LAKE HURON
COASTAL CENTRE

As a charity, we **depend on donations** to run our programs.

Donate now to ensure Lake Huron programming **continues** in 2024.

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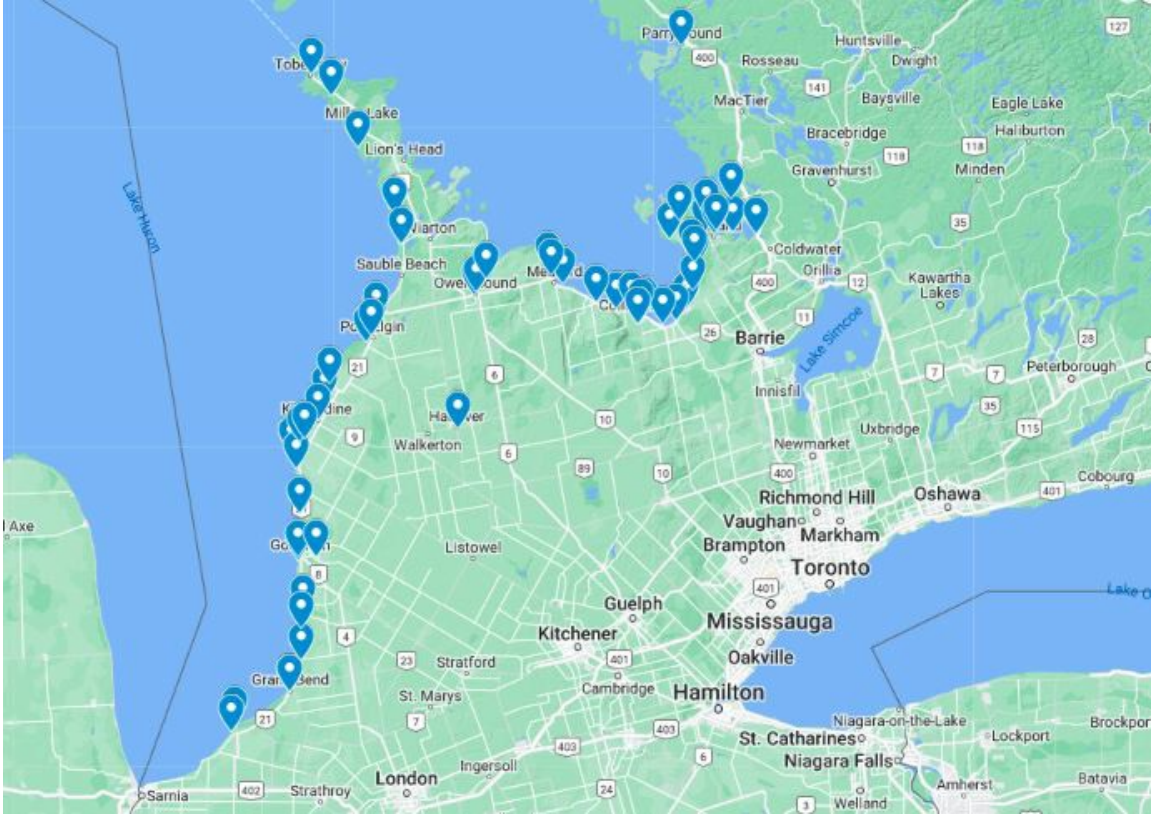
Microplastic Research Results

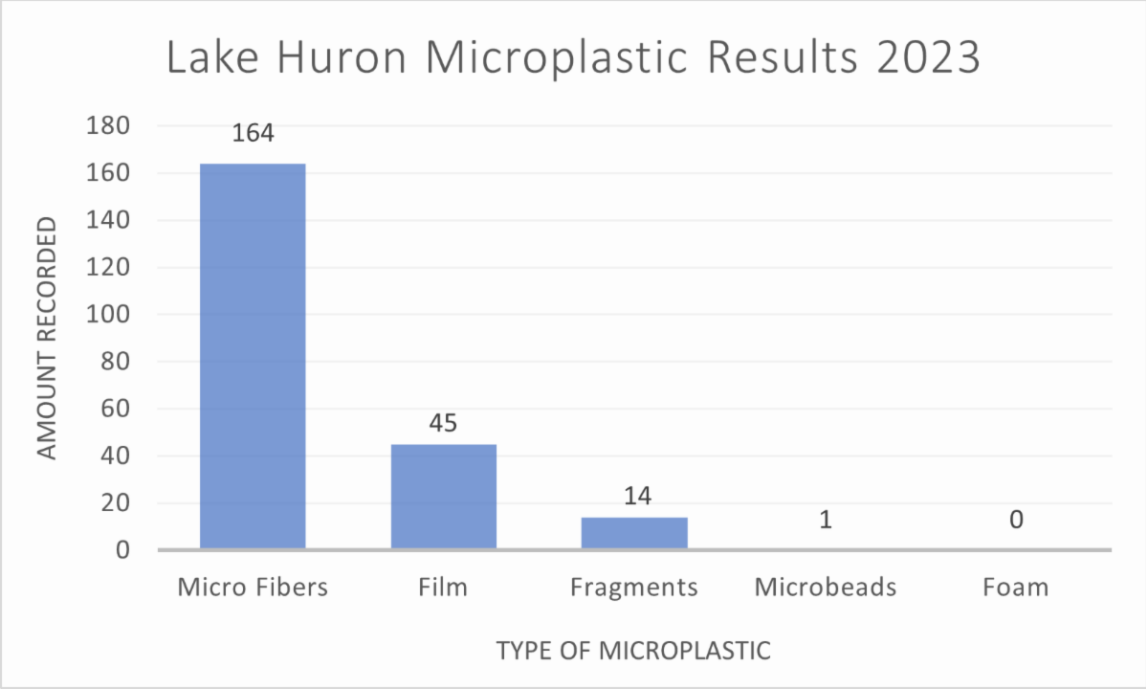
At the Lake Huron Coastal Centre we conduct research on microplastic in Lake Huron and in Georgian Bay. This map represents the locations of 60 one-liter lake water samples that we collected and tested this year. This map is interactive, allowing people to click on the blue pins to find out what types of microplastics were found in each location.



