



Severn Sound

Environmental Association

Township of Springwater 2026 Budget

November 19, 2025



Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA)

What is it?

- 1987 - Severn Sound identified as Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC)
- 1997 - SSEA Founded
- 2003 - Severn Sound Delisted as AOC
- 2009 - SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board Established (Municipal Act s.202)
 - ED reports to Board representing 8 Municipal members
- Source Protection Authority (Ont. Clean Water Act, 2006)



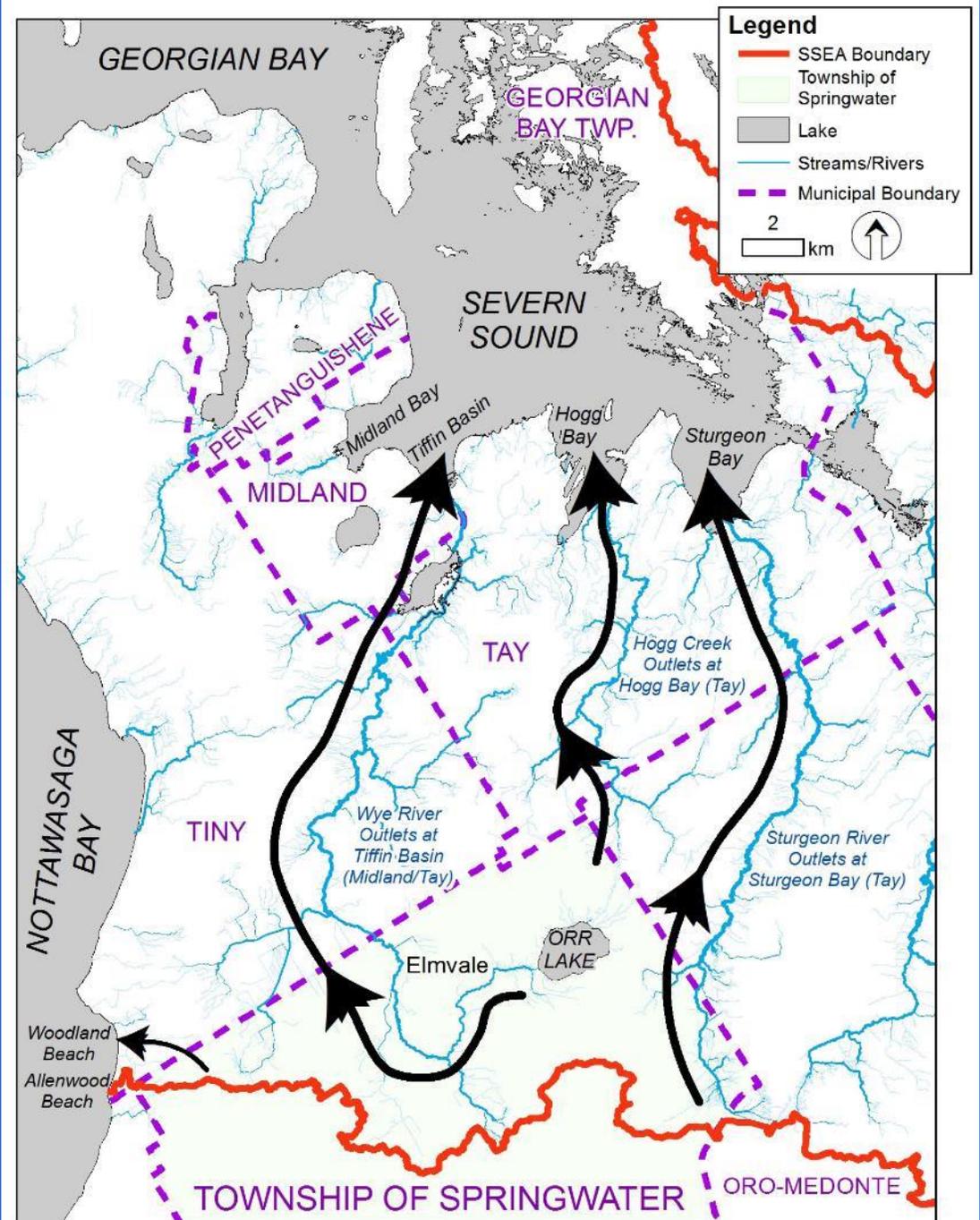
Follows established plans of action as outlined in the SSEA Letter of Agreement:

