



Biosphere Reserve







# Life on the Bay

## A Stewardship Guide for Eastern Georgian Bay



**To support healthy ecosystems through care and protection for our shorelines and waters**

## **Worksheets and Action Plans**

1. Getting to Know Your Property
- ✓ 2. Before and During Construction on Land
- ✓ 3. Before and During Construction on Water
4. Your Drinking Water
  - a. Water Runoff Management
  - b. Surface Water
  - c. Private Wells
5. Your Wastewater and Septic System
6. Water Based Recreation
- ✓ 7. Gardening and Landscaping
  - a. Natural Buffers and Shoreline Access
  - b. Trees and Plants on your Property
  - c. Nutrients
  - d. Water Efficiency
8. Your Garbage
9. Storage and Proper Handling of Fuels, Pesticides and Other Household Chemicals
- ✓ 10. Living with Wildlife
  - a. Species at Risk



# Building in the Biosphere

## How To Identify Species At Risk Habitat





You have selected **ROCK BARREN**.

Rock barrens are often thought of as the perfect building location, since construction will minimize impacts to forests and vegetation. However, building footprints on rock barrens need to be carefully selected, since many species at risk use rock barrens for important life stages. For example, pregnant female Massasauga Rattlesnakes use rock barrens as a gestation site and Ontario's only lizard, the Five-lined Skink, relies on a network of plate-sized rocks to avoid predators and regulate their body temperatures.

Since the objective of the screening tool is to avoid impacting species at risk habitat, we're going to show you habitat features to avoid in rock barrens (see the pictures below). Leaving these habitat features alone will likely avoid harm to species at risk habitat.

1. Table rock – roughly 30 cm thick by 1 x 1.5 m wide. As shown in the picture, table rocks usually have other rocks adjacent to it and a hole/cavity underneath. Also, table rocks are typically exposed to direct sunlight and have grasses or shrubs on several sides.
2. Sloped, fractured bedrock within 100 metres of Georgian Bay.
3. Depressions in the rock surface that support sphagnum moss and several trees, such as White Pine or Red Oak. These areas are damp in both spring and fall.



# Beneficial Practices on Your Site

- Which species are probable? -- <http://www.gbbr.ca/our-environment/species-at-risk>
- Found a species?
  - Protect from harm and report sighting to GBBR
  - nesting turtle, snake or at-risk bird ? Mark and protect with a minimum 5 metre buffer and contact the Parry Sound MNRF Biologist (705-773-4205) for advice.
- Minimize removal of plants/trees
  - completed outside of the nesting period of May 15 to July 31.
- Use of silt cloth
  - protect nearby water bodies/streams from siltation during the construction phase however caution with heavy duty cloth .



# Best Management Practices for Public Works Departments within the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

Beaver Pond Management

Sediment Control

Park Maintenance

Herbicide Application

Road and Shoulder Grading and/or Ditching

Mowing of Roadsides

Blasting

Encountering Snakes or Turtles

Injured Turtle Protocol:

How to Move a Snake:

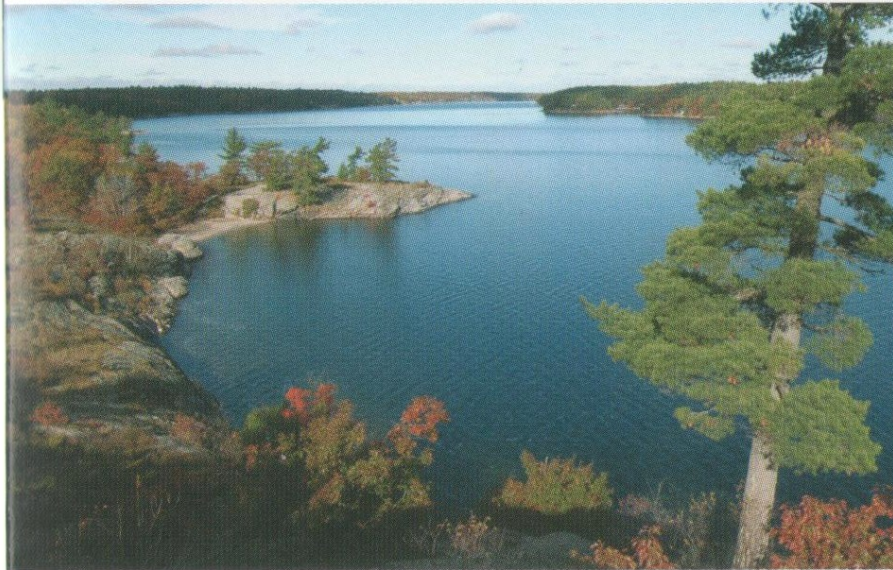
Peak Movement/Nesting Period for Local SAR Potentially Impacted by Public Works Activities