The pictures below show what it looks like when our staff tests lake water samples. We analyze the lake water by passing the samples through a very thin filter which catches any particles contained in the water. We then look at the filter under a dissecting microscope to look for microplastic.

Our findings from 2023 show that 88% of samples contained some form of microplastic, with a total of 224 microplastics observed (see graph below for details). Microfibers were the undoubtedly the most common type of microplastic found. This is consistent with the last two times this data was collected in 2018 and 2021.

Microfibers are tiny synthetic fibers from fabric that are released from our clothing when we wash them. Since fibers are 100 times finer than a human hair, they also often bypass the filters at wastewater treatment plants.



Lake Huron Coastal Centre would like to extend a big thank you to the Georgian Bay Forever team who helped collect and analyze the lake water samples!

GEORGIAN BAY FOREVER

Georgian Bay Forever Website

Donate now to help us **continue** our plastic pollution programing for Lake Huron in 2024.

Donate now!

Good News Story on Georgian Bay

Wiarton Tiny Forest & Bioswale

A demonstration site for "regeneration" has now been nicely established in the back playground of Peninsula Shores District School (PSDS) in Wiarton, implemented by Regenerate Grey Bruce (RGB).

Envisioned by Thorsten Arnold and with the assistance of Greenbelt Foundation, Wiarton Rotary, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and Lake Huron Forever, alongside many community partners and volunteers, the Wiarton Miyawaki Tiny Forest and Bioswale are now both firmly rooted in earth that was once home to finely-manicured lawn.

Volunteers unveiled some of the new signage that is to be installed. Regenerate Grey Bruce is counting on this demonstration site to showcase

regeneration techniques to the public and to show that many objectives can be accomplished at once with a "commitment to caring" for a forest ecosystem.

"Regenerate Grey Bruce is a project that, when complete, is meant to spark an alliance of groups, and so this is a great chance to create trust and social capital between local organizations and people who are creating a brighter future," says Thorsten Arnold, project lead. "The site at PSDS encompasses much of what we're trying to convey with a commitment to care, some shared language, and some narrative building."

"The primary goal is to create an educational experience where students can see regeneration in action… one tangible example of “agency” we can have in the environmental crises we face," continues Arnold, "but we’re also planting here to demonstrate biodiversity regeneration to the larger community through RGB. If we choose to act, we can foster biodiversity in an urban landscape that is currently highly simplified (sod), strengthen a local community network, and offer a public space for workshops and ceremonies."

A guiding principle of Tiny Forests, in terms of design, is to create:
a) a canopy layer,
b) a medium tree layer,
c) a subtree layer and
d) a shrub layer… all from native species of plants, shrubs and grasses, to create complexity in a new forest ecosystem and give a lifeline to biodiversity.

"Biodiversity" can, of course, be flora and fauna, but can also refer to essential living systems such as soil food webs, pollinators and mycorrhizal networks between trees.

In addition to demonstrating solutions to biodiversity & climate crises, the co-benefits of what's been designed in Wiarton also include:

- demonstrating a natural or "green infrastructure" storm water management opportunity; a bioswale just below the rear paved lot,
- resolving an issue with soggy turf in the ditch next to the school's running track,
- creating some shady spots for hot days,
- demonstrating the impact of volunteerism to kids,
- creating a new sitting space to watch the sports field,

- a climate science educational opportunity, and
- linking land use, nature, and planetary boundaries concepts to our traditional climate action, to create agency in rural areas and with youth.
- new signage and curriculum resources will help educate visitors to the demonstration site, and integrate this project with curriculum learning.

Click below to learn more:

More Information | Photo Album | Mini Documentary

This Article was Submitted by The Sustainability Project

The Lake Huron Coastal Centre is a registered charity founded in 1998 with the goals of protecting and restoring Lake Huron's coastal environment. We are the voice for Lake Huron.

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www.lakehuron.ca