

Lake Erie Guardians 2023 Report

Since 2021, the Lake Erie Guardians have been testing the water at a nearby lake, river, or stream in the Lake Erie Watershed on the last weekend of every month.

In addition to water monitoring, Guardians also participated in monthly challenges, like shoreline cleanups, invasive and nuisance species identification, tree planting, and using the VAST tool to monitor algae and shoreline erosion.

Here are just some of what our Guardians were able to achieve in 2023!



3 years of Lake Erie Guardians program's data is on Water Rangers.

[Explore the data here!](#)

How Lake Erie Guardians make an impact

LEARN

We educate and empower volunteers and the local community to learn about water quality impacts, methods of monitoring and restoration, and Lake Erie's biodiversity.

TEST

Community volunteer participate in the Lake Erie Guardians monitoring program and monthly challenges.

ACT

Work with community members to build their restoration skills by planting native plant species and seeds, bolstering natural features to improve the Lake Erie watershed's water quality, cleaning up shorelines, and water monitoring.

Why Lake Erie?

Lake Erie's water quality and ecosystem health face serious challenges. The Western Basin in particular is an area that has experienced a drastic loss of natural features that support water quality and watershed health. In Essex County there is currently less than 8% of forest cover and over 90% of wetlands have been lost. The Western basin also receives the majority of the lake's phosphorus loads, which contribute to the growth of toxic algal blooms that hurt our local economy and threaten drinking water supplies. Lake Erie needs our help more than ever.



92%

Shared their knowledge with curious bystanders



90%

Feel their actions make a difference for waterways

70

testkits

6,032

datapoints

175

monitored locations



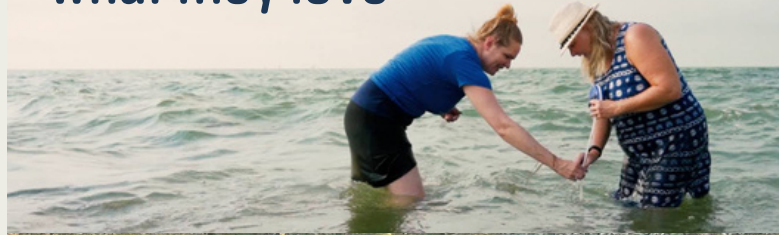
Watch our video
[The Ripple Effect Episode #6: Margaret Froh & the Thames Bluewater Métis Council](#)

From data to action

Lake Erie Guardians participated in monthly challenges including:

- Shoreline cleanups
- Shoreline naturalization challenge
- Invasive and nuisance species identification
- Truth and reconciliation efforts
- Niagara Coastal's V.A.S.T algae / shoreline monitoring
- Lake Erie Challenge paddle event
- Canadian Freshwater Alliance's Antler River Race
- Temperature blitz
- Wetland and forest planting events

"People protect what they love"



3 planting events, restoring wetlands, Carolinian, Oak tree savannah

100 + planting event volunteers

Oak and Carolinian trees, wetland plants and shrubs, native prairie grasses

25,000m² of wetland and forest restored

Thanks to our collaborators and supporters



Learn more

waterrangers.ca

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