Guidance/Foundational Documents:

- SSEA Strategic Plan (2024-2029 in prep)
- Severn Sound Sustainability Plan (to 2050)
- Drinking Water Source Protection - Ontario Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts



Watersheds in Springwater Township



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2025 Monitoring

Historical Stream Temperature

- 4 loggers monitoring changes & assess fish habitat

Inland Lake

- Orr Lake, 12 total monitoring events, 2 signs, 12 reports posted www.severnsound.ca
- Algae monitoring & response

Stream Health

- General Chemistry & Metals (PWQMN) - Wye River, 10 sampling events, (all seasons)
- Benthic Invertebrates - Wye River & Hogg Creek

Climate (track changes)

- 2 weather stations (Lafontaine & Elmvale)

Groundwater (PGMN & SSEA wells)

- 2 sites, collect & assess baseline quality & quantity data



Collecting Field Data,



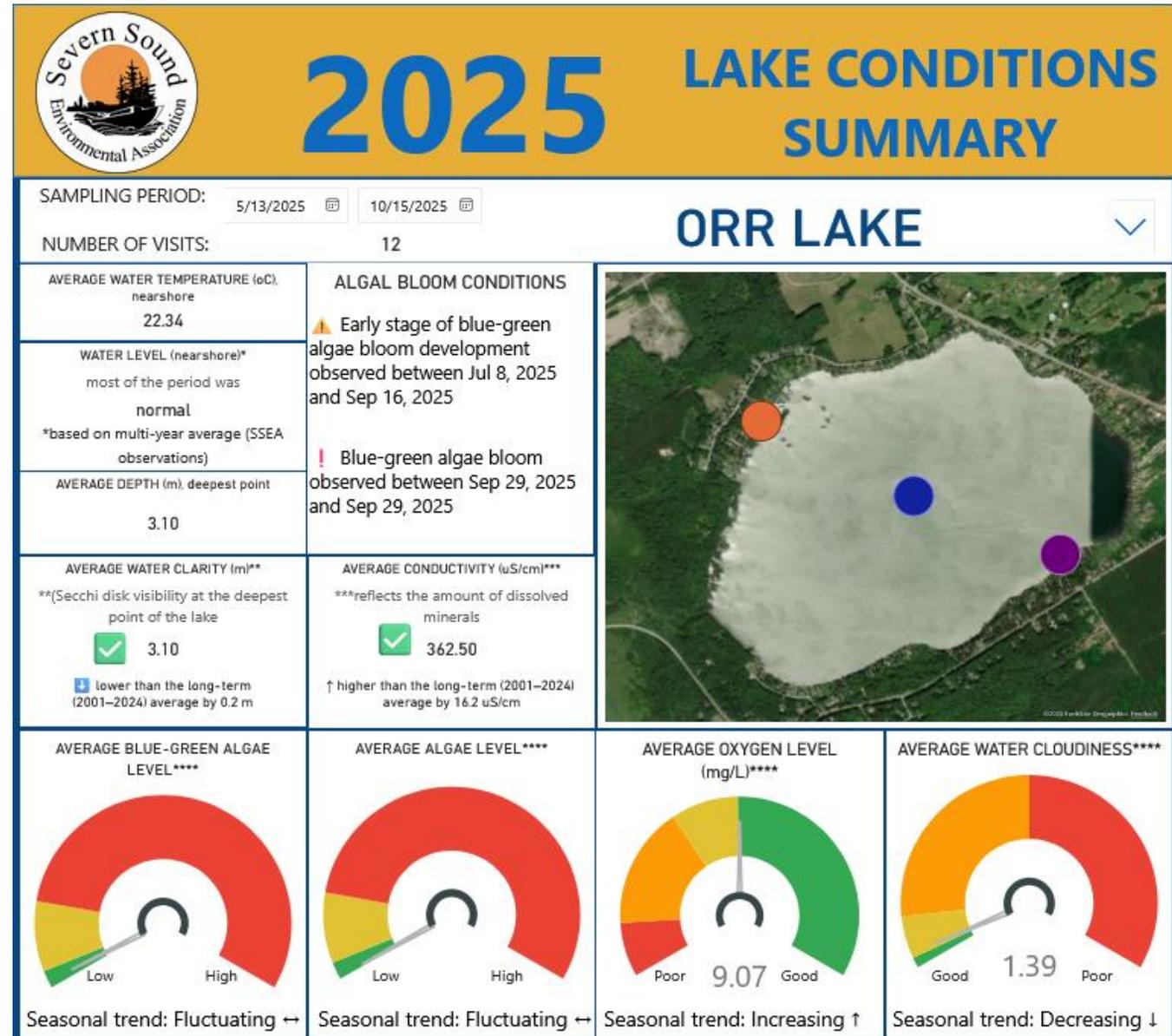
New Signs



Benthic Sampling

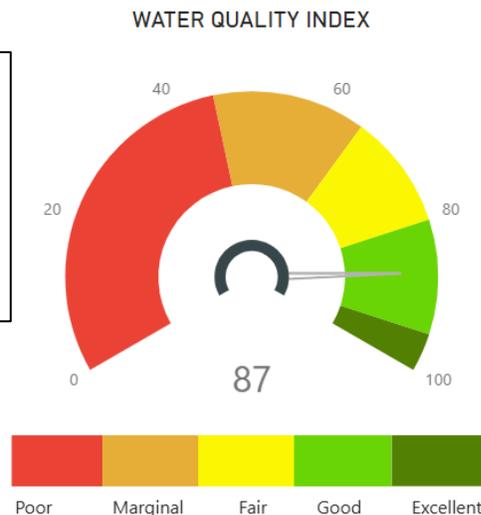
Orr Lake Water Quality Highlights

- New signage and timely reporting on website
- Sodium and chloride concentrations are increasing
- Average Water Quality is good - Algae blooms still happened
 - many factors influence water quality



Water Quality Index*, Orr Lake

* Based on 2001 – 2024 data for chloride, nitrogen (total), phosphorus (total), Secchi disk visibility, sodium, dissolved oxygen, iron



2025 Stewardship & Outreach Initiatives

- **Tree Seedling Distribution:** 290 seedlings (6,100 since 2010)
- **Pollinator Projects: BEE Parks & SSEED**
 - 345 plants, 3 sites (incl. Huronia Centennial school, Orr Lake Park)
- **Dock-to-Dock Pilot:** Orr Lake visits, resource kits (septic info, phosphate-free laundry strips, native seeds for pollinators)
- **Rural/Agriculture partnerships: Hogg Creek Project** (workshops, site visits, planting) and **Agriculture & Nature Initiative** (Stream buffers, pollinator habitat on marginal lands)
- **Invasive Species (IS):** 6 sites monitored, phrag DNA sampling; 1 management event; Phragmites Management Area (PMA) lead for Severn Sound watershed; support Township staff
- **Other Outreach:** Attend events, support municipal staff, respond to inquiries

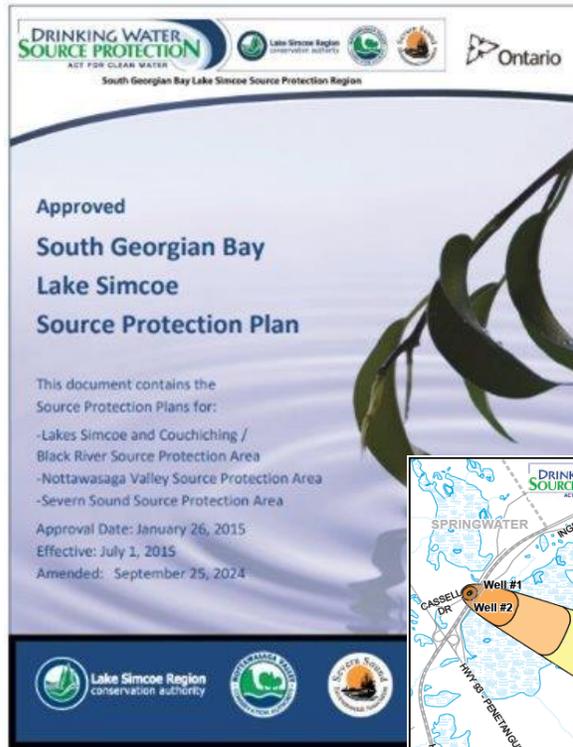


SSEA Board Chair Alexander and SSEA Board Vice Chair Marchand crayfish monitoring

Thank you funders! TD Friends of Environment Foundation, Commonwell Mutual Insurance LEAF, Pollinator Partnership Canada, Great Lakes Local Action Fund, Huronia Community Foundation, Governments of Canada and Ontario, Invasive Species Centre...

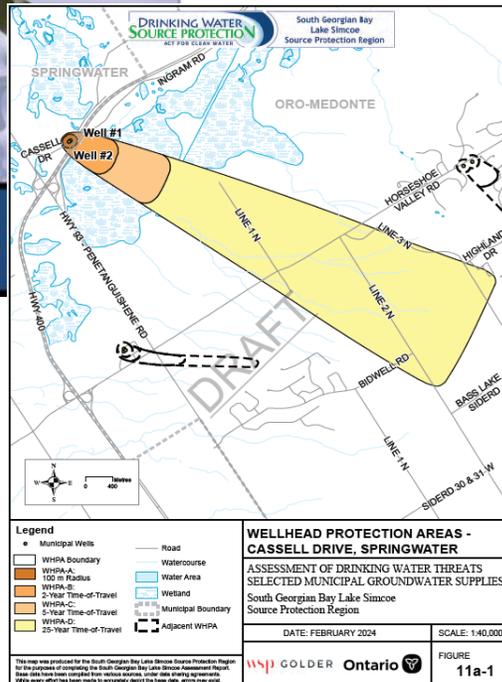


Drinking Water Source Protection



Source Protection Authority

- SSEA is the Source Protection Authority - Ontario Regulation 284/07 under the Ontario Clean Water Act, within the Severn Sound watershed
- Responsible for keeping the science behind the program up to date, assisting with annual reporting, and education and outreach
- 2025 – assisted Township staff with completing annual reporting; submitted new water system package (Cassell Drive) to MECP for their review.



Sustainable Severn Sound

Local Climate Change Action Planning in Springwater

- Working towards the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Milestone 3 – develop a climate action plan.
 - review actions to reduce GHG emissions at municipal facilities and promote energy conservation and efficiency across the community.
- 2025 - Visual waste audits completed at 5 sites in Springwater.

Collaborative flood risk project: Flood Ready Severn Sound

- 2 year flood risk review funded by Intact Foundation
- Municipal and environmental partners



2026 SSEA Work Plan - Highlights

Monitoring

- Annual monitoring of Orr Lake
- Water Quality & Quantity (Streams and Groundwater)
- Climate Monitoring - Weather Stations & Rain gauge

Drinking Water Source Protection

- Source Protection Authority work in the Severn Sound watershed

Climate Action – Sustainable Severn Sound Project

- PCP milestone progress, Climate Action plan and Advance the collaborative Flood Ready Severn Sound project

Land & Water Stewardship - Fish & Wildlife Habitat

- Tree Planting & Distribution
- Naturalization on private & municipal lands
- Invasive Species identification, monitoring, management, education & training
- Looking to continue Agriculture and Nature Initiative



Tree Planting



Dock to Dock on Orr Lake



SSEA 2026 Request – Springwater

2026 Total Budget Request: \$119,422

Operations Core Municipal Funding

- **\$104,317**

Orr Lake Water Quality Monitoring Survey

- **\$1,804**

Tree Distribution Program

- **\$0** (In-kind time from Township)

Sustainable Severn Sound project (including Flood Ready SS)

- **\$13,302**

***note in 2025 SSEA staff raised approx. \$428,000 and have already raised \$125,000 for 2026 (external \$\$)*



BEE Parks planting event - Board Chair Councillor Alexander





Thank you!

Severn Sound Environmental Association

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Connect With Us!



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Severn Sound Environmental Association



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Ensuring Severn Sound is one of the most resilient and thriving Great Lakes watersheds!