Period of Least Risk for Typical Public Works Activities



# Working in Massasauga Habitat

Massasauga – A Species at Risk  
Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

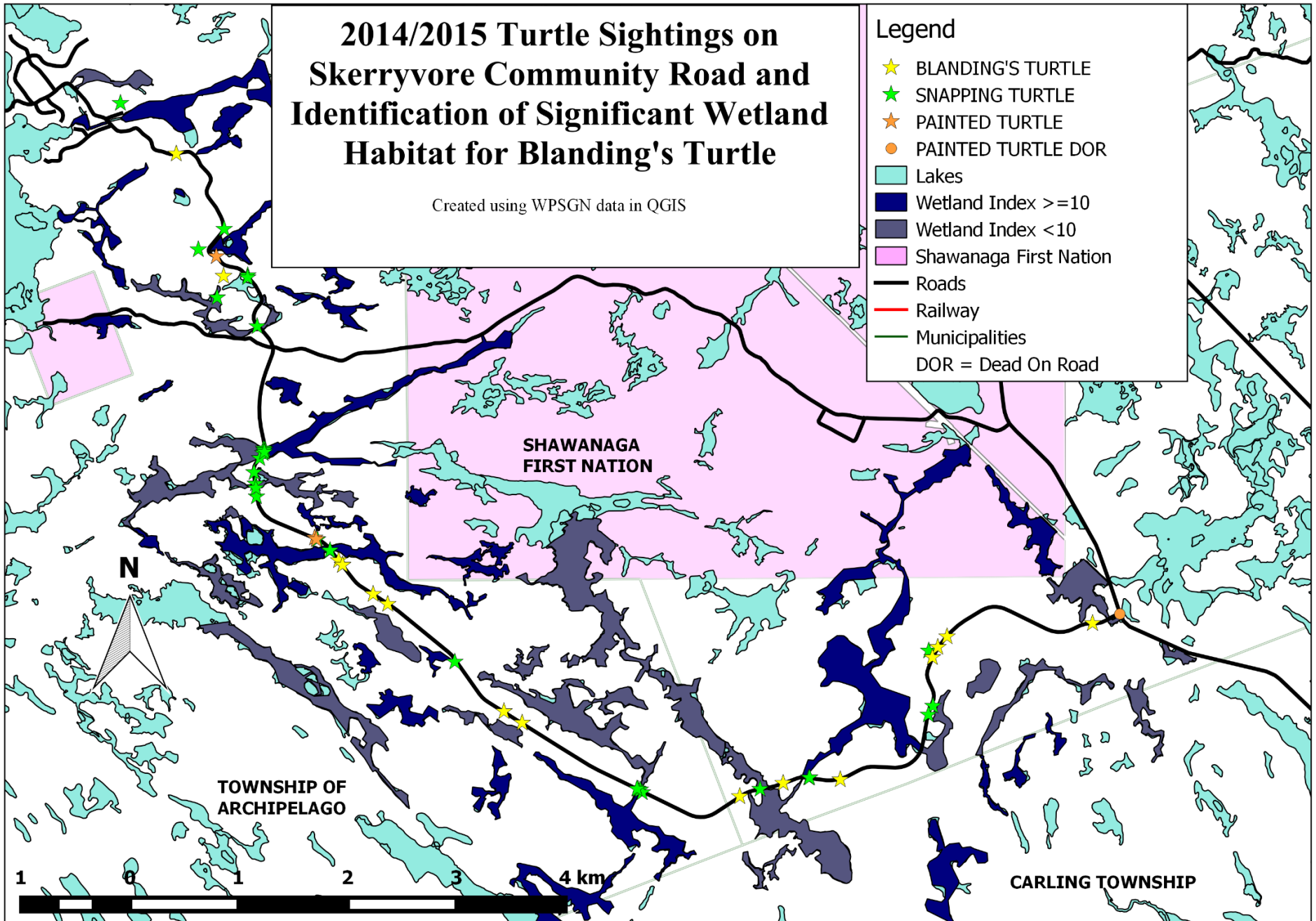


# 2014/2015 Turtle Sightings on Skerryvore Community Road and Identification of Significant Wetland Habitat for Blanding's Turtle

