Clarity

Our nuisance algae research, conducted in partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada, has already shown how nutrient inputs, invasive mussels, and warming temperatures interact to shape algal growth. These findings help us understand why some shorelines experience persistent algal accumulations while others do not—and what interventions might be beneficial.

Integrating this work with our physical, chemical, and bacteriological data gives us a more complete picture of the Bay’s nearshore dynamics.

Why Baseline Data Matters for Restoration

Strong baseline data does more than describe the Bay—it allows us to measure the impact of our actions. When we re-naturalize a shoreline, restore a wetland, or reduce runoff, we need to know whether the ecosystem responds in a positive way. Does water clarity improve? Do bacterial levels decline? Does habitat quality recover? Without baseline data, these questions are unanswerable. With it, we can evaluate success, refine our methods, and scale up what works. This is how science becomes stewardship.

A Community Powered Future

None of this work happens alone. Our research program is strengthened by partnerships with universities, municipalities, First Nations, cottagers, and volunteers who help collect shoreline observations, deploy sensors, and support field missions. Georgian Bay’s future depends on a community that is informed, engaged, and equipped with the best possible evidence.

As we build this long term data set, we are building something else as well: the capacity to protect Georgian Bay not just today, but decades from now. The Bay deserves nothing less.

Where Are They Now?

Education is one of the three pillars of Georgian Bay Forever’s mission to conserve and protect Georgian Bay’s ecosystem. But education isn’t one-sided; the opportunity to learn is continuous, symbiotic, and uniting. We’re not just here to tell you what we know, we’re here to listen to the experience and knowledge of others, so we can contribute in the most meaningful way possible. Active listening and cooperative learning are what make for a good steward, and that’s why we couldn’t be prouder of the work that former Georgian Bay Forever summer students are doing out in the world today.

We hope that their time with GBF was educational and inspiring, and that they have taken what they learned with us for the sake of improving the world for generations to come. We continue to learn from and are inspired by each of them.

JULIA NEWTON

Since my time working at Georgian Bay Forever in 2023, I’ve continued building a career in the environmental field, exploring various paths such as sustainable forestry research, and watershed monitoring.

I currently work in Perth, Western Australia, as an environmental technician, where I conduct field work including data and sample collection to support environmental rehabilitation and remediation in the mining industry. I hope to continue exploring my passion for environmental conservation while learning from others dedicated to creating a more sustainable future.

AEDAN SHEEHAN

After graduating earlier this spring I decided to begin working in the environmental consulting industry. My new role is focused on geotechnical engineering and offers me a wide variety of experience. Although I am still figuring out what I would like to do with my career, I hope to one day take the technical knowledge I am gaining and put it towards meaningful wetland conservation projects.

MEGAN VERHOEVEN

After graduation, I joined the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada as a Species at Risk Biologist. Working across teams in the Species at Risk program has given me a strong understanding of what it takes to implement recovery actions. I began on the Recovery Document team, helping develop and publish legislative documents for aquatic species at risk.

I’ve since moved to the Grants and Contributions team, supporting delivery of the Canadian Nature Fund to advance on-the-ground recovery projects. I hope to push for multi-species approaches, meaningful action, and work that keeps people inspired to protect the environment.

Donor Profile: Annabelle White

Annabelle White often reflects on how her connection to Georgian Bay began even before her birth. While her mother, Martha, swam in and drew nourishment from its life-giving waters, that bond became part of Annabelle’s very foundation. Known to most as Bella, she grew up with an adventurous spirit, nurtured by parents who recognized and encouraged her deepening connection to the natural world. She spent summers along the Bay, following in her parents’ footsteps, and fostered a lasting attachment that remains central to her identity. Even the beauty of the mountains, rivers, and lakes of British Columbia could not rival the sense of belonging she feels for the Bay, which, in every sense, is home.

In 1992, at 19, Bella experienced the profound loss of her mother, followed by the loss of her brother in 2015. These tragedies reshaped her life, bringing not only grief but new responsibility. As one of the beneficiaries of a successful family legacy in media, she found herself in a position of significant means at a young age. Determined to create a meaningful and lasting impact, Bella sought guidance from a financial coach to help clarify her purpose and direction. Through this process, she identified the causes most important to her: clean water, sustainable energy, Indigenous communities, and the reduction of environmental toxins.

From this period of reflection emerged The Dragonfly Fund, a philanthropic organization named after Bella’s animal totem. The organization embodies her commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility, and is guided by a close-knit team who share her connection to Georgian Bay.

Through The Dragonfly Fund, Bella has



supported critical water preservation efforts locally, while extending her impact to northern communities. One of her favourite key initiatives focused on Clyde River, located in Baffin Island, where she invested in a social enterprise dedicated to providing Inuit communities with diverse programming in a culturally grounded and supportive environment across Canada’s Arctic.

Bella attributes her commitment to giving to the example set by her parents and grandparents, whose values emphasized community, stewardship, and generosity. Inspired by their legacy, she continues to support the places and causes that have shaped her life.

While she remains deeply grateful for the freedom and connection she

has experienced on the shores of Georgian Bay, Bella is acutely aware of the environmental challenges it faces. She encourages a more thoughtful, long-term perspective—one that considers both ancestral and future generations—and calls for greater awareness of the cumulative impact of individual actions. Her work is driven by a belief in the urgency of protecting natural resources, particularly water, which she sees as both vulnerable and essential.

Ultimately, Bella hopes her legacy will reflect not only her deep connection to Georgian Bay, but also her commitment to preserving it. She aims to inspire others to recognize the magic of these nurturing waters, to share in their protection, and to engage more consciously with the environment we all depend on.



All images on this page courtesy of Annabelle White

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