

The Freshwater Connection

Publication of the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition - Spring 2024

Spring 2024
The Environmental Basics
Wonders of The Great Lakes



Report Card - The Environmental Basics

CAFC's Motto

“Here to help keep Central Algoma a place to live, swim, drink, fish and play for generations to come.”

How is Central Algoma Doing?

Provide Your Own Grades



Clean Water

- Sewage systems - functioning municipal and landowner.
- Agricultural runoff - controlling
- Toxic industrial wastewater - preventing / mitigating.
- Road salt - minimizing
- Soil erosion - controlling.



Wildlife and Habitat

- Species and ecosystems at risk - protecting / restoring.
- Biodiversity (eg. pollinators) - protecting / restoring.
- Habitat - protecting.
- Wildlife diseases - managing / mitigating / preventing.
- Shoreline / riparian - protection / restoration



Wetlands and Forests

- Flood Control
- Wetlands - maintaining / restoring.
- Officially protecting “provincially significant wetlands.”
- Forests (sustainably managed / restoration)
- Municipal Urban Trees (managing / maintaining / restoring)

Respecting the Public's Voice on the Environment

- Ontario
- Canada



Healthy Soils, Invasive Species and Climate Change

- Invasive Species - control / prevention
- Climate Change - mitigation/ adaptation
- Healthy Soil - agricultural best management practices / sustainable



NOTE - Much of this work will need to be done by volunteers on private lands and the community benefits and landowners are generally not compensated - although some funding may be available to help. CAFC may be able to assist in applying for grants.

Wonders of the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes are unique in the world and to live in their midst is awe inspiring. Great Lakes residents talk about “lake effect weather”, “lake levels”, “three-day blows”, “water piling up”, November gales”, and “seiche”.



Lake Levels

The watershed around the Great Lakes is small in relation to the size of the lakes. The annual water entering the lakes through precipitation stream flow and ground water seepage accounts for only 1% of the lakes water volume - evaporation rates are significant. This battle between inflow and evaporation causes the levels to fluctuate. The current shape of the lakes occurred as glacial melt waters filled preexisting geological structures and glacial scoured lands. The land base is still slowly rebounding from the enormous weight of glacial ice with the northern end of the lakes rebounding at a greater rate than the southern end.

Seiche Water Levels

Daily water levels can change greatly - when strong winds blow water can “pile up” down wind - this can be significant in narrow bays. The area of each individual lake is large and on occasion one end of the lake will be under high air pressure while the other end has low air pressure - this can cause a quick change in water level known as a “seiche”. When a seiche is amplified by water piling up in a narrow bay the effects of water level rise can be devastating.

Lake Effect Weather

Predicting weather along the lakes is difficult as the lakes may or may not modify the weather. The predominant movement of pressure systems in the region is from west to east. Seasonally the land cools and heats more quickly than the water. Cold air holds less moisture than hot air. “Snow belts” are areas in early winter

when cold arctic air moves from northwest to southeast across the lakes - the cold air crossing warmer waters picks up moisture - it cools when hitting shore - the cold air can not hold the moisture and it falls as snow. The impact can be reduced if the lake is ice covered.

“Blows and November Gales”

When the difference in temperature between lake waters and land masses is greatest winds can blow a greater strength - small craft mariners will notice wind increases beginning in September and larger “lakers” (700-1000 ft freighter ships) will heed the “Gales of November.”

Sudden storms can arise and become intense with rain and or winds on the Great Lakes even on apparently sunny days.

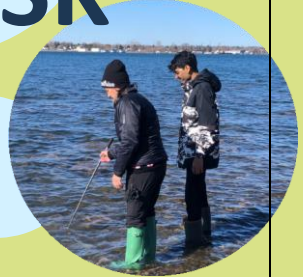
The “Great Lakes” are one of the worlds wonders they have their own language and effect the climate. The open water, the nearshore, coastal margins, bird migration, vegetation and people are also unique.

“Sense of Place” is shaped by the natural world that surrounds us.

If you would like to learn more a good book is
The Great Lakes - The Natural History of a Changing Region by Wayne Grady -
Greystone Books - 2007



SAULT STE. MARIE WATER RANGERS TASK TEAM RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS



FRESH WATER IS AT THE CENTER OF MUCH OF OUR LIVES.

Join a Community-based Water Monitoring Task Team

- Hosted by the Conservation Authority and coordinated by NORDIK Institute in a partnership that occurred in 2023
- Learn how to monitor water quality and assess waterways across the city
- Receive a Certificate of Recognition after completing eight monitoring weeks
- Contribute to awareness and understanding of water quality in the area
- Explore the city, waterways, and land with like-minded nature lovers
- Contributing to important citizen science that may inform decisions
- Be a part of a community team and contribute to community well-being
- Have fun with the entire family, for persons of all ages!

For additional information or to sign up, contact NORDIK Institute's local Water Ranger
kiki.vetrie@algomau.ca



FUN FOR ALL AGES



FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM



OUR TASK TEAM USES
WATER RANGERS TOOLKITS

WWW.WATERRANGERS.CA

S U S T A I N
A L G O M A

E X P O

2

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2

4

PRESENTED BY:



Saturday

June 15th

9am - 2pm

Johnson Township Community Centre

1 Cameron Drive in Desbarats, Ontario

FREE ADMISSION

**DONATIONS
WELCOME**

**DOOR
PRIZES**

SEE EXOTIC INSECTS UP CLOSE!



TRY ARCHERY WITH

**NOTTINGHAM
NORTH**



COMPOSTING WORMS



ARTS AND CRAFTS



LEARN ABOUT BATS

SPONSORS:



**Join us for a fun family event that
promotes sustainable living in
the Algoma District!**

**INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR OR EXHIBITOR?
THERE'S STILL TIME TO APPLY!**

705-782-2200

WWW.KENSINGTONCONSERVANCY.ORG/SUSTAIN-ALGOMA-EXPO



**DON'T FORGET THAT THE JOHNSON FARMERS' MARKET WILL
BE OPEN FOR THEIR REGULAR SATURDAY HOURS TOO!**

2024 Vendors and Exhibitors:

Algoma Alchemy & Appointed Time Agriculture • Algoma Master Gardeners • Algoma Public Health • AlgomaTrad • Barry's Bird Feeders and Houses Etc. • Bruce Mines Trailblazers • Canadian Bushplane Heritage • Centre Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition • Clean North • Coureur de Bois • Cycle Solutions • ENJO Canada • Entomica Insectarium • Gloriscapes • Harvest Algoma • Invasive Species Centre • Lake Huron North • Maple Leaf Facility Solutions Inc • Missy and J. Co. • Neal's Natural Honey Products • North Channel Heating and Air Conditioning • Nottingham North • North Shore Agricultural Society • Pure & Simple • dōTERRA • Red Roof Honey • Reenie Beenie Jewellery and Surprise Bags • Regen Natural Resources Ltd. • reThink Green • Rural Agri-Innovation Network • Sara Tessier (local author) • Sault Climate Hub • Sault Naturalists • St. Marys River Remedial Action Plan • Scentsy • Smith Soaps • Tenby Bay Treasures • The Kensington Conservancy • Thinking Rock Community Arts • Voyageur Trail Association • Yummy Soy Scents • AND MORE!

Become a member



Your annual membership fee will provide a base budget for work of CAFC and demonstrate the commitment of local partners working towards a common goal. A strong diverse group is an essential component in meeting the goals of the Central Algoma Region.

Support us at <https://www.centralalgomafreshwatercoalition.ca>

