

Little Ausable

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

D



SURFACE WATER QUALITY

GRADE

C



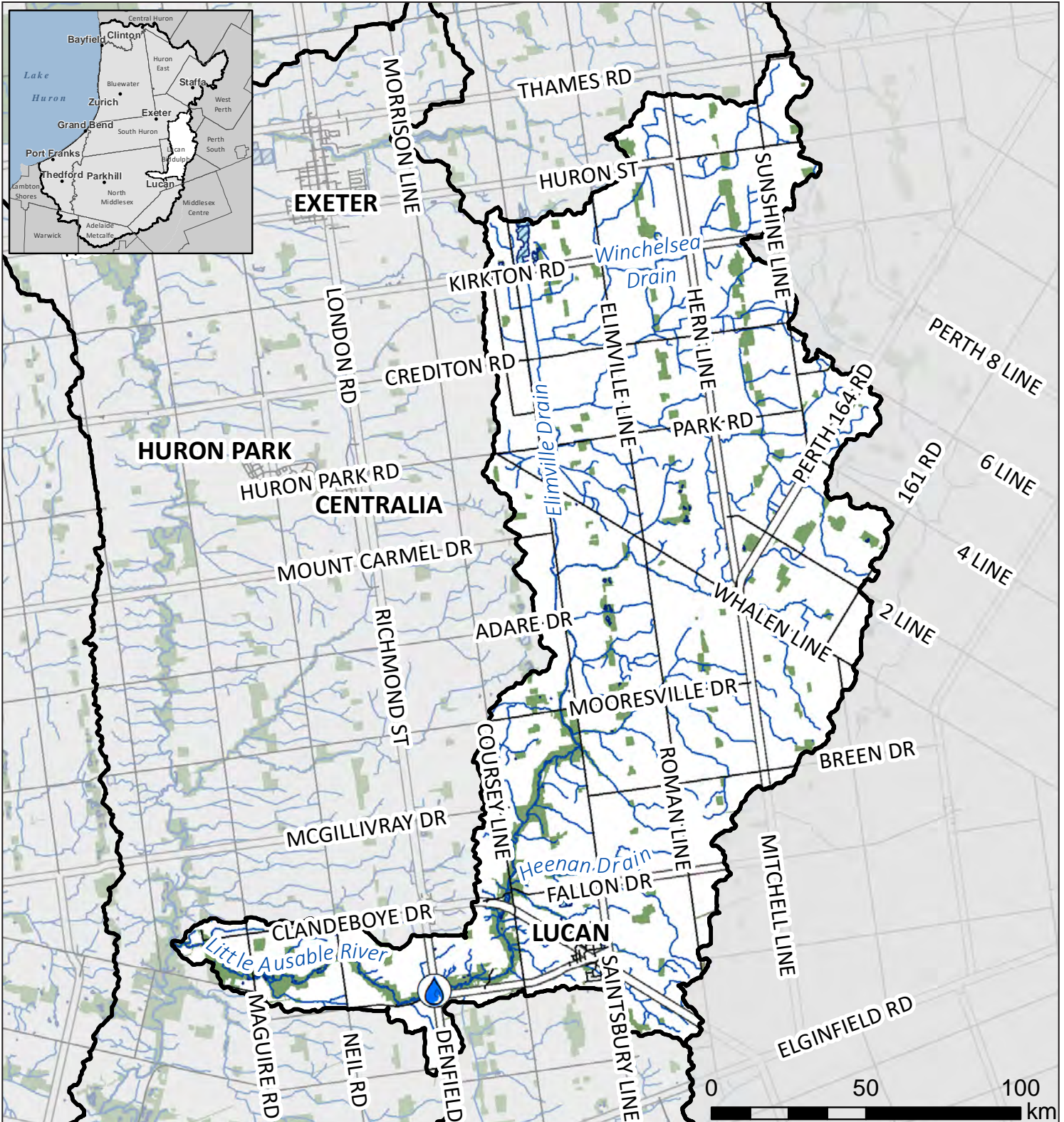
Thumbs Up!








To improve surface water quality, the **Township of Lucan Biddulph**, with support from **local builders, developers, realtors** and the **Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)**, has been naturalizing the Campanale Way stormwater management pond.

As shown in photo above, students from **Wilberforce Elementary School** and a local **Scouts Canada** group helped plant native vegetation, which will not only help slow runoff and prevent erosion, but also provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, and a space for the community to enjoy.