Created using WPSGN data in QGIS

## Legend

- ★ BLANDING'S TURTLE
- ★ SNAPPING TURTLE
- ★ PAINTED TURTLE
- PAINTED TURTLE DOR
- Lakes
- Wetland Index  $\geq 10$
- Wetland Index  $< 10$
- Shawanaga First Nation
- Roads
- Railway
- Municipalities
- DOR = Dead On Road

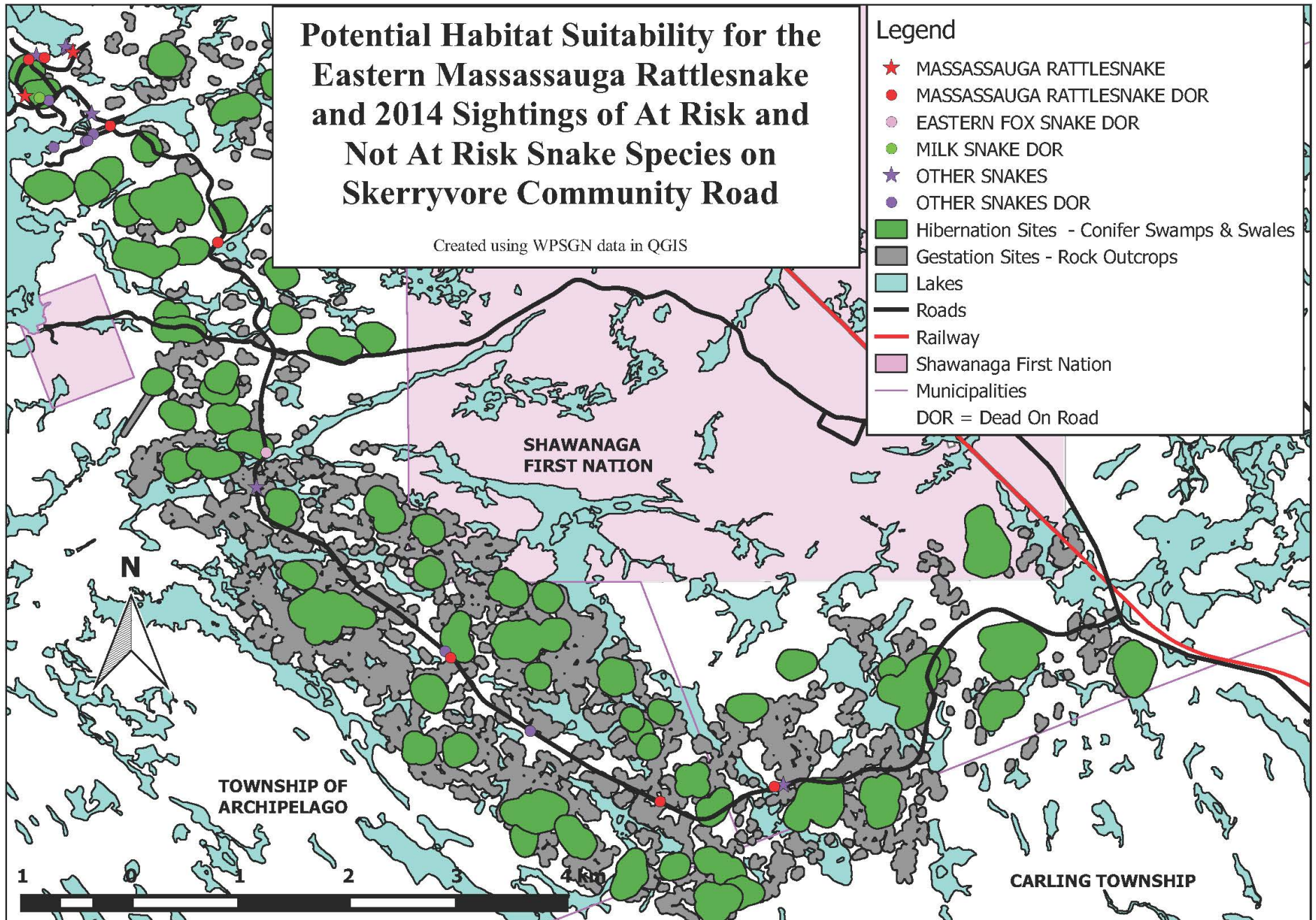


# Potential Habitat Suitability for the Eastern Massassauga Rattlesnake and 2014 Sightings of At Risk and Not At Risk Snake Species on Skerryvore Community Road

