

Old Ausable Channel

Watershed Report Card 2023

A watershed is an area of land that drains rain and snow into creeks, streams and rivers.

The watershed in which you live provides your link to the natural world. Watersheds connect our actions and accumulate to degrade or improve conditions.

GRADING

A Excellent

B Good

C Fair

D Poor

F Very Poor



FOREST CONDITIONS

GRADE

A



SURFACE WATER QUALITY

GRADE

A



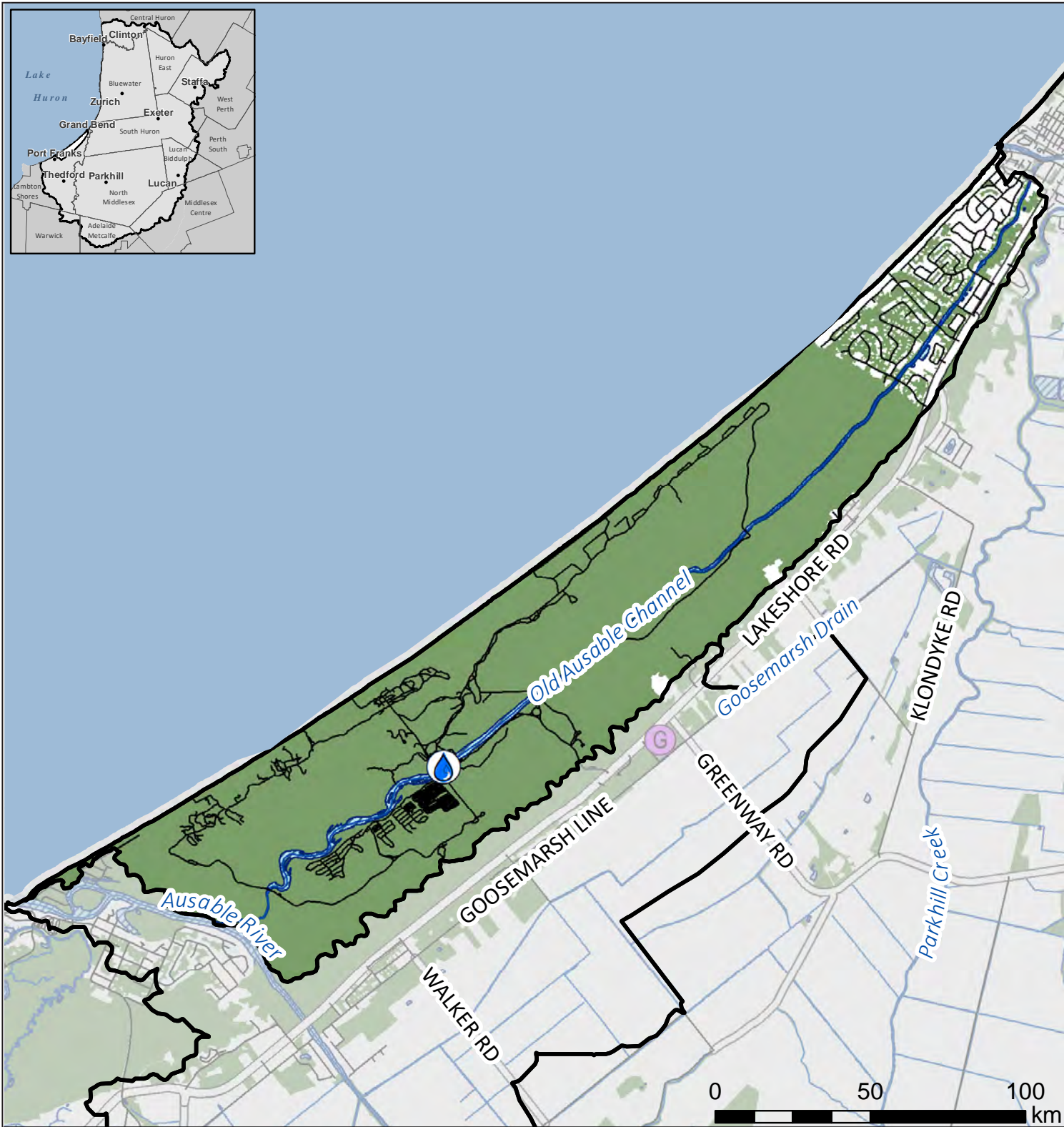
Thumbs Up!








Grand Bend neighbourhood associations, Southcott Pines and Huron Woods, take action to enhance the Old Ausable Channel (OAC).

Whether it is removing invasive *Phragmites*, or other aquatic vegetation or supporting funding proposals and offering their labour for more extensive streambank restoration projects (as shown above), the fish in the OAC are benefitting from engaged upstream neighbours. Clear water for Shiners!

Report cards give residents information to protect and enhance their watershed.

OLD AUSABLE CHANNEL WATERSHED



-  Natural feature
-  Water body
-  Surface water monitoring station
-  Groundwater monitoring station
-  Wellhead protection area
-  Watershed boundary

Municipalities: Lambton Shores

Area: 24 sq. km

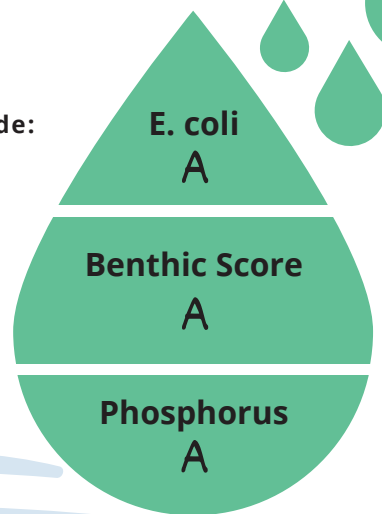
This map has been compiled from various sources and is for information purposes only. The ABCA takes no responsibility for, nor guarantees, the accuracy of all the information contained in the map. Copyright King's Printer, 2023.



