NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Rupert Kindersley

Executive Director
Georgian Bay Association

The Georgian Bay Association is a 105-year-old umbrella advocacy organization for 18 community associations along the east and north shores of Georgian Bay in Ontario, representing around 3,000 families. We reach and influence an estimated 18,000 residents of the Georgian Bay. Our mandate is to work with our water-based communities and other stakeholders to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment.

Accordingly, as executive director, I joined IAGLR this year to educate myself on the scientific research that is relevant to the Georgian Bay environment. I also wanted to be able to access the presentations to inform some of our committee members who had expressed interest in some of the research. GBA has 12 committees that report to the board on our various activities. There were a number of presentations that are of interest to these committees:

Water Committee: Deals with both water levels and water quality issues.

Aquaculture Committee: Advocates for moving open-net fish farms in Lake Huron into sustainable, enclosed facilities. Nutrient loading, escapees competing with wild fish stocks, and the fact that three facilities have been closed because of pollution are some of our issues.

Fisheries Committee: Is interested in wild fish health and numbers, impact and prevention of invasive species, and species at risk, among other topics.

Guardians of the Bay and First Nation Liaison Committees: Are concerned with promoting behavior and thinking that will protect Georgian Bay, not harm it. The potential for Traditional Ecological Knowledge to inform our understanding of the ecosystem and complement scientific research is of interest to us.

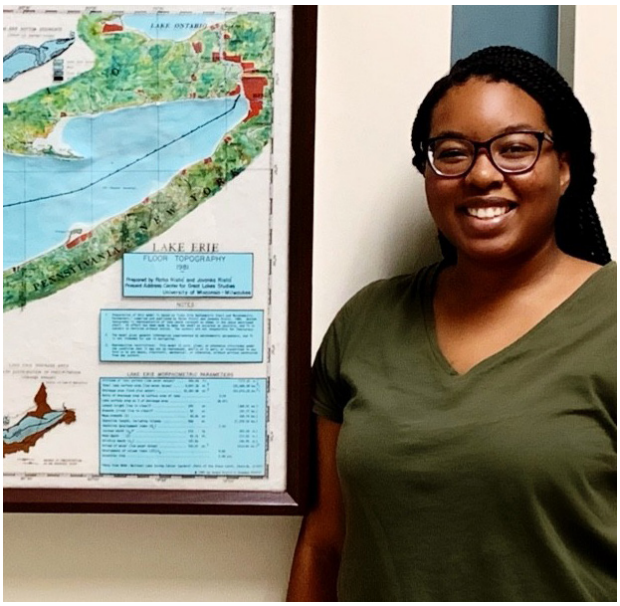
Personally, my family has been coming to a group of islands on the bay since 1881. There are now close to 200 of us!

About my Work

I am a Ph.D. candidate in the School of the Environment at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University. I work in the Molecular Aquatic Microbial Ecology Lab with Dr. Richard A. Long and Dr. Michael Abazinge. My dissertation research is based on harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie with a focus on toxin and buoyancy genetics of *Microcystis aeruginosa* and is funded by NOAA Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems. This research will quantify gene expression with a genomics approach to identify the trends of buoyancy within an active bloom. It will add to the body of knowledge on bloom dynamics. I am honored to work with NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and Dr. Reagan Errera to accomplish this research

Why IAGLR?

I joined IAGLR to engage in a community focused on Great Lakes research. Since I am physically located far from the Great Lakes, I find it important to be part of IAGLR to stay abreast on current knowledge. I hope my dissertation research adds to the body of knowledge on the Great Lakes and ignites future research. Following the pandemic, I hope to participate in IAGLR events and network with other scientists, students, professionals, and stakeholders in this field.



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