Created using WPSGN data in QGIS

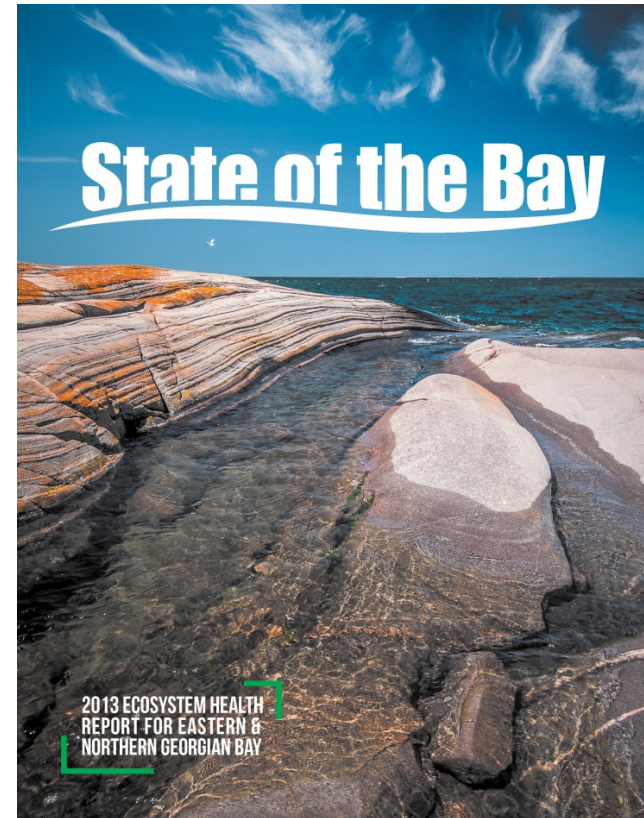
## Legend

- ★ MASSASSAUGA RATTLESNAKE
- MASSASSAUGA RATTLESNAKE DOR
- EASTERN FOX SNAKE DOR
- MILK SNAKE DOR
- ★ OTHER SNAKES
- OTHER SNAKES DOR
- Hibernation Sites - Conifer Swamps & Swales
- Gestation Sites - Rock Outcrops
- Lakes
- Roads
- Railway
- Shawanaga First Nation
- Municipalities
- DOR = Dead On Road





- Ecosystem Health Report Card
- New report card in 2018
- Effective communication tool
  - 15k copies delivered to communities
  - 6k online reads
  - 4.5k downloads
  - Collaborative project



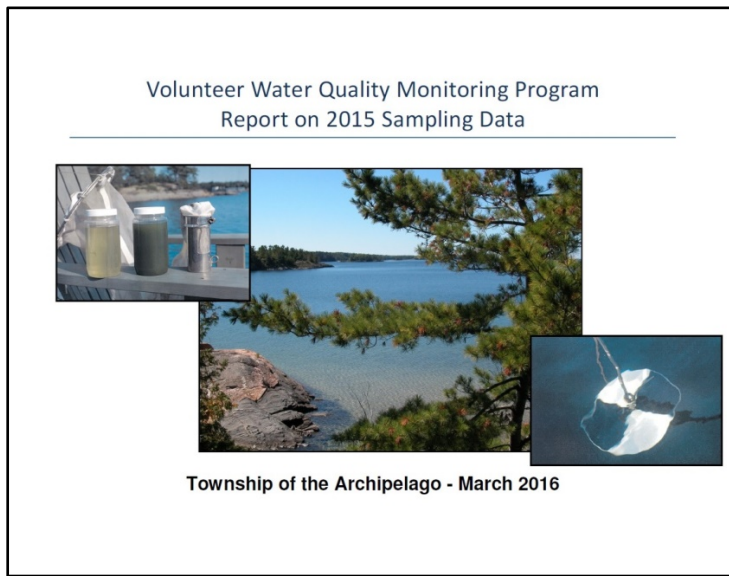
# State of the Bay

- 2013 & 2018
- Communication tool
  - 15k copies, 6k online reads, and 4.5k downloads
- New 'Landscape' indicator
  - CWS/NCC & GBLT
  - High value habitats
  - Human footprint assessment
- Spring 2017 – meet with townships to discuss tracking and reporting of 'pressures'



# ToA & GBBR Partnership

- Environmental programming
  - Water quality, forest health, workshops, and kids programming



# ToA & GBBR Partnership

- Ecological Site and Impact Assessment
  - PPS and Zoning By-laws
  - Severances and single lot development







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