



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



GEORGIAN BAY BIOSPHERE MNIDOO GAMII



Celebrating 20 Years as a UNESCO Biosphere!



Greg Mason

Director of Operations



Dr. Rebecca Pollock

Executive Director



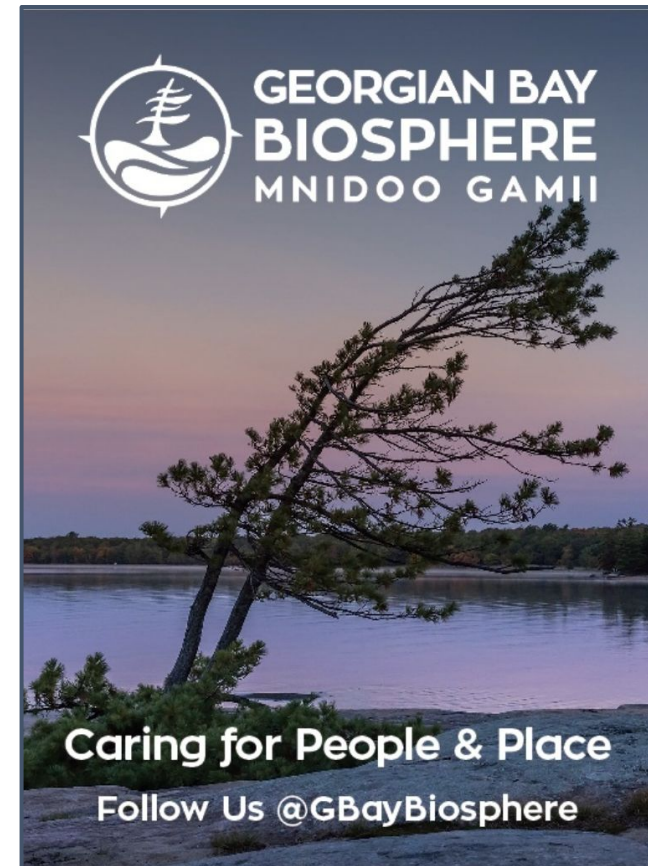
Benjamin John

Climate & Energy Programs Manager



Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere (GBB) Overview

- **Non-profit**, registered Canadian charity
- **24 full-time employees** + 10 seasonal
- **\$2.95 M into the local economy**, annually
- **Work with 100+ partners** to advance sustainability for the region



Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere

2024 Highlights

5,942 volunteer citizen scientists

1,000 children participate in outdoor activities

500+ turtle eggs rescued, 10K since 2020

350 lbs of food donated from 70 garden plots

75+ free public events, workshops, guided hikes

22 sites tested for water quality

10 area councils committed to climate action



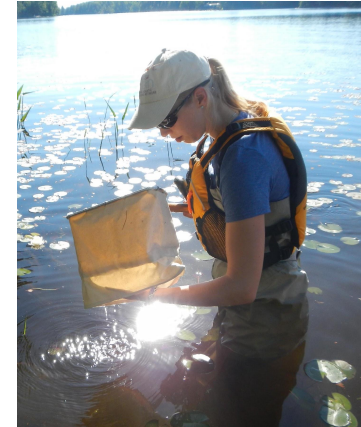
Conservation: Environmental Stewardship

1. Biodiversity Research & Species at Risk

- Reptile Road Mortality Research
- Turtle Egg Rescue, Incubation & Release
- Best Management Practices & Training

2. State of the Bay - Ecosystem Health Program

3. Natural Asset Management Planning



Education: Youth Outreach & Engagement

- 1. Lessons-in-a-Backpack at 12 local schools**
- 2. Free family events, workshops and guided hikes**
 - Earth Day Festival
 - Turtle Open House
 - Glow in the Dark Hike
- 3. Kids in the Biosphere summer program**
- 4. Planting pollinator gardens**



Culture: Celebrating Indigenous Cultures

- 1. Honouring Indigenous culture & treaties**
 - 2. Supporting Indigenous youth**
 - 3. Revitalizing Indigenous skills & language**
- Birch bark canoe building
 - Hide tanning camp
 - Powwows
 - Canoe trips
 - Beading and quilling



Community: Creating Connections

1. **Community Gardens** - 70 plots, 20% donated

- Parry Sound
- Port Severn
- Mactier

2. **Gardening Workshops** & Teaching Guides

3. **Cooking Workshop Series** “Eat Around the Sound”

4. **Community Partnerships**



Climate: Reducing Emissions & Energy Costs

1. Regional Climate Action Plan (2023)

- GHG reduction targets for 2030, 2050
- Buildings, Transport, Waste sectors

2. ICECAP Partnership (2019)

- Corporate Action Plans
- Community Action Plans



ICECAP: Integrated Community Energy & Climate Action Plans



Serving the Region with Service Contracts

Social Enterprise “business unit”

- Uses the charity’s expertise for consulting in areas of:
 - **Strategic Planning & Feasibility Studies**
 - **Grant Writing & Project Management**
 - **Energy Management & Climate Adaptation**
 - **Ecological Services**
- Helps clients & region move forward on sustainability.



How Can We Help?

- What are your Council's needs?
- How can GBB be of service?
- What partnerships will meet your goals?
- **Thank you for your time!**

