

Biology Seminar



Western
UNIVERSITY • CANADA

12:30 - 1:30 pm
Friday, January 16, 2026
BGS 0165



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Georgian Bay Forever: A Case Study in Modern Freshwater Conservation

My organization, Georgian Bay Forever (GBF), is a registered Canadian charity that advances public education, research, and action to protect the water and aquatic ecosystems of the Georgian Bay region. This lecture presents GBF as a model for science-driven freshwater stewardship and as a collaborative platform for addressing the complex ecological, social, and policy challenges facing the Laurentian Great Lakes.

Drawing on GBF's work in invasive species management, microplastic pollution, and climate-driven hydrological change, I will illustrate how Georgian Bay functions as a living laboratory where global environmental pressures manifest locally in ways that can be measured, studied, and acted upon.

The presentation will highlight several of GBF's research initiatives and partnerships, including:

- impacts of quagga and zebra mussels on productivity and nutrient cycling
 - innovations in water-quality monitoring and community-based data collection
 - microplastic mitigation through citizen-science and behavioural interventions
 - invasive Phragmites mapping and control integrating fieldwork and remote sensing

Through these examples, I will show how applied science, university collaboration, citizen engagement, and local policy advocacy intersect in contemporary freshwater conservation. I hope to spark discussion about future opportunities for interdisciplinary research and partnership.