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

LITTLE AUSABLE WATERSHED



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

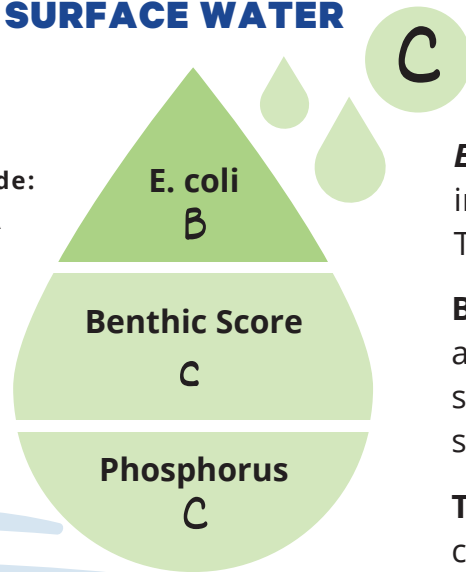
Municipalities: South Huron, Perth South, Lucan Biddulph, North Middlesex Area: 155 sq. km

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 87 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.

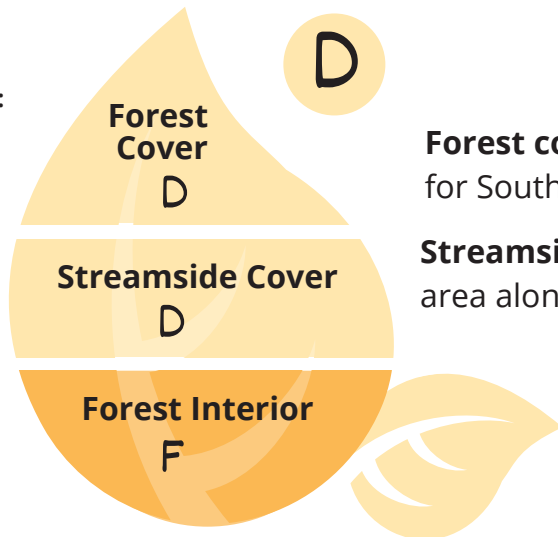
Benthic Score was 5.22. Benthic invertebrates are small animals that live in stream sediments. This score summarizes their numbers and types in a sample to rate stream health from healthy (1) to poor (10).

Total phosphorus was 0.059 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
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Forest cover was 6.5%. The Environment Canada guideline for Southern Ontario is 30%. An A grade is 35% or greater.

Streamside cover was 18.4%. This is the percentage of 30-m area along streams that is forested. An A is 57.5% or greater.

Forest interior was 0.3%. 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: 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**

15 - 32% of farmland had wheat, forages, or hay as winter groundcover. At least 30% overwinter cover is expected if in a corn-soy-wheat rotation. Overwinter cover helps prevent soil erosion. Agriculture covers 84% of the land in this watershed.

 **WETLANDS** F

0.3% 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:

- Manage stormwater by installing rain gardens and rain barrels and watching for the Yellow Fish Road™ program work done in Lucan.

Your community can:

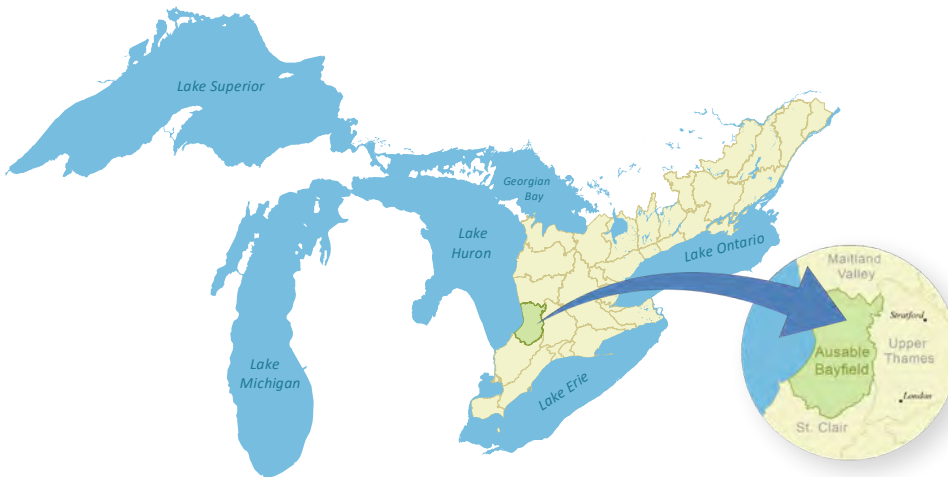
- Maximize forest interior by connecting small woodlots to larger tracts and squaring up existing woodlots by planting trees along the forest edge.

Local agencies can:

- Continue to evaluate the cumulative effects of nutrient management planning at the watershed scale.

TOP ACTION:

To improve water quality, plant cover crops, reduce tillage and rotate crops.



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

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