

What Are We Doing?

- With the use of environmental indicators, Grey Sauble Conservation staff are able to monitor our watershed health.
 - ✓ - Surface Water Sampling- 27 locations across the watershed are sampled 8 times a year
 - ✓ - BioMap (Biological Monitoring and Assessment Program) - Benthic samples are collected from 30 long-term monitoring sites throughout the watershed.
 - ✓ - Other Watershed Monitoring
 - Staff and volunteers record important information every time they visit a stream crossing. This includes: stream crossing type and size, general description of flow (i.e. lots, some, trickle or dry), water clarity, the presence of fish, and any other site features that may affect water quality and quantity. To date, over 4,600 crossings have been visited and field information recorded. This valuable information is used by staff when reviewing planning and permit applications.
 - Taking water temperatures during warm summer days is one of the simplest methods for assessing watershed health. Protocols have been developed that classify the stream's ecology as "Cold Water, Cool Water or Warm Water". Over 750 sites have been classified.
 - ✓ - Planting Trees - over the last 5 years, Grey Sauble Conservation has planted 1,469,386 in our watershed.
(2008 - 286,040 trees 2009 - 303,000 trees 2010 - 315,060 trees 2011 - 305,286 trees and 2012 - 260,000 trees)
- Watershed report cards are issued every 5 years. Using five years of data provides sufficient data for a reliable summary of watershed conditions and helps everyone to better understand potential problems in our watershed and to work with municipalities and other partners to improve our watershed health.



What You Can Do ?

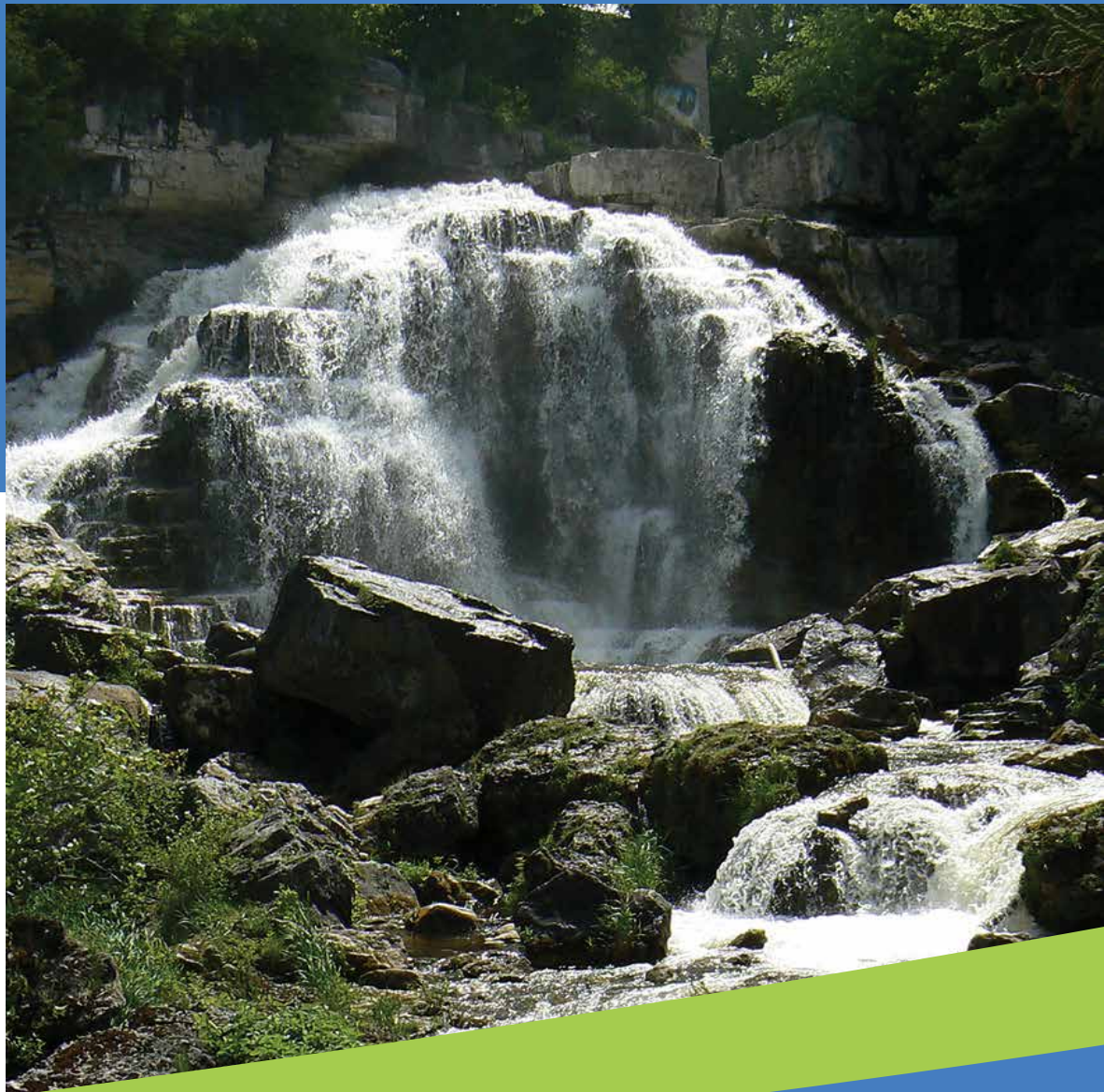
Be a Watershed Steward!

- Plant trees and shrubs along streams, lake, rivers and ponds. This will provide shade and help keep the water cool for thriving fish species in our watersheds. Trees and shrubs will also help prevent erosion, improve water quality, clean our air by reducing emissions, clean our water, provide shade to keep our environment cool and provide homes for wildlife.
- Plant native species - don't be an invader to our watershed.
- Decommission an unused well. Remember, an unused well can provide a direct pathway to our ground water system.
- Septic Systems need to be working properly. Septic systems can contaminate ground water, or nearby streams.
- Do not dump anything down municipal storm drains. These drains are connected directly to a local water body untreated. Dispose of oils, chemicals, fertilizers, soap and pesticides at your local municipal recycle depot.
- Be a water conserver. Water is precious! Do your best to conserve it by: having a rain barrel to water your garden or flower beds, repair dripping taps, and use low flow household products.
- Be careful using pesticides and fertilizers. Do not let them get into our waterways.



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Grey Sauble Conservation WATERSHED Report Card 2013



Grey Sauble Conservation has prepared this report card as a summary on the state of our forests, and surface water resources.



Where Are We?



We are one of 36 Conservation Authorities across Ontario under the umbrella organization of Conservation Ontario.

What Does This Report Card Measure?



Surface Water Quality



Forest Conditions

Why Measure?

Measuring helps us better understand our watershed. It helps us to focus our efforts where they are needed most and track progress. It also helps us to identify healthy and ecologically important areas that require protection or enhancement.

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land drained by a river or stream. Similar to the branch of a tree, creeks empty into streams, which then empty into larger streams, eventually forming one main trunk. Within this system, everything is connected to everything else. In other words, actions which take place at the top of the system can and do affect those downstream.



Grading

- A Excellent
- B Good
- C Fair
- D Poor
- F Very Poor

The standards used in this report card were developed by Conservation Authorities to ensure consistent reportings across the Province of Ontario and are intended to provide watershed residents with information to protect, enhance and improve the precious resources that surround us.



Surface Water Quality

Surface water quality is graded using three indicators:

- benthic invertebrates (measure of bugs living in stream sediments that indicate pollution levels and stream health)
- total phosphorus (nutrient sources such as fertilizer)
- E. coli bacteria (pollution from human or animal waste)



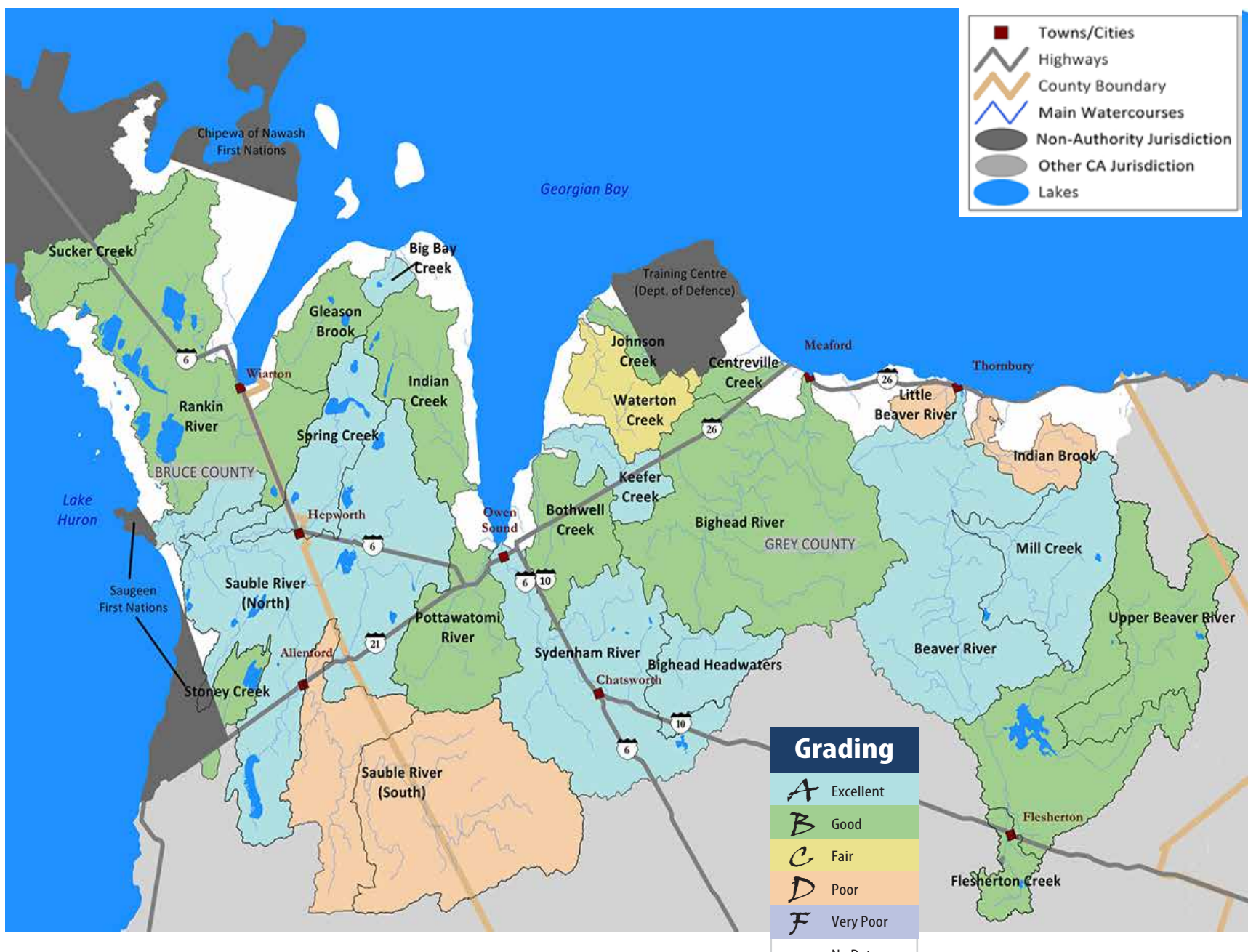
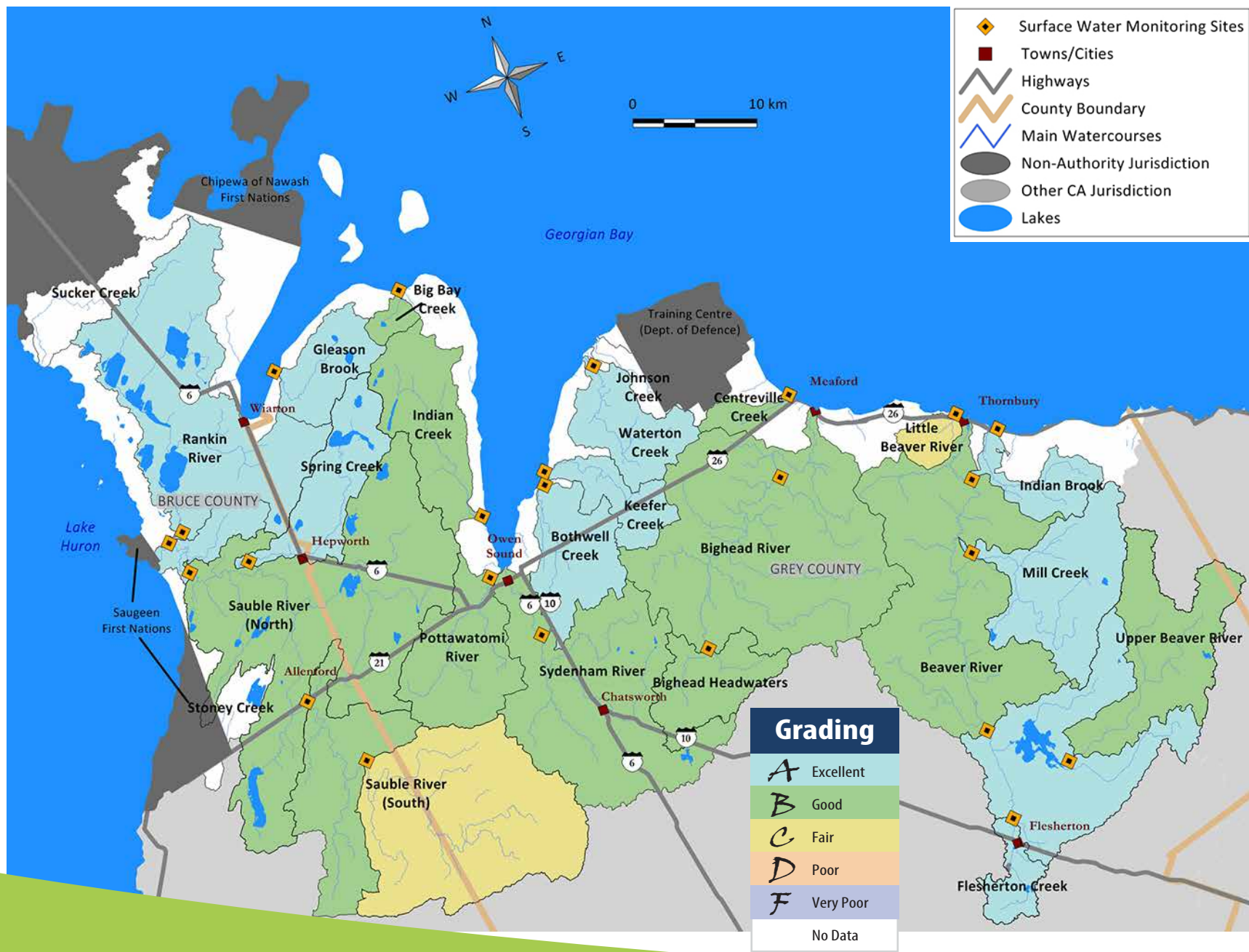
Forest Conditions

Forest conditions are measured using three indicators:

- % forest cover (measure of quantity)
- % forest interior (measure of size and quality)
- % riparian zone forested (measure of woodland along watercourses)

Watershed Features

Grey Sauble Conservation is a unique area of jurisdiction consisting of 5 major watersheds and many smaller watersheds that outlet directly to Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. The topography ranges from sandy beaches at Sauble Beach, flat agricultural lands, the Niagara Escarpment, and the rolling hills in Beaver Valley.



Grey Sauble was formed by an Order in Council on January 1, 1985 following the amalgamation of North Grey Region and Sauble Valley Conservation Authorities. The two former conservation authorities were created in 1957 and 1958.

Area of Jurisdiction

- covers 3,146 square kilometres (1,215 square miles),
- crosses over eight municipalities in the Counties of Grey and Bruce
- extends along 155 kilometres (96 miles) of shoreline along Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Grey Sauble Conservation owns and manages over 11,788 hectares (29,127 acres) of forested land, rivers, fields and wetlands, including the Niagara Escarpment stretching over 5,000 hectares (12,300 acres) of Grey Sauble lands.

Major Watersheds

Sauble River (North and South)
Pottawatomi River
Sydenham River
Bighead River
Beaver River

Smaller Watersheds

Stoney Creek	Sucker Creek	Rankin River	Gleason Brook
Big Bay Creek	Indian Creek	Spring Creek	Bothwell Creek
Keefer Creek	Waterton Creek	Johnson Creek	Centreville Creek
Bighead Headwaters	Little Beaver River	Indian Brook	Mill Creek
Upper Beaver River	Flesherton Creek		

Groundwater Monitoring



In partnership with the Ministry of Environment for the past 10 years, Grey Sauble Conservation has been collecting information from 10 sites. Staff record water level data and obtain water samples that are sent to laboratories for water chemistry analysis.