SURFACE WATER

Grade:

- A
- B
- C
- D
- F



The complete report card, including an explanation of calculations and historic data, can be found at abca.ca/watershedreportcard.

E. coli was 13 cfu/100 mL. *E. coli* are bacteria that may indicate contaminated water. An A is 30 cfu/100 mL or less. The recreational guideline is 200 cfu/100 mL or less.

Benthic Score was unevaluated. Benthic invertebrates are small animals that live in stream sediments. This score summarizes their numbers and types in a sample to rate stream health from healthy (1) to poor (10).

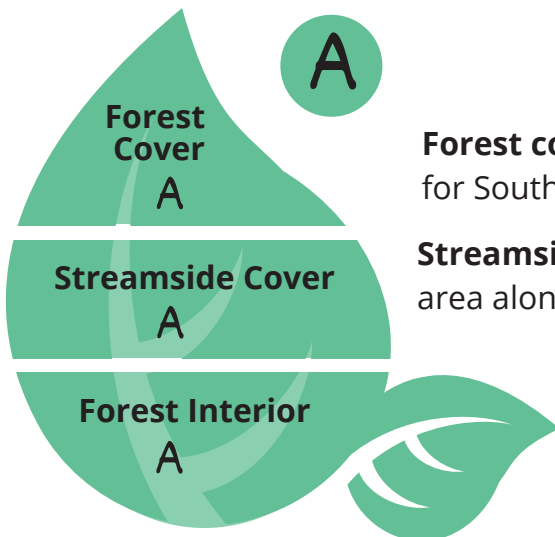
Total phosphorus was 0.015 mg/L. High phosphorus concentrations can lead to excess algae and low oxygen in streams. An A grade is 0.020 mg/L or less.



FOREST CONDITIONS

Grade:

- A
- B
- C
- D
- F



Forest cover was 82.1%. The Environment Canada guideline for Southern Ontario is 30%. An A grade is 35% or greater.

Streamside cover was 76.9%. This is the percentage of 30-m area along streams that is forested. An A is 57.5% or greater.

Forest interior was 43.8%. This is the percentage of forest at least 100 m from the forest edge. Interior forest is required as breeding habitat for some bird species. An A grade is 11.5% or greater.



GROUNDWATER

Chloride: Less than A
Nitrate: A

Groundwater from wells is the municipal drinking water source in Brucefield, Clinton, Seaforth, Varna, and Zurich. Your drinking water quality may be different from monitoring wells.



OVERWINTER VEGETATION

on Agricultural Land

Overwinter vegetative cover is not applicable in this watershed due to the absence of agricultural land use. For a description of overwinter cover please consult our website at www.abca.ca.



WETLANDS

D

4% of the area in this watershed is wetland. Wetlands improve water quality, reduce flood risk, and provide habitat. An A grade is 11.5% or greater.

How can you help?

You can:

- Plant Carolinian species in your yard. Read the Living with Nature guidebook at abca.ca for suggested species.

Your community can:

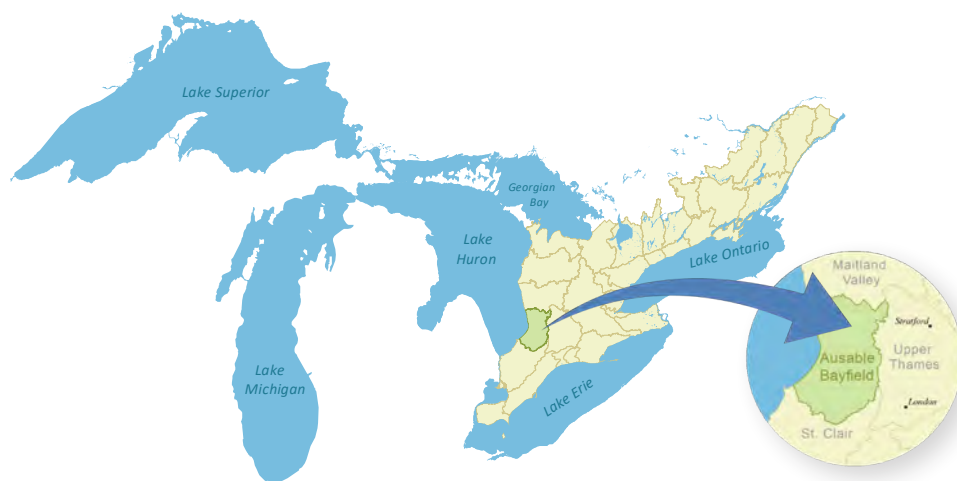
- Plant native vegetation along the Old Ausable Channel.

Local agencies can:

- Continue to support municipal policies that protect natural areas.

TOP ACTION:

Collaborate to address water level and dissolved oxygen concerns.



Links to the Great Lakes

No matter where you live in the watershed, you are linked to the Great Lakes.

We rely on the lake as a source of drinking water, economic activity, and recreation.

Your personal actions, whether you live in a town or in the country, can make a difference for Lake Huron.

Visit lakehuroncommunityaction.ca

Ausable Bayfield Conservation

71108 Morrison Line, RR 3 Exeter, ON N0M 1S5

E-mail: info@abca.ca | Website: abca.ca

Phone: 519-235-2610 | Fax: 519-235-1963 | Toll-free: 1-888-286-